



United States Department of Agriculture



TEXAS

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TAWS Spring Meeting

3 April 2024

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NRCS Update



Engineering and Watershed Activities



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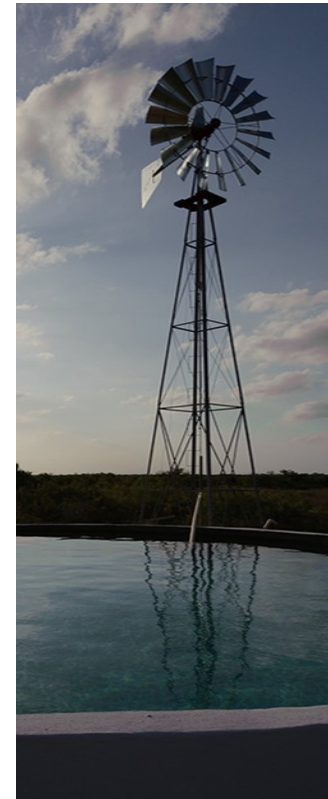
Engineering Design and Construction

Brian Wenberg – State Conservation Engineer
Karen Green – Dam Safety Engineer
Ronald Gardner – Dam Safety Engineer
Edward Michaels – State Hydraulic Engineer

Daniel Little – State Design Engineer
Shawn Higgins – Design Engineer
Gary Geraci – Design Engineer
Victor Hulsey – Design Engineer
Vacant – Design Engineer
Shon Owens – Civil Engineer Technician

Bryan Moffatt – Geologist
Michael Jugle – Geologist
Zachary Welch – Civil Engineer Technician

Shane Ice – State Construction Engineer
Joseph Forrest – Project Engineer
Jesus De Los Santos – Project Engineer



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Landscape Planning Personnel

Mark J. Northcut – Staff Leader

Rocky Ingram – Soil Conservationist

David Sullivan – Civil Engineer

Michael Robison – Civil Engineer

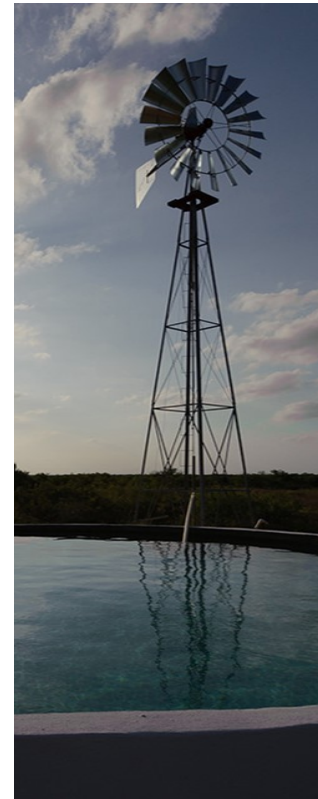
Adam Bentley – Economist

Dawson Lilly – Wildlife Biologist

Christopher Albanesi – Management Analyst

**Angela Moody – Archeologist (shared staff with
Soils)**

**David Buland – Economist (shared staff with
National Design Center)**



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NRCS Dam Safety Activities



NRCS has an MOU with TCEQ to inspect 80 NRCS-assisted dams

- This year we have inspected 39 of the 80 dams. Scheduling for remaining.

Smokehouse Creek fire

- Inspection of the 18 dams in the Washita Creek watershed and 1 dam in the Red Deer Creek watershed that were in the in the panhandle. Revegetation of some of the dams and auxiliary spillways, wooden posts in gaps for fences. One site needs drainpipe replacement at outlet.

3 EAP tabletop exercises

- Plum Creek Conservation District Tabletop Exercise – January 8, 2024
- SARA EAP Tabletop Exercise – October 11, 2023
- Lower Brushy Creek EAP Tabletop Exercise – February 8, 2023

Ag Day presentation on Dam Safety

- Upper Las Moras Sites in Brackettville. April 9, 2024
- Concho County Ag Day May 10, 2024

Dam Tours

Tours to assist sponsors with information to attendees on dams and dam safety information.

