

**NONPOINT SOURCE SUMMARY PAGE
FY 04 319(h)**

1. **Title of Project:** WQMP Implementation Assistance in the Falcon Reservoir Drainage Area in Zapata Co.
2. **Project Goals/Objectives:** (1) To foster coordinated technical assistance activities in the Falcon Reservoir Drainage Area in Zapata County between the TSSWCB, the Zapata SWCD #335, and NRCS, and the Kika De La Garza PMC. (2) To conduct an inventory and map land uses and current management practices within the targeted watershed. (3) To provide technical and/or financial assistance to landowners to aid in the development and implementation of WQMPs. (4) To compile information on the location and types BMPs for each WQMP implemented. (5) Measured water quality improvement in impaired water bodies.
3. **Project Tasks:** (1) Program Coordination with Project Participants, (2) Development and implementation of WQMPs, (3) Compilations of WQMPs implemented in the Falcon Reservoir drainage area in Zapata County.
4. **Measures of Success:** Implementation of 30 WQMPs within the drainage area in the Zapata SWCD; Reduce sediment loss on treated sites will be reduced by 90%.
5. **Project Type:** Statewide (); Watershed (x); Demonstration ()
6. **Waterbody Type:** River (); Groundwater (); Other (x)
7. **Project Location:** Segment 2303 Falcon Reservoir
8. **NPS Management Program Reference:** State of Texas Agricultural/Silvicultural NonPoint Source Management Program approved February 25, 2000.
9. **NPS Assessment Report Status:** Impaired (x); Impacted (); Threatened (); Other ()
10. **Key Project Activities:** Hire Staff (x); Monitoring (x); Regulatory Assistance (); Technical Assistance (x); Education (); Implementation (x); Demonstration (x); Other ()
11. **NPS Management Program Elements:** Milestones from the "1999 Texas Nonpoint Source Pollution Assessment Report and Management Program", which will be implemented include: (1) providing financial assistance to Soil and Waters Conservation Districts for the implementation of Water Quality Management Plans to reduce NPS pollution (2) Coordinating with Federal, State, and Local Programs (3) Committing to technology transfer, technical support, administrative support and cooperation between agencies and programs for the prevention of NPS pollution.
12. **Project Costs:** Federal (461,290); Non-Federal Match (\$100,000); Total Project (561,290)
13. **Project Management:** Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
14. **Cooperating Entities:** TSSWCB Harlingen Regional Office; Zapata SWCD; Natural Resources Conservation Service; Kika De La Garza Plant Material Center.
15. **Project Period:** Three years

**WQMP Implementation Assistance in the Falcon Reservoir Drainage Area in Zapata County.
Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
FY04 CWA Section 319 (h)**

WORKPLAN

Problem/Need Statement:

The basis for this project is to enhance the efforts and activities of the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) and the Zapata Soil and Water Conservation Board (SWCD) #335 to reduce and/or prevent nonpoint source (NPS) pollution loadings, primarily sediment from rangeland, into Falcon Reservoir. In the 2001 State of Texas Clean Water Act Section 303 (d) List, segment 2303/International Falcon Reservoir was identified as a NPS pollution concern for total dissolved solids and salinity.

A reduction in NPS loadings in the drainage area of Falcon Reservoir in Zapata County will have a positive impact on the quality of the water and storage capacity of Falcon Reservoir. The International Boundary and Water Commission estimates that siltation has reduced the storage capacity of Falcon Reservoir by about 189,000 acre/feet. In essence, Falcon Reservoir is the "life blood" for Rio Grande Valley agriculture that is highly dependent on irrigation. The successful implementation of best management practices (BMP) that abate rangeland erosion should result in lower NPS pollution loadings into this water body. The BMPs will include critical area planting, diversion terraces, ponds, livestock exclusions and grade stabilization structures.

As the lead agency for the State of Texas in abating agricultural NPS pollution, the State Board works closely with local SWCDs to reduce NPS pollution from various agricultural activities. The State Board addresses the prevention or abatement of NPS pollution through the Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) program. A WQMP is a site-specific plan, which includes appropriate land treatment practices, production practices, technologies and combinations thereof, and an implementation schedule. This program is administered by the TSSWCB and provides agricultural producers in priority areas such as the Falcon Reservoir drainage area in Zapata County an opportunity to comply with State water quality laws through traditional voluntary, incentive-based programs. The TSSWCB oversees and is responsible for the financial assistance component of the program. The local SWCDs are required to provide or arrange for technical assistance to applicants to develop WQMPs.

In Texas, the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) works cooperatively with local SWCDs in providing technical assistance on various soil and water conservation issues including NPS pollution. In many of the SWCDs in Texas, the NRCS provides technical assistance in the development of WQMPs. However, the ability of the NRCS to