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Timothy K. Perttula

41WM1382 is in the Brushy Creek valley in Williamson County, Texas, near the community of Normans Crossing. Brushy Creek is an eastward-flowing tributary of the San Gabriel River in the Blackland Prairie natural region in the Brazos River basin. The site's principal archaeological deposits date to the Late Archaic period (between ca. 4000-1200 years B.P.), but one ca. A.D. 900-1200 Kiam Incised sherd has been found here (Perttula and Mikulencak 2018).

Recent digging at 41WM1382 uncovered a plain non-tempered sandy paste rim sherd (Figure 1) from a Goose Creek Plain, *var. unspecified* vessel, probably a jar. The rim sherd is 7.1 mm thick, with a rounded lip and a direct profile, and neither the interior or exterior surfaces have been smoothed or burnished. The vessel had been fired and cooled in a reducing or low oxygen environment, leaving the vessel surfaces dark gray in color.



Figure 1. The Goose Creek Plain, *var. unspecified* rim sherd from 41WM1382.

Based on a recent and broad study of certain kinds of aboriginal ceramic wares found in Central Texas sites (Perttula 2018), a total of thirteen sites are known in the region that have small amounts of plain sandy paste Goose Creek Plain, *var. unspecified* pottery. This ceramic ware was made and used by Mossy Grove Culture Woodland period peoples between ca. 500 B.C.-A.D. 800 (see Aten and Bollich 2002; Story 1990; Ellis 2013). In Central Texas, these sites are concentrated in the Brazos River basin in Hill, McLennan, and Williamson counties in the Blackland Prairie (Figure 2).

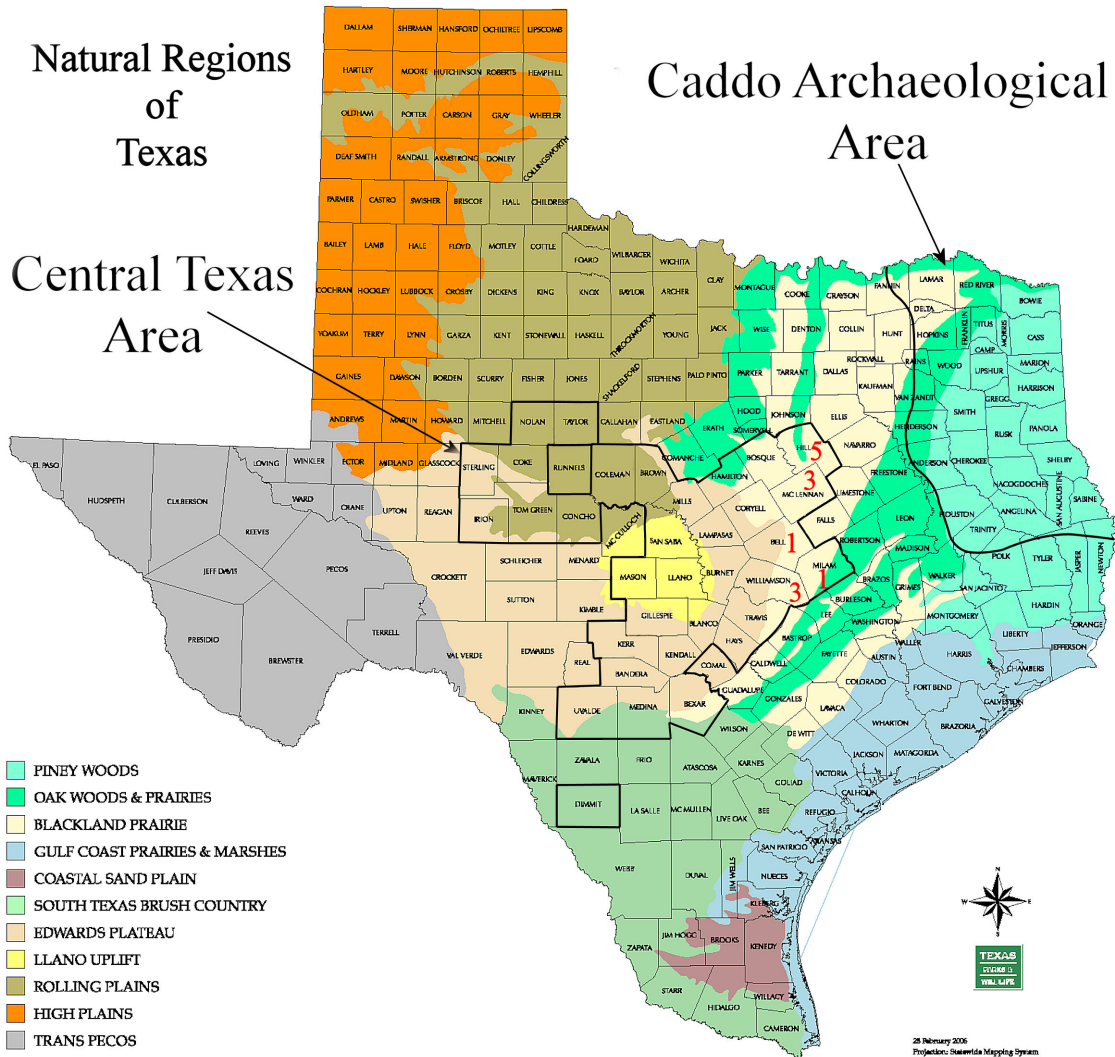


Figure 2. Distribution of sites by number per county with Mossy Grove Culture Goose Creek Plain, *var. unspecified* ceramics in Central Texas sites.

The presence of this distinctive ceramic type in the Central Texas region, although uncommon, indicates that there were occasional contacts and the exchange of materials and information between Central Texas hunter-gatherers and Mossy Grove peoples. These people lived to the east and southeast of Central Texas in the Post Oak Savannah and Pineywoods, as well as probably the Prairies and Marshes of the upper Texas Gulf Coast (see Perttula 2018:Figure 88).

Acknowledgments

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