

Ecological site R087BY007TX

Loamy Bottomland

Last updated: 9/21/2023
Accessed: 09/04/2026

General information

Provisional. A provisional ecological site description has undergone quality control and quality assurance review. It contains a working state and transition model and enough information to identify the ecological site.

MLRA notes

Major Land Resource Area (MLRA): 087B–Texas Claypan Area, Northern Part

This area is in northeastern Texas (79 percent) and southeastern Oklahoma (21 percent). It makes up about 4,480 square miles (11,610 square kilometers). The towns of Greenville, Sulphur Springs, Paris, Mount Vernon, Canton, and Athens, Texas, and Durant, Oklahoma, are in this MLRA. Interstates 30 and 20 and Highways 69, 70, 80, and 82 cross the area. The Caddo National Grasslands is in the north end of the area.

Classification relationships

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, 2006. -Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) 87B

Ecological site concept

The Loamy Bottomlands have soils that are very deep loams and are associated with flooding regimes. The loamy-textured soils allow the water to drain faster than the Clayey Bottomlands, and therefore do not stay inundated as long.

Associated sites

R087BY002TX	Claypan Savannah
R087BY003TX	Sandy Loam
R087BY005TX	Deep Sand

Similar sites

R087AY011TX	Loamy Bottomland
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Table 1. Dominant plant species

Tree	(1) <i>Quercus nigra</i>
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Shrub	Not specified
Herbaceous	(1) <i>Carex</i> (2) <i>Elymus virginicus</i>

Physiographic features

This site is nearly level to gently sloping and occurs along rivers and streams. Flooding occurs frequently on the sites.

Table 2. Representative physiographic features

Landforms	(1) Plains > Flood plain
Runoff class	Negligible to high
Flooding duration	Brief (2 to 7 days) to long (7 to 30 days)
Flooding frequency	Frequent
Ponding frequency	None
Elevation	80 – 230 m
Slope	0 %
Water table depth	0 – 30 cm
Aspect	Aspect is not a significant factor

Climatic features

The average annual precipitation is 47 inches in most of this area, but it can be higher or lower depending on the exact location. Most of the rainfall occurs in spring and winter. The average annual temperature is 62 to 66 degrees F. The freeze-free period averages 235 days and frost-free period averages 210 days.

Table 3 Representative climatic features

Frost-free period (average)	210 days
Freeze-free period (average)	240 days
Precipitation total (average)	1,190 mm

- (1) LAKE FORK RSVR [USC00414976], Quitman, TX
- (2) MT VERNON [USC00416119], Mount Vernon, TX
- (3) BOSWELL 1 S [USC00340980], Boswell, OK
- (4) EMORY [USC00412902], Emory, TX
- (5) MT PLEASANT [USC00416108], Mount Pleasant, TX
- (6) DURANT [USC00342678], Durant, OK
- (7) CLARKSVILLE 2NE [USC00411772], Clarksville, TX
- (8) PARIS [USC00416794], Paris, TX
- (9) BONHAM 3NNE [USC00410923], Bonham, TX
- (10) DENISON DAM [USC00412394], Cartwright, TX

Influencing water features

This site is adjacent to rivers and streams. It receives overflow from watercourses and runoff from higher adjacent sites.

Wetland description

All soils in this site are hydric and may be wetlands, but onsite delineations are required to make certain.

Soil features

The soils of this site are very deep, somewhat poorly drained, loamy textured, and moderately permeable. They usually receive extra water as overflow from watercourses or as runoff from adjacent higher sites. They are, however, better drained than the Clayey Bottomland sites. The plant-soil-water-air relationship is very favorable for plant growth. These factors, together with the natural fertility of the soil, favor high yields of good quality forage. Nahatche is the representative soil correlated to this ecological site. Other soils correlated to this site include: Ambia, Manco, Nahatche, Okay, and Oklared.

Table 4. Representative soil features

Parent material	(1) Alluvium – sandstone and shale
Surface texture	(1) Loam
Family particle size	(1) Loamy
Drainage class	Somewhat poorly drained
Permeability class	Moderate
Soil depth	200 cm
Available water capacity (0-101.6cm)	10.16 – 15.24 cm
Calcium carbonate equivalent (0-101.6cm)	0 – 10 %

Electrical conductivity (0-101.6cm)	Not specified
Sodium adsorption ratio (0-101.6cm)	0 – 10
Soil reaction (1:1 water) (0-101.6cm)	5.6 – 7.8

Ecological dynamics

Natural fertility, presence of shade, proximity to water, and nutritious forage make this site a preferred grazing area. The wet nature of the site protects it from grazing at times, but during dry conditions it is often the first site to be overused. Virginia wildrye (*Elymus virginicus*), eastern gamagrass (*Tripsacum dactyloides*), switchcane (*Arundinaria gigantea*), switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), and sedges (*Carex* spp.) decrease in abundance and are replaced by dallisgrass (*Paspalum dilatatum*), common Bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon*), and carpetgrass (*Axonopus fissifolius*) as abusive grazing continues. Shrubs and hardwood saplings invade the site in the absence of proper grazing management and brush management. Prolonged mismanagement or abandonment allows the site to become a hardwood forest dominated by water oak (*Quercus nigra*), willow oak (*Quercus phellos*), overcup oak (*Quercus lyrata*), and cedar elm (*Ulmus crassifolia*) on non-calcareous sites or green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), cottonwood (*Populus* spp.), pecan (*Carya illinoensis*), cedar elm, and sugarberry (*Celtis laevigata*) on calcareous sites.

