Texas's Lifeblood - Water

It's type is H2O!

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Please be aware of these relevant issues and be active, to ensure laws and regulations can be brought to attention and voted on in legislation!

It's not political views, it's bigger than any agreements or arguments. It's our fundamental responsibility to our lands health!



Colorado River Basin

The fire danger is real, so keep tall dead grass cut and remove drad underbrush. Watering trees and bushes, is more important than grass and ornamental plants. Also, put water out for wildlife too. You can use water, but should be doing your best to conserve. Just don't over do it, please!

If new to Texas or maybe just unfamiliar with the current situation, here's the FYI...

The over-appropriation of the Colorado River, Brazos River and Guadalupe River drainage basins. This is already problem enough, but in recent years these River's flow has been dwindling. (If anyone is unaware, the Highland Lakes, are all feed by Colorado River). Below, I've listed the a few descriptions of these these rivers in our immediate local area. Please note, the Colorado is the most used in this region.

Brazos River, is also know in our region as, the San Gabriel River, which is also, the North, Russell, Middle, and South forks, as parts of the Brazos River drainage basin. The river flows from Burnet County eastward through Williamson County to its confluence with the Little River in Milam County, for a total length of 120 miles. The North Fork begins twelve miles north of Burnet, in Burnet County. Russell Fork begins six miles north of Burnet and runs into the North Fork. The Middle Fork starts five miles east of Liberty Hill, Williamson County and flows eastward to its mouth on the North Fork, one mile west of Interstate Highway 35 and near the western city limit of Georgetown. The South Fork begins four miles east of Burnet and flows southeast thirty-four miles to join the North Fork and become the San Gabriel River inside the northern city limits of Georgetown. The San Gabriel and its tributaries wind mostly through the heavily wooded and scenic limestone formations of the Balcones Escarpment, thence onto the Blackland Prairie. There are two large dams on the San Gabriel. One, eight miles west of Granger in Williamson County, forms Granger Lake, which. The other, four miles upstream from Georgetown, forms Lake Georgetown. Both lakes provide major tributaries of the San Gabriel are Brushy, Alligator, Opossum, Berry, Pecan, Little, and Oatmeal creeks. Rockdale, Thorndale, Granger, Taylor, Georgetown, Bertram, and Burnet are long-established communities on the San Gabriel.

THe Guadalupe River flows to San Antonio Bay, which drains to the Gulf of Mexico. Other streams within the basin include the Blanco, Comal, and San Marcos Rivers, Gruene River and Sandies and Coleto Creeks.

A major concern in these River's Basins is overpumping of the underlying aquifers. In the past, irrigators, cities in the basin (such as Austin, Burnet, Liberty Hill, Leander, New Braunfels and San Marcos), and cities outside the basin (San Antonio) have relied on groundwater from these aquifers. Due to the groundwater and surface water interactions in the basin, overpumping has led to reduced base flows in all our Rivers and its tributaries.

Also some very important factors like our smaller rivers creeks and wetlands, that wildlife have as a primary water sources; Brushy Creek, Cypress Creek, Big Sand Creek, Cow Creek, Buttercup Creek and Onion Creek ext. Other Rivers that run water, into and from different directions though Texas. Rivers like the San Llano, San Saba, Pedernales and more..

The region is locked in a 26-year-long drought, the most severe in 1,250 years. And it may continue much longer. The tree ring data shows that there have been numerous multi-decadal or mega-droughts in the basin in the last 1,000 years. The prospect that drought could be the new normal for the region is creating a good deal of anxiety along the Colorado and within the community around affected areas of Brazos and Guadalupe Rivers .

Warmer temperatures also mean, that of the precipation that does come, more of it will fall as rain instead of snow. The aquifers that feed the underlying springs, in some areas, are to being drained by pumps wells and evaporation.

