

## **2009 TEXAS PLANT CONSERVATION CONFERENCE**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2009

### **Oral Presentation**

#### UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF THE TEXAS ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS MAPPING PROJECT

C. Duane German and Amie Treuer-Kuehn

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Rd, Austin, Texas, 78744.

Abstract --- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and other state, federal and non-governmental partners are updating the 1984 Vegetation Map of Texas. NatureServe's Ecological System Mapping System is being used to describe vegetation communities. The project is approximately 40 percent complete, with much of the Edwards Plateau, Llano Uplift, Cross Timbers, Blackland Prairie, Post Oak Savannah, and West Gulf Coastal Plain being substantially complete. Ecological Systems are mapped using remote sensing techniques combined with modeling using abiotic data. Ground verification data has been collected from 4000+ sites. Overall mapping accuracy exceeds 80%. Ecological Systems Database has four times the thematic resolution and five times the spatial resolution of the 1984 data with more extensive ground verification.