- Bexar County Dams Tour – June 30, 2023
- Upper San Marcos Watershed Tour – June 21, 2023

DamWatch

Updated version 9. New look/interface for user from previous version 8. Same information/ files.



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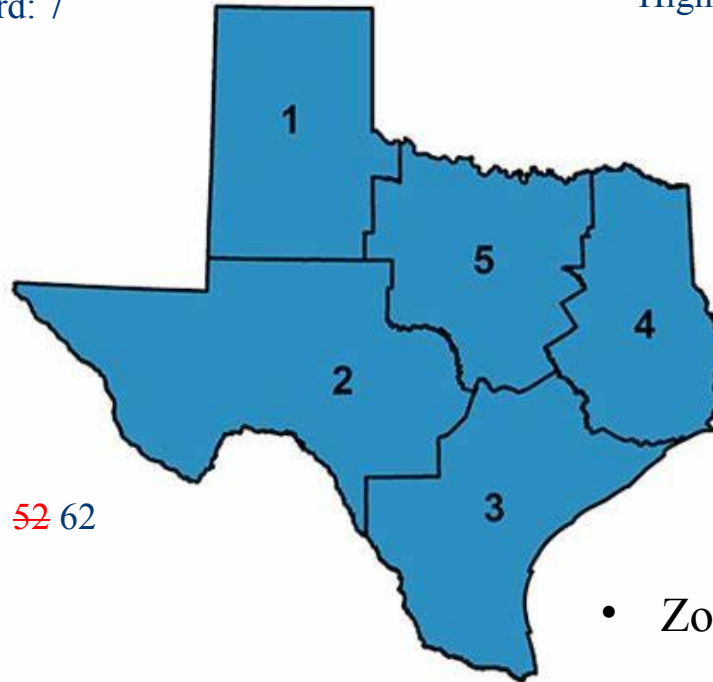
NRCS High Hazard Dams

- Zone 1

- Dams: 108
- High Hazard: 7

- Zone 5

- Dams: 1441
- High Hazard: ~~385~~ 408-



- Zone 4

- Dams: 110
- High Hazard: ~~17~~ 24

- Zone 2

- Dams: 190
- High Hazard: ~~52~~ 62

- Zone 3

- Dams: 149
- High Hazard: ~~93~~ 101

- Total

- Dams: 2,004
- High Hazard: ~~560~~ 602

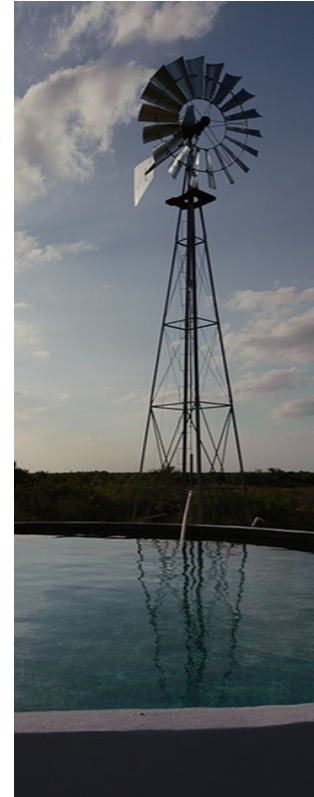


Watershed - EWPP



Ongoing Projects

- **Severe Weather (2024)**
 - Fort Bend County – Fulshear MUD Request Feb. 2024
- **Panhandle Fires (2024)**
 - Initial Outreach & Coordination (Texas Department of Emergency Management TDEM and Federal Emergency Management Agency FEMA Region 6)
 - USDA NRCS – Environmental Quality Incentive Program EQIP Local USDA Service Center
 - USDA FSA – Emergency Conservation Program ECP Local USDA Service Center



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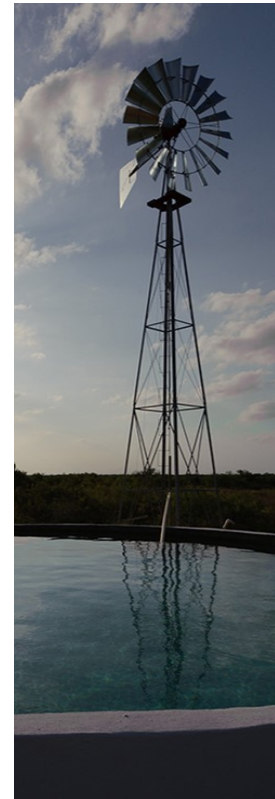
Watershed - Operations

New Planning Projects

- **Preliminary Investigation Feasibility Report (PIFR)**
 - Cameron County – Lower Arroyo Colorado
 - Willacy County – East Main Drain-Laguna Madre
- **New Planning Projects**
 - Cedar Bayou Watershed (Harris County) –
 - Midland County – South Monahan's Draw
- **Backlog Projects (Unbuilt Sites – Supplemental Plan)**
 - Big Creek (Tri County) – Falls County
 - Elm Creek (1250) Watershed (Runnels / Taylor County)

Remedial Repairs

- **Zone 04**
 - Pine Creek Site 18 (Lamar County) – Construction complete Feb 2024
- **Zone 05**
 - Castleman Creek Site 2 (McLennan County) – Construction at 40%
 - Cedar Creek 16 (Kaufman County) – Funds Approved Mar 2024
 - Cedar Creek 16A (Kaufman County) – Funds Approved Mar 2024
 - Hickory Creek 11 (Denton County) – Funds request Nov 2023
 - Hickory Creek 14 (Denton County) – Funds request Nov 2023



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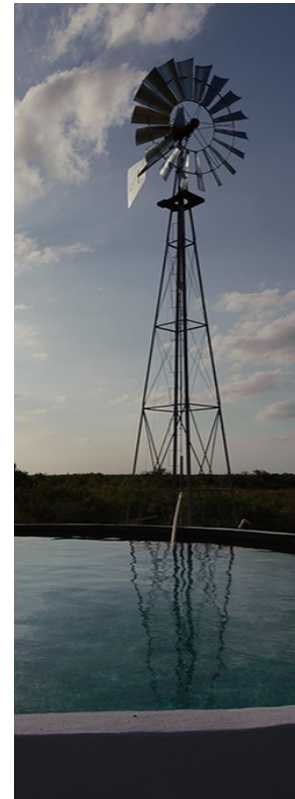
Watershed - Rehabilitation

Dam Assessments

- **FY24 Assessments for 39 sites to be completed March 2024**

Planning Projects (142 Nationwide)

- **TX Ongoing Planning (10)**
 - Big Sandy Site 26 (Wise County)
 - Clear Fork (Trinity River) Site 33 (Parker County)
 - Escondido Creek Sites 1, 4 and 12 (Karnes County)
 - Kickapoo Creek Sites 4 & 5 (Cook County)
 - Nolan Creek Site 12 (Bell County)
 - Olmitos and Garcias Creek Sites 5 & 6 (Starr County)
 - Tehuacana Creek Site 21 (McLennan County)
 - Upper Brushy Creek Site 25 (Williamson County)
 - Upper Brushy Creek Site 29 (Williamson County)
 - Upper San Marcos River Site 4 & 5 (Hays County)



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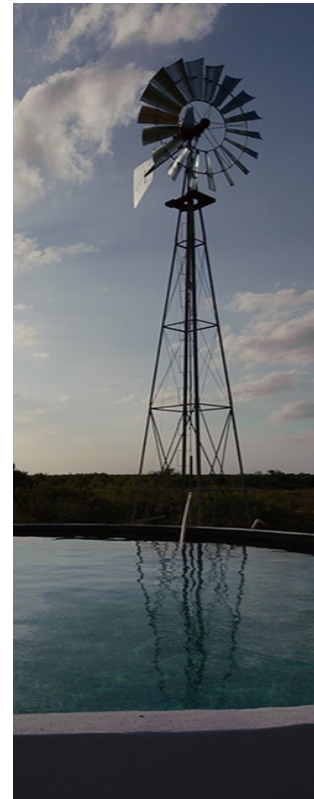
Watershed - Rehabilitation

Design Projects (46 Nationwide)

- **TX Initiate New Design (3)**
 - Chambers Creek Sites 4 & 6 (Ellis County)
 - Comal River Site 4 (Comal County)
 - Upper Cibolo Creek Site 2 (Kendall County)
- **TX Final Design (1)**
 - Lower East Fork Lateral Site 9 (Kaufman County)

Construction Projects (18 Nationwide)

- **TX Initiate New Construction (3)**
 - Lower East Fork Lateral Site 10 (Kaufman County)
 - Lower Plum Creek 28 (Caldwell County)
 - Plum Creek 12 (Hays County)
- **TX Ongoing Construction (5)**
 - Plum Creek Site 21 (Hays County)
 - Chambers Creek Site 10 & 11 (Ellis County)
 - Cedar Creek Site 87A (Kaufman County)
 - Lower Running Water Draw Site 4 (Hale County)



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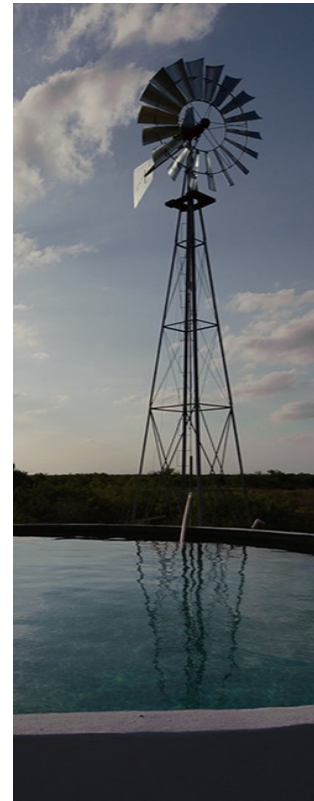


Watershed – National Rehabilitation

Current Funding of Rehabilitation Program:

- **FY22 \$118,000,000 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding (Allocated to states)**
- **FY23 \$2,000,000 in discretionary funding (Allocated to states)**
- **FY24 have not received any discretionary funding yet.**
- **FY24 \$23,575,000 of WFPF Farm Bill Funding (\$7 million remaining unallocated but is moving to states fast)**

We received \$50 million Farm Bill Funds to split between WSOPs and REHAB for FY25. Rehab has been working off of those WFPF annual funds. The 2024 budget was recently passed yet looks like we will only receive \$1 to \$2 million for Rehab in discretionary funding.



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Watershed – National Rehabilitation

Benefits - Texas

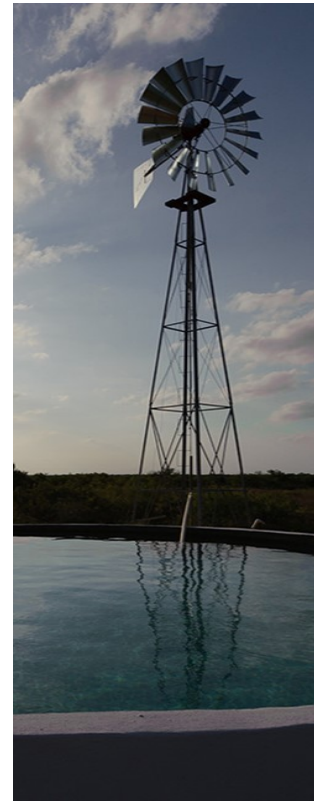
- Average Annual Benefits of \$601.1 M for 2,004 total dams currently operating

National Estimated Cost of Rehabilitation Phases

- Planning \$750,000
- Design \$750,000
- Construction \$5,000,000

National Funds Needed to move current projects through the phases

- 115 of the projects in planning have not yet been funded for design, the cost to move the projects to design is estimated at \$86,250,000.
- 38 of the projects in design have not been funded for construction, the estimate cost of construction for these projects is \$190,000,000.



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