At over 800 miles long, the Texas Colorado River is one of the longest rivers to start and end in the same state. (Note that it is NOT the same Colorado River that flows through Arizona, Utah, and other western states.) Because of its importance to our state's economy, our environment, our industry, our agriculture, and especially our lives as Texans, it is truly the lifeblood of our state. Its headwaters begin in northwest Texas, and the river flows southeast, supporting many different communities and ecosystems and eventually emptying into the Gulf of Mexico at Matagorda Bay. Along the way, its reservoirs form the Highland Lakes, and it flows through downtown Austin, the fastest-growing metropolitan area in the country.

The Colorado's engineering infrastructure was built around the natural long-term storage underground in lakes or aquifers and the snowpack from above provides this but rain pulses quickly through the system.

Meanwhile, the rapid development of everything from housing developments to commercial infrastructure buildings, in the Southwest has created more dust particles which go airborne and settle on to the snow fields. Between seven to thirty times, as much dust now, as was seen a century ago. The darker snow melts sooner and faster, a phenomenon that costs the river about 12% of its flow. And as the drought continues, there's more dust from more dry grounds

If these were normal times, past droughts might give us a sense of what might be in store. The climate information stored in tree rings show that the longest drought in this region occurred in medieval times and lasted for 62 years — with no very wet years in

between the dry ones. A few very wet years in a long dry spell would be critical on the Colorado and Texas's Rivers, these days to keep it from completely drying up.

But it may be even worse than that. This drought is unusually hot. "Temperatures keep going up,". And the water underground, is being depleted rapidly, without the ability to replenish these aquifers, the land dies and not just that, but the then underlying ground can begin to fall in on the leftover cavernous bedrock beneath (AKA collapseing sinkholes).It's something that would change life in the states forever.

Balancing human water demands and environmental needs is an important issue, in this basin our economy, environment and all ecosystems are at risk, RIGHT NOW!!

The Concho, San Saba, Llano, James, and Pedernales Rivers all empty into the Colorado, so their watersheds are considered part of the Colorado River's watershed, too. Altogether, there are over 7,500 miles of creeks, streams, and rivers in our basin, and well over 2 million people live and work here. The Colorado's watershed includes several major metropolitan areas, including Midland-Odessa, San Angelo, and Austin, and there are hundreds of smaller towns and communities as well. Many communities, like Austin, rely on the Colorado River for 100% of their municipal water.

Did you know that the most common pollutant in American waterways is dir? Water quality can be impacted negatively by a number of things, almost all of which are connected to human activity. When you see a plastic bag or wrapper blowing along the street, rain will likely carry it into a storm drain and from there into a local creek, and it will eventually end up in the Colorado River. This visible pollution is unsightly and damaging to aquatic ecosystems. Fertilizers, weed killers, and pesticides all wash off yards and fields and into our waterways as well. This invisible pollution is harder to spot, and over time it can build up in our waterways with devastating results. Dirt is an especially common pollutant, usually washing in from land that has lost its natural vegetative cover or blowing in on the wind. Dirt can also come from construction sites, though most builders put measures in place to prevent this. Chemicals dumped from an industrial site is an example of "point source" pollution, because it comes from a specific source. Fertilizer run-off is an example of "non-point source" pollution because it can come from many places at once — making it harder to prevent.

As you can see in this map, the Colorado River's watershed is huge, including almost 15% of Texas. (A river's "watershed" or "basin" is all the land that drains into it).

The long-term vitality of the Colorado River depends on how clean and healthy it is (water quality) and also on how much water remains in the river, even in times of drought (water quantity).

2011 was the single worst year of drought in our state's history, and the infamous drought of the 1950s is still considered the "drought of record" for a drought that lasts multiple years. Did you know that, if the drought of the '50s hit Texas today, over 300 municipalities across the state would run out of water? Drought is a serious threat in the Colorado River basin, and like flooding, it is all the scarier because of its unpredictability. Not only does drought impact water quantity, because less rain runoff is flowing into our waterways, but it also impacts water quality, as low flows and higher water temperatures change the chemistry of the water. (For instance, as water levels drop and flow rates decrease, the amount of oxygen dissolved in the water can decrease sharply, stressing or killing aquatic life.)

The Colorado River basin has always experienced floods and droughts, but changes to our climate are steadily making both the floods and droughts that we experience more frequent and more severe. What's more, data from tree rings tell us that our region has experienced "megadroughts" multiple times in past centuries. The threat of megafloods and megadroughts is real, and it is growing.

The need for long-term strategic thinking and public discussion of water issues, IS NOW!

Just think what the land it's life of all plants, insects, wildlife and people would be facing, if all lakes below gone or so low, none are feeding off into lower regions anymore. The Texas Rivers and for us here locally the Highland Lakes, give life beyond just the rivers and lakes.. what if, the creeks that trails off, no longer existed..? What would it mean, for all wildlife, in Texas but for and in the Colorado River Basin.

- Lake Austin
- Ballinger Lake
- Bastrop Lake
- Brady Creek Reservoir
- Lake Brownwood
- Lake Buchanan
- Cedar Creek Reservoir
- Champion Creek Reservoir
- Lake Clyde
- Coleman Lake
- Lake Colorado City
- E.V. Spence Reservoir
- Eagle Lake
- Hords Creek Lake
- Inks Lake
- Lake J.B. Thomas
- Lady Bird Lake
- Lake Lyndon B. Johnson
- Lake Marble Falls
- Mitchell County Reservoir
- Lake Nasworthy
- O.C. Fisher Lake
- O.H. Ivie Reservoir
- Oak Creek Reservoir
- Red Draw Reservoir
- The South Texas Project Electric Generating Station
- Sulphur Draw Reservoir
- Lake Travis
- Twin Buttes Reservoir
- Lake Walter E. Long
- Lake Winters

It's a battle for more reasons than just a pretty landscaping, it's for economic purposes, that will create problems far beyond us locally, regionally but our agricultural industry. As the ability to water crops and the ecosystems sustainably..? That our VERY lives depend upon.

Even our electricity, would be left in an even greater amount of danger. As the need for a steady flow of water to irrigate rice farms in Wharton and Matagorda counties, combined with the necessity for flood-control measures, has presented more recent challenges. These have been met largely by the construction of Lake Travis and Lake Buchanan. Three smaller reservoirs in Burnet County-Inks, Johnson, and Marble Fallsproduce power from water running over the Buchanan Dam spillway. The dam at Lake Austin, which is largely filled with silt, produces power from water flowing from the lakes above. Town Lake, a recreation site that divides north and south Austin, is the last impoundment in this section of the river; Town Lake and the lakes above Austin are known as the Highland Lakes. Conservation and use of the Colorado are overseen by three agencies established by the state legislature, the Lower, Central, and Upper Colorado River authorities, and formerly the Colorado River Municipal Water District. AKA - LCRA.

We can all pitch in, if not for others or future generations.. then do it for your own future, it's closer to now than you realize, so be selfish but for economic survival or we'll all suffer from regrets!



We're unable to fix this once it's gone, the time to conserve is now, every bit saved now, give us all a chance to get the leves back to a safe place again. Then we continue to enjoy these natural longterm benefits.. It's responsible stewardship of our lands, we have a duty to her! ALL information used for in the above is found or is cited for informational purposes, this research gathering was on the finding or reporting of/by the following:

- LCRA, Lower Colorado River Authority.
- CCRA, Central Colorado River Authority,
- TPWD, Texas Parks Wildlife,
- Colorado River Alliance and US Drought Organization
- Water Department
- EPA (Environmental Protection Agency)
- Texas Water Development Board
- Colorado River Land Trust
- Texas Natural Resources Information System (TNRIS) TNRIS hosts the State of Texas's Geographic Information Office (GIO), an inter-agency initiative to collaborate and facilitate the effective use of G.I.S. in state and local government
- Texas State Historical Association (TSHA)
- Texas Almanac

Additional TWDB information may be found at:

- Texas Natural Resources Information System (TNRIS)
- Interactive State Water Plan (ISWP)
- Water IQ
- Water Data Interactive (WDI)
- TexMesonet
- Save Texas Water
- Texas Water Infrastructure Coordination Committee (TWICC)
- Water Exploration
- Water Data for Texas
- Texas Flood
- Flood Information Clearinghouse