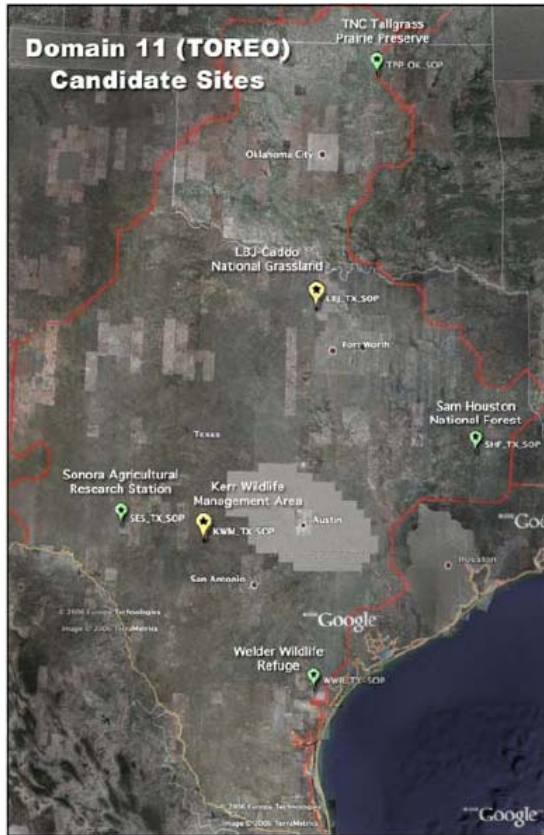


## USFS LBJ/Caddo National Grasslands (LBJ): Southern Plains Domain

**Contact Person:** Steve Hallgren; email: [steve.hallgren@okstate.edu](mailto:steve.hallgren@okstate.edu); Voice: 405-744-6805

**Web Page:** <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/texas/index.shtml>

### Location within Domain:



**History:** The LBJ National Grasslands covers about 8,000 ha in 50 tracts in northeastern Wise County, Texas. The largest tract is 3,200 ha. An additional 7,200 ha on the Caddo National Grasslands is available nearby. The majority of the area is in various stages of restoration following cultivation and timber clearing in the early 1900's. These disturbances ended after the land base was acquired by the USFS in 1938. Several undisturbed tracts (320 ha) exist primarily in oak forest and the entire area was restored to tallgrass prairie/mixed oak forest. The area is currently maintained by cattle grazing and prescribed burning, which mimic the natural disturbance regime of the region.

**Key Characteristics:** The LBJ/Caddo National Grasslands is in the Cross Timbers vegetation type characterized as a mosaic of grassland, oak savannah and oak forest. The Cross Timbers extends over more than 5 million ha from southern Kansas to central Texas. It is an ecotone between the eastern deciduous forest and the interior grasslands which have been sensitive to climate change and land use impacts. This region contains tremendous plant and

animal diversity because of the complex community structure. This site is located in a region of rapid urbanization, pollution, and species invasions. At present, over 7 million persons live in the Cross Timbers area and the population is increasing rapidly. The LBJ/Caddo National Grasslands is close to the center of the Cross Timbers and highly representative of the vegetation type. In addition, this site is easily accessible from Dallas-Fort Worth and Oklahoma City which may increase scientific utilization of the site.

**Existing Infrastructure:** The area has an excellent road system that it is maintained by the US Forest Service. This agency is mandated to preserve the natural qualities of the landscape including its biodiversity. Although there are no research facilities on site at present, the USFS has its own research branch that continuously surveys the resources of the agency.

**Facilities:** The facilities are federal offices and structures for administration and maintenance of the National Grasslands. Municipal electricity service is not far from any part of the grasslands.