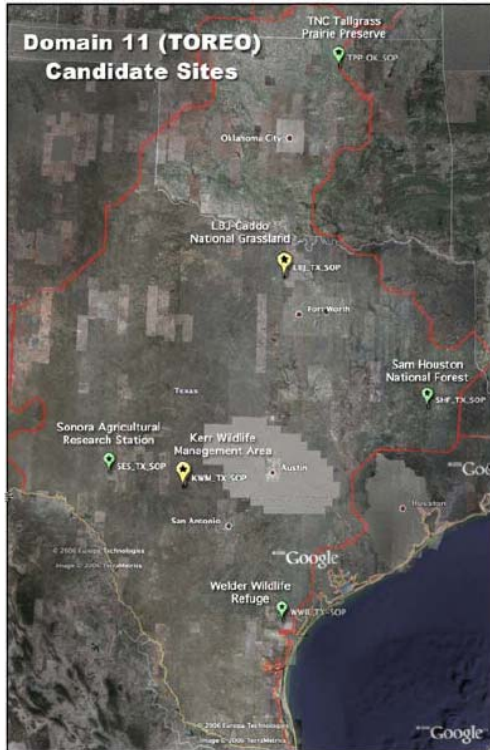


KERR Wildlife Management Area (KWM): Southern Plains Domain

Contact Person: David D. Briske; email: dbriske@tamu.edu; Voice: 979-845-5581

Web page: http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/hunt/wma/find_a_wma/list/?id=12

Location within Domain:



History: KWM was purchased by Texas Parks and Wildlife in 1950 from the MO Ranch. The objective of KWMA is to function as a wildlife management, research, and demonstration site for wildlife related issues (www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/hunt/wma/). This site has a long history of research, ecosystem management, and cooperation with Texas universities and agencies. It is internationally recognized for white-tailed deer and endangered species research.

Key Characteristics: The 2951 ha site is located at the headwaters of the North Fork of the Guadalupe River on the Edwards Plateau, Texas. The plateau is underlain by karst topography (mean elevation 575 m) and characterized by rolling hills with frequent canyons dissecting the landscape. Vegetation is live oak-juniper savanna with a high diversity of herbaceous species. Fire and grazing, both of which are components of the natural disturbance regime, are the focus of a management plan that maintains the site as a natural oak savanna.

Existing Structure: The KWM represents one of the few high quality natural areas within a domain that is dominated by private land ownership. The site provides documented land use patterns, well characterized ecological characteristics (flora, fauna, and climatic records), a broad based educational program, and it supports a research culture. Its central location within the domain make it an effective anchor for the north-south temperature and east-west precipitation gradients that determine the domain climate. KWM is located in a sparsely populated region, but it is readily accessed along I-10 100 km northwest of San Antonio airport. The site is secured by state ownership and public access is carefully regulated.

Facilities: The KWM has a well developed infrastructure including an administrative headquarters, visitor/educational center, all weather road system, modern utilities, visitor quarters, laboratories, shop facilities, and wildlife research facilities.