

W-MESQ *Prosopis glandulosa* - *Celtis pallida* / *Opuntia* spp. - *Xylothamia palmeri* Woodland
Honey Mesquite - Granjeno / Prickly-pear – South Texas Ericameria Woodland

Associations and Alliances

Prosopis glandulosa - *Celtis pallida* / *Opuntia* spp. -
Xylothamia palmeri Woodland

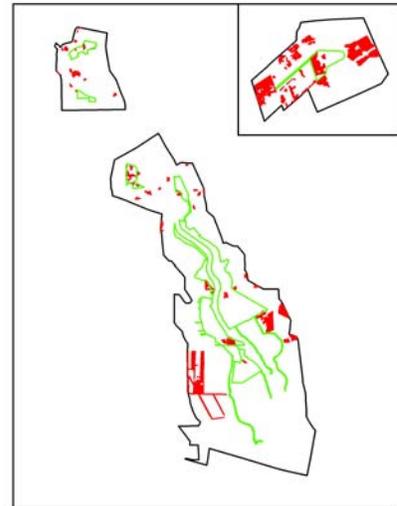
Common Species

Prosopis glandulosa
Celtis laevigata
Celtis pallida
Colubrina texensis
Condalia hookeri
Diospyros texana
Opuntia leptocaulis
Croton monanthogynus
Gutierrezia texana
Verbesina virginica
Nassella leucotricha

Description

This type occurs on the level uplands bordering the valley along the San Antonio River on both sites of SAAN. This type appeared to be early succession, rapidly encroaching on fallow fields in the absence of fire or when grazing or mowing ceased. The trees in this type are of uniform height, usually about 10 meters tall and producing about 30-50% cover. The subcanopy layer is usually absent or not well developed. This type is dominated by nearly uniform-aged stands of *Prosopis glandulosa* with a few scattered shrubs, mainly *Celtis laevigata*, *Celtis pallida*, *Colubrina texensis*, *Condalia hookeri*, *Diospyros texana*, and *Opuntia leptocaulis*. The ground layer is dominated by *Nassella leucotricha* and weedy and/or shade tolerant forbs (*Croton monanthogynus*, *Gutierrezia texana*, *Siphonoglossa pilosella*, and *Verbesina virginica*). *Cynodon dactylon* is usually present having invaded from nearby cultivated pastures or persisted from previous plantings. This type appeared as fairly sparse, dark red crowns on the color infrared imagery. The understory color was usually a mottled red and gray. This type was separated from the huisache map class on the color infrared imagery based on ground observations and its smaller crown size.

Range and Distribution



Representative Ground Photo

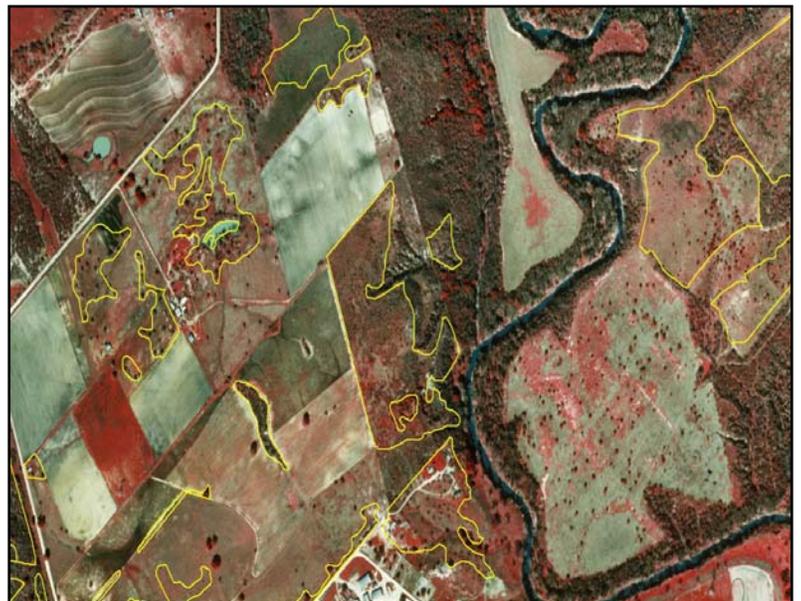


Photo Signature Example

**CEGL007787 *Prosopis glandulosa* - *Celtis pallida* / *Opuntia* spp. - *Xylothamia palmeri*
Woodland**

Translated Name: Honey Mesquite - Granjeno / Prickly-pear species - South Texas Ericameria Woodland

Common Name: Honey Mesquite - Granjeno / Prickly-pear species - South Texas Ericameria Woodland

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

The environmental factors that influence the composition and structure of this community are: climate, topography, soils, and past management. This community occurs on the level uplands bordering the valley along the San Antonio River. The soils are well-drained sandy clay-loams. The disturbance climax of the site should be native prairie. However, the fairly uniform age of the dominant trees suggests that a single pulse of mesquite encroachment occurred after grazing or mowing were terminated and fire suppression was practiced..

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

The canopy is about 10 to 15 m high, and cover varies from 30-50%. A subcanopy is not well developed. The vegetation is dominated by a nearly uniform-aged stand of *Prosopis glandulosa*. The shrub layer is sparse, consisting of scattered saplings of *Celtis laevigata* and shrubs of *Celtis pallida*, *Colubrina texensis*, *Condalia hookeri*, *Diospyros texana*, and *Opuntia leptocaulis*. The ground layer provides about 50-70% cover and is dominated by the native grass *Nassella leucotricha*. Weedy and/or shade tolerant forbs (*Croton monanthogynus*, *Gutierrezia texana*, *Siphonoglossa pilosella*, and *Verbesina virginica*) are common and conspicuous. The exotic grass *Cynodon dactylon* is also associated, but it may have invaded from nearby cultivated pastures or have persisted from previous planting.

FLORISTIC COMPOSITION

<u>Species Name</u>	<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Lifeform</u>
<i>Prosopis glandulosa</i>	Tree canopy	Thorn tree
<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	Shrub/sapling (tall & short)	Broad-leaved deciduous tree
<i>Celtis pallida</i>	Shrub/sapling (tall & short)	Thorn shrub
<i>Colubrina texensis</i>	Shrub/sapling (tall & short)	Thorn shrub
<i>Condalia hookeri</i>	Shrub/sapling (tall & short)	Thorn shrub
<i>Diospyros texana</i>	Shrub/sapling (tall & short)	Evergreen sclerophyllous shrub
<i>Opuntia leptocaulis</i>	Shrub/sapling (tall & short)	Thorn shrub
<i>Croton monanthogynus</i>	Herb (field)	Forb
<i>Gutierrezia texana</i>	Herb (field)	Forb
<i>Siphonoglossa pilosella</i>	Herb (field)	Forb
<i>Verbesina virginica</i>	Herb (field)	Forb
<i>Nassella leucotricha</i>	Herb (field)	Graminoid

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

<u>Species Name</u>	<u>GRank</u>	<u>Animal</u>	<u>Note (specify Rare (geog area), Invasive, Animal, or Other)</u>
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>			Subinvasive alien

CLASSIFICATION & OTHER COMMENTS

Classification Comments:

Other Comments:

ELEMENT DISTRIBUTION

This vegetation class as a natural type occurs only at the Rancho Unit on the level upland along the west side of the unit. This type was also used to map the planted and maintained mesquite stands found throughout the San Antonio Missions area.

ELEMENT SOURCES

Inventory Notes:

Plots: SAAN.22, SAAN.25

Description Author(s): R. Sanders