### Texas, A State of Conservation

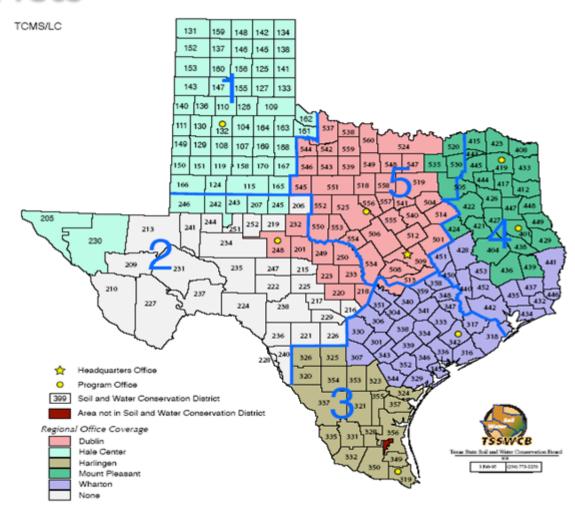




## The Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board



## Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts







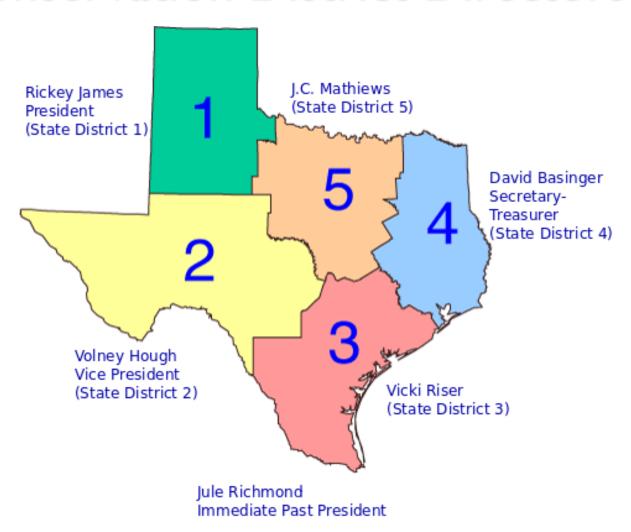
- \$21.4 Million State Funding
- \$14.8 Million Federal Funding
- Total \$36.2 Million



- SWCD Assistance
  - \$4.5 Million
- Flood Control
  - \$1 Million in O&M
  - \$6.2 Million in Repairs
  - \$8.5 Million in Federal Rehabilitation
- Water Quality
  - \$5.3 Million Federal §319(h)
  - \$1.1 Million State Funds to Compliment §319(h)
  - \$2 Million State Funds for Water Quality Management Plans
- Water Supply Enhancement
  - \$2.2 Million State Funds
- Overall Program Support, Regional Offices, and Field Staff
  - \$4.7 Million State Funds
- Indirect Administration
  - \$675,000 2% of Agency Budget

FY2016 Agency Budget

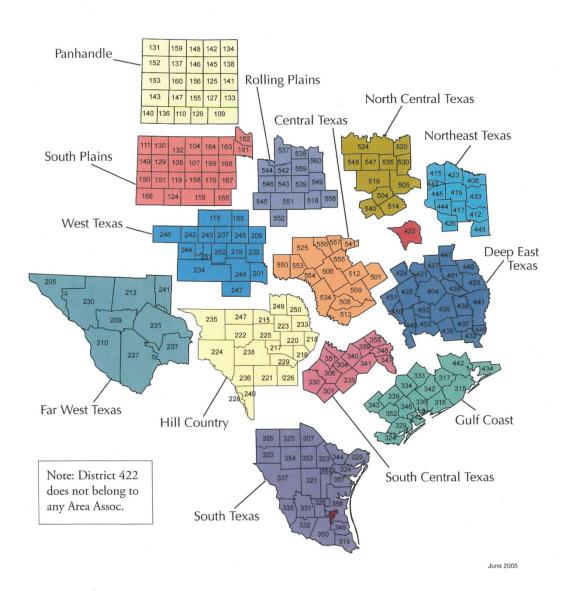
## Texas Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors



#### **AREA ASSOCIATIONS**

OF

#### **SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**







#### Texas Conservation Activities



- Water Quality
- Water Supply
- Soil Health
- Wildlife Habitat
- Flood/Drought
- Border Security

#### Local SWCD Assistance

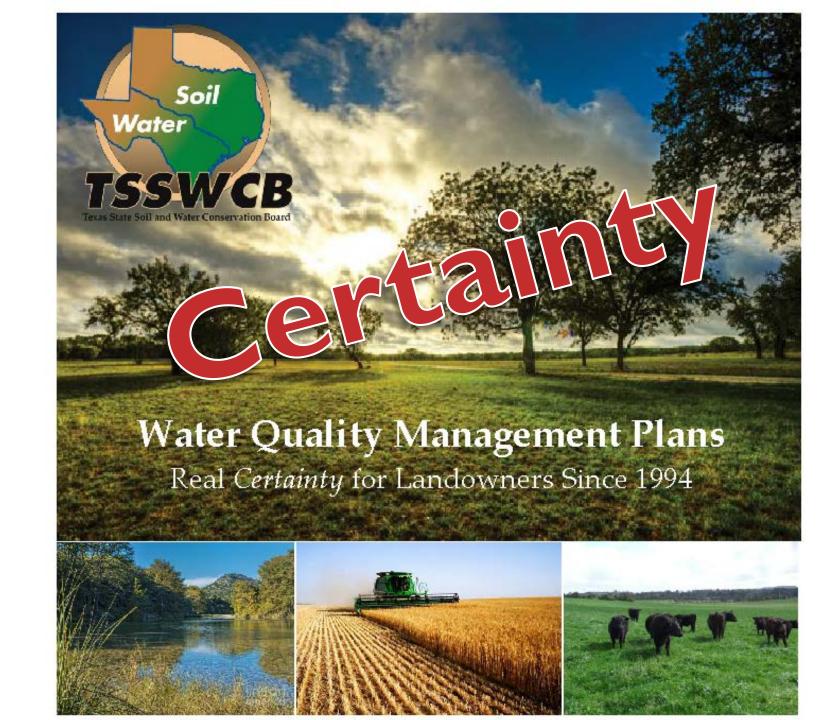
- State-funded Technical Assistance Grants
- State-funded Matching Funds Grants
- State-funded Conservation Activities Program (CAP) Grants
- State-funded Mileage & Per Diem Grants
- External Grants
  - NRCS
    - West Texas Restoration Project
    - Lesser-Prairie Chicken Initiative
  - NFWF
    - Coastal Migratory and Shorebird Habitat Enhancement
    - Monarch Butterfly, pending

### Water Quality

- TSSWCB is the State's lead agency for the abatement, prevention, and management of nonpoint source pollution from agricultural and silvicultural sources
- Texas NPS Management Program
  - EPA NPS 319(h) Grant
  - State-funded NPS Grants
  - Water Quality Management Plan Program
  - Poultry Program
  - Coastal NPS Program

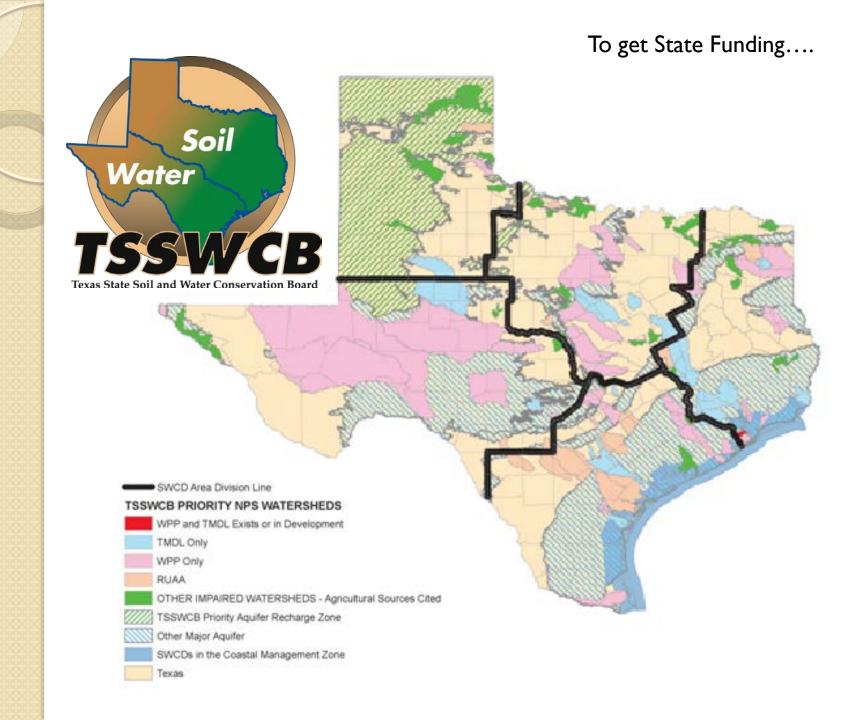
### Texas NPS Management Program

- Demonstrations
- Assessment
- Implementation
- Education
- Research (State Funds Only)

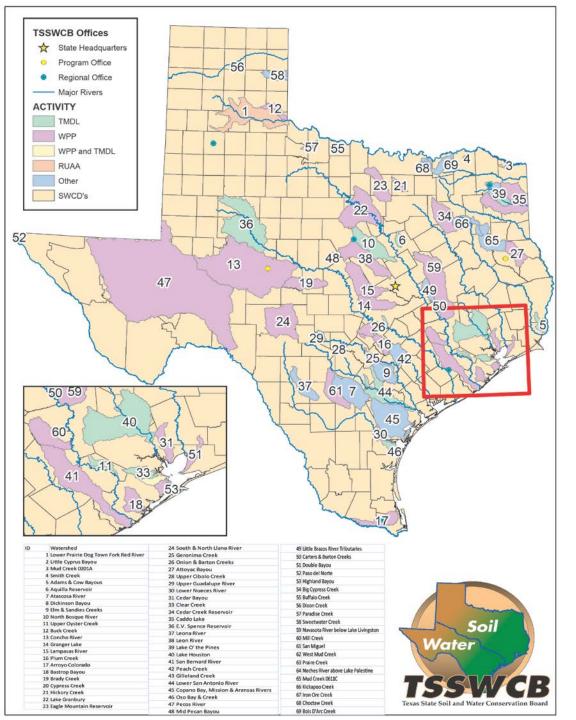


#### Water Quality Management Plans

- Statutory!
- Voluntary!
- Requested at the local level!
- Meets threshold for legal NPS discharges!
- Certified by the State!
- Cost-share funding for incentive!!
- Status-reviews!
- Includes AFOs, but applies to everyone.







WPPs, TMDLs, & Recreational Use **Attainability Analyses** 



### Watershed Coordinator Roundtables



# Watershed Steward

# 

TEXAS Well Owner NETWORK

## Education Projects for Local SWCDs





### Vegetative Treatment Areas



 Sometimes traditional methods don't fit the government paradigm...





## Silvicultural NPS Activities

BMP
Effectiveness
Monitoring

Education

Access Roads

### Wildlife

• Lesser-Prairie Chicken Initiative



#### Wildlife

#### Migratory & Shorebird Habitat



#### **General Project** Summary

The overall health of the Gulf of Mexico region and its treasured ecosystems remain a priority for conservation agencies, groups and private landowners in Texas. To accelerate the development of voluntary conservation plans and adoption of conservation practices within the gulf region, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) have joined together in a gulf restoration agreement that the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) will implement in more than 30 coastal counties.

This agreement builds on investments that NFWF. NRCS and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts are making in the region.

#### **OPPORTUNITIES**

Through this project, farmers, ranchers and private landowners will have an opportunity to make improvements to their land, in turn, helping clean water and air, enhance habitat and enrich the soil. This partnership project will significantly expand wildlife habitat restoration efforts with private landowners and operators. The project will primarily focus on developing conservation plans that address natural resource concerns, in high-priority counties that impact the enhancement or restoration of wildlife habitat.

#### LANDOWNER PROJECTS AND CONSERVATION PRACTICES CAN

- · Wetland creation, enhancement and restoration
- · Wildlife habitat management
- · Stream and riparian buffer restoration
- · Shallow water habitat development
- · Early successional habitat development
- · Livestock grazing and wildlife interactions
- · Improving soil health through cover crop establishment





#### PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- · Develop and implement a region wide Gulf of Mexico ecosystem restoration
- · Develop economically sustainable conservation plansfocusing on wildlife
- · Work with private landowners in providing conservation and management strategies that address natural resource concerns
- Restore and conserve the Gulf's overall environmental health
- · Restore water quantity and quality
- · Through outreach, increase awareness of available technical and financial assistance programs that benefit ecosystem restoration



#### WHAT IS A CONSERVATION PLAN?

- · It is a voluntary written record of your management decisions and the conservation practices and systems you plan to use and maintain on your land
- · It is developed and tailored to your goals and objectives
- · Gulf ecosystem restoration conservation practices can include, but are not limited to, shallow water habitat development. brush management, range planting and restoration and management of declining
- · Can help increase the land's productivity and value
- \*It is beneficial when applying for financial assistance through Farm Bill programs and/or state water quality management plans



#### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Contact your local NRCS field office or SWCD staff or visit www.tx.rarcs.usda.gov.

STATE PARTNERSHIP CONTACTS:

NRCS - Kristy Oates, State Resource Conservationist (254) 742-9805 or

kristy.oates@tx.usda.gov

TSSWCB - John Foster, Statewide Programs Officer (254) 773-2250 or

ifoster@tsswcb.texas.gov



#### **COUNTIES WITHIN** THE PROJECT:

CHAMBERS FORT BEND











## Drought?!? What drought?







### Mountain Creek Site 10 Midlothian TX







### Water Supply Enhancement





















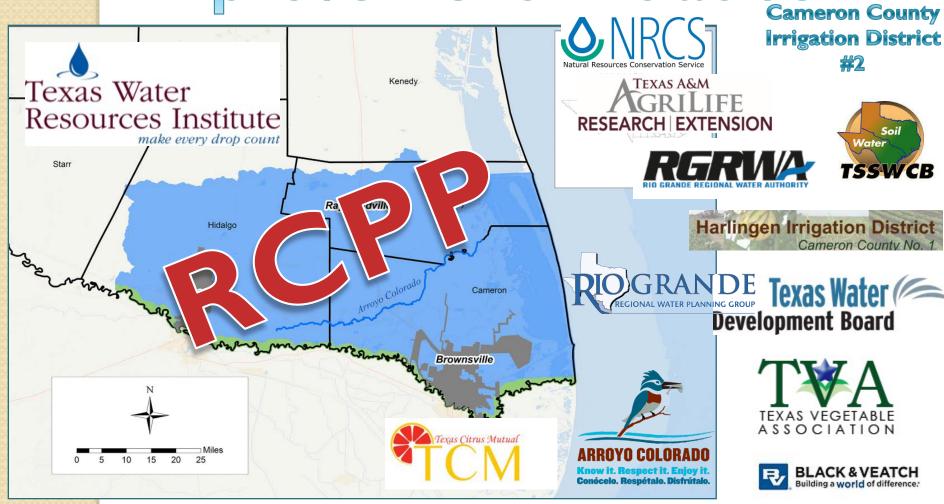


## Monarch Butterfly





## Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Improvement Initiative



#### Texas Conservation Activities



- Water Quality
- Water Supply
- Soil Health
- Wildlife Habitat
- Flood/Drought
- Border Security