State and transition model

Additional community tables

Table 5. Community 1.1 plant community composition

Group	Common Name	Symbol	Scientific Name	Annual Production ()	Foliar Cover (%)
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Table 6. Community 1.2 plant community composition

Group	Common Name	Symbol	Scientific Name	Annual Production ()	Foliar Cover (%)
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Table 7. Community 2.1 plant community composition

Group	Common Name	Symbol	Scientific Name	Annual Production ()	Foliar Cover (%)
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Table 8. Community 3.1 plant community composition

Group	Common Name	Symbol	Scientific Name	Annual Production ()	Foliar Cover (%)
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Table 9. Community 4.1 plant community composition

Group	Common Name	Symbol	Scientific Name	Annual Production ()	Foliar Cover (%)
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Animal community

Historically, the Loamy Bottomland site provided habitat to bison, deer, turkey, migratory birds and large predators such as wolves, coyotes, mountain lions, and black bear. White-tailed deer, turkey, fox and gray squirrels, coyotes, bobcats, and migratory birds find suitable habitat in these savannahs today. The favorable moisture regime of this site attracts many species of wildlife during the hot dry summer months when the quality and quantity of forages on upland sites may be lacking. Where old mast producing oaks and pecan trees are present, this site provides habitat for deer, turkey, squirrels, and ducks - especially during the winter. As the savannah transitions through the various vegetative states, the quality of the habitat may improve for some species and decline for others. Management must be applied to maintain a plant community in optimum habitat quality for the desired animal species.

Hydrological functions

Peak rainfall periods occur in May and June from frontal passage thunderstorms and in September and October from tropical systems as well as frontal passages. Rainfall amounts may be high (three to five inches per event) and events may be intense. The site is subject to erosion along adjacent stream banks where adequate herbaceous cover is not maintained and on heavy use areas such as roads and livestock trails. Extended periods (60 days) of little to no rainfall during the growing season are common. The site may be periodically inundated from overflow water from adjacent watercourses and may be ponded or saturated for long periods. This site may be a wetland or contain wetland inclusions as oxbows or stream meanders.

Recreational uses

Hunting, camping, bird watching, and equestrian are popular activities.

Wood products

Water oak and willow oak provides material for hardwood flooring, plywood, veneer, and cross-ties. Green ash is used for bats, tool handles, and furniture. Post oak and water oak are used for firewood. Rattan is used for furniture.

Other products

Fruit from blackberries, grapes, and plums and nuts from pecans are harvested.

Inventory data references

These site descriptions were developed as part a Provisional Ecological Site project using historic soil survey manuscripts, available site descriptions, and low intensity field traverse sampling. Future work to validate the information is needed. This will include field activities to collect low, medium, and high-intensity sampling, soil correlations, and analysis of that data. A final field review, peer review, quality control, and quality assurance review of the will be needed to produce the final document.

Other references

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Contributors

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Approval

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Rangeland health reference sheet

Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health is a qualitative assessment protocol used to determine ecosystem condition based on benchmark characteristics described in the Reference Sheet. A suite of 17 (or more) indicators are typically considered in an assessment. The ecological site(s) representative of an assessment location must be known prior to applying the protocol and must be verified based on soils and climate. Current plant community cannot be used to identify the ecological site.

Author(s)/participant(s)	
Contact for lead author	
Date	09/04/2026
Approved by	
Approval date	
Composition (Indicators 10 and 12) based on	Annual Production

Indicators

1. Number and extent of rills:

2. Presence of water flow patterns:

3. Number and height of erosional pedestals or terracettes:

4. Bare ground from Ecological Site Description or other studies (rock, litter, lichen, moss, plant canopy are not bare ground):

5. Number of gullies and erosion associated with gullies:

6. Extent of wind scoured, blowouts and/or depositional areas:

7. Amount of litter movement (describe size and distance expected to travel):

8. Soil surface (top few mm) resistance to erosion (stability values are averages - most sites will show a range of values):

9. Soil surface structure and SOM content (include type of structure and A-horizon color and thickness):

10. Effect of community phase composition (relative proportion of different functional groups) and spatial distribution on infiltration and runoff:

11. Presence and thickness of compaction layer (usually none; describe soil profile features which may be mistaken for compaction on this site):

12. Functional/Structural Groups (list in order of descending dominance by above-ground annual-production or live foliar cover using symbols: >>, >, = to indicate much greater than, greater than, and equal to):

Dominant:

Sub-dominant:

Other:

Additional:

13. Amount of plant mortality and decadence (include which functional groups are expected to show mortality or decadence):

14. Average percent litter cover (%) and depth (in):

15. Expected annual annual-production (this is TOTAL above-ground annual-production, not just forage annual-production):

16. Potential invasive (including noxious) species (native and non-native). List species which BOTH characterize degraded states and have the potential to become a dominant or co-dominant species on the ecological site if their future establishment and growth is not actively controlled by management interventions. Species that become dominant for only one to several years (e.g., short-term response to drought or wildfire) are not invasive plants. Note that unlike other indicators, we are describing what is NOT expected in the reference state for the ecological site:

17. Perennial plant reproductive capability:
