Common Plants of Riparian Areas - Central – Southwest Texas

With Wetland Indicator (WI) and Proposed Stability Rating (SR)

Sedges / Grasses	WI	SR
Spikerushes (most)	OBL	6
Emory sedge	OBL	9
Sawgrass	OBL	9
Rice cutgrass	OBL	6
Water bentgrass	OBL	5
Cattail	OBL	9
Bulrushes (most)	OBL	9
Porcupine sedge	OBL	5
Black sedge	OBL	6
Teal lovegrass	OBL	4
Knotgrass	FACW	6
Hairyseed paspalum	FACW	6
Bushy bluestem	FACW	5/6
Flatsedges (most)	FACW	5/6
Common reed	FACW	9
Gulf cordgrass	FACW	9
White top sedge	FACW	5/6
Rushes (most) OBL or	FACW	6
Aparejograss	FACW	6
Spike bentgrass	FACW	5
Barnyardgrass	FACW	4
Junglerice *	FACW	4
Rabbitsfoot grass *	FACW	3
Carolina canarygrass *	FACW	3
Wetland sprangletops	FACW	4
Switchgrass	FAC	9
Eastern gammagrass	FAC	9
Big sacaton	FAC	9
Alkali sacaton	FAC	7
Lindheimer muhly	FAC	7
Wildrye	FAC	5/6
White tridens	FAC	5
Vine-mesquite	FAC	6
Seep muhly	FAC	6
Nimble-will	FAC	5
Broadleaf Uniola	FAC	5
Dallisgrass *	FAC	7
Vaseygrass *	FAC	5/6
Rustyseed paspalum	FAC	5
Giant reed (Arundo)*	FAC	7
St Augustine grass *	FAC	6
Buffalograss	FACU	3
Indiangrass	FACU	7
Johnsongrass *	FACU	6
Bermudagrass *	FACU	6
Big sandbur	FACU	7
Dichanthelium (most)	FACU	4
Southwestern bristle	UPL	5
King Ranch bluestem *	UPL	5
Creeping muly	UPL	6

*Indicates Introduced Species

SR - Stability Ratings (Draft) on a scale of 1 – 10. Based on USFS GTR-47, by Al Winward. Bare ground has a SR of 1. Anchored rock or logs have a SR of 10. A SR of 7 (or 6) is considered the minimum for acceptable bank stability. Woody plants, when associated with stabilizing grasses and sedges provide a higher stability rating that shown

Forbs	WI	SR
Water willow	OBL	7
Ludwigia	OBL	3
Watercress *	OBL	3
Scouring rush	OBL	6
Marsh aster	OBL	3
Marsh fleabane	OBL	5
Smooth bidens	OBL	5
Water hyssop	OBL	3
Burhead	OBL	3
Pennywort	OBL	3
Monkeyflower	OBL	3
Swamp rosemallow	OBL	5
California loostrife	OBL	5
Cardinalflower	FACW	5
Tall aster	FACW	5
Spiny aster	FACW	8
Large buttercup	FACW	6
Smartweed (most)	FACW	3
Bog nettle	FACW	5
Dock (most)	FACW	3/4
Mint *	FACW	3
Smallhead sneezeweed	FACW	3
Sesbania	FACW	3
Frogfruit	FAC	4
Late boneset	FAC	5
Ironweed	FAC	5
Shield fern	FAC	6
Giant ragweed	FAC	3
Annual sumpweed	FAC	3
Brazilian verbena *	FAC	4
Cocklebur	FAC	3
Tall goldenrod	FACU	6
Common ragweed	FACU	2
Frostweed	FACU	6
Maximilian sunflower	FACU	6
Heath aster	FACU	5
Illinois bundleflower	FACU	4
Clammyweed	FACU	3
Castor bean *	FACU	3
Western ragweed	UPL	5
Field ragweed	UPL	5
Mexican sagewort	UPL	5
Turk's cap	UPL	5
Toothed goldeneye	UPL	5

WI - Wetland Indicator Categories
(Region 6 USFWS)

OBL *Obligate Wetland* Almost always occur in wet areas.
FACW *Facultative Wetland* Occur in wet areas 67-99% probability.
FAC *Facultative* About equally likely to occur in wet and non wet areas.
FACU *Facultative Upland* Occur in wet areas 1-33% probability; otherwise, in uplands
UPL *Obligate Upland* Almost always occur in non wet areas

Woody	WI	SR
Buttonbush	OBL	8
Bald Cypress	OBL	9
Indigobush amorpha	OBL	7
Seepwillow baccharis (B. salicifolia)	FACW	6
Black willow	FACW	7
Arroyo willow	FACW	7
Sandbar willow	FACW	7
Spiny aster	FACW	8
Box elder maple	FACW	6
Retama	FACW	6
Possum haw	FACW	6
Sycamore	FAC	6
Eastern cottonwood	FAC	7
Pecan	FAC	6
Little walnut	FAC	7
Roosevelt baccharis (B. neglecta)	FAC	6
American elder	FAC	6
Roughleaf dogwood	FAC	6
Sugar hackberry	FAC	5
American elm	FAC	6
Cedar elm	FAC	6
Mexican ash	FAC	6
Bur oak	FAC	6
Chinquapin oak	FAC	6
Lindheimer indigo	FAC	5
Wafer ash (Ptelea)	FAC	6
Dewberry	FAC	4
Greenbriar	FAC	5
Poison ivy	FAC	5
Grape vine (most)	FAC	5
Japanese honeysuckle *	FAC	6
Live oak	FACU	6
Netleaf hackberry	FACU	5
Red mulberry	FACU	6
Mesquite	FACU	5
Huisache	FACU	5
Western soapberry	FACU	6
Bumelia	FACU	6
Black walnut	FACU	6
Desert willow	FACU	6
Carolina snailseed	FACU	4
Chinese tallow *	FACU	6
Gravelbar bricklebush	UPL	5
Slender bricklebush	UPL	5
Burrobush	UPL	6
Whitebrush	UPL	6
Juniper	UPL	5
Mexican persimmon	UPL	5
Spiny hackberry	UPL	5
Bois d'arc	UPL	6
Vitex *	UPL	6
Ligustrum *	UPL	6
Chinaberry *	UPL	6

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What is a Functional Creek?

Creeks and riparian areas function properly when there is:
Adequate Vegetation, Landscape formations, or Large wood to:

→ Dissipate stream energy

→ Protect banks / stabilize channel

→ Reduce erosion

→ Slow the velocity of floodwaters

→ Sediment dropped

→ Sediment trapped, and stabilized

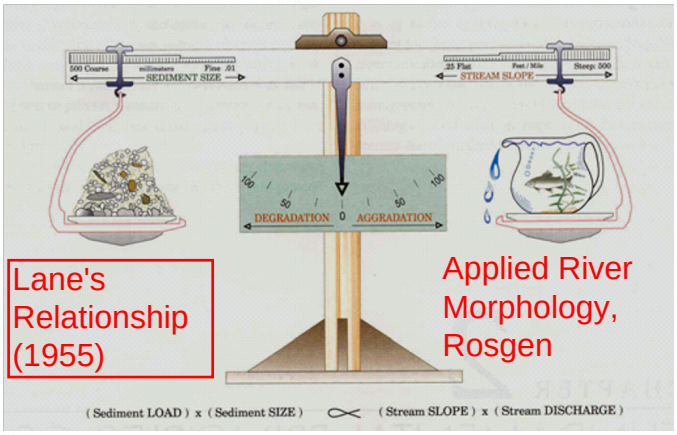
→ Build floodplains

→ Provide floodwater retention

→ Enlarge riparian sponge

→ Improve groundwater recharge

→ More water for sustained base-flow



Lane's Relationship (1955)

Applied River Morphology, Rosgen

Results:

- Improved water quality
- Sustained flow over time
- Increased forage for livestock
- Excellent fish and wildlife habitat

How:

- Smaller pastures; Rotational grazing
- Riparian pastures; Abbreviated grazing periods; Long rest periods
- Off site water for livestock; Offsite salt, minerals and feeding
- Retain tall dense vegetation with good stabilizing root mass
- Reduced human traffic, Limited mowing, Light grazing

Key Points:

- Slow the water down with dense vegetation
- Keep water on the land longer
- Think Water-catchment, not Water-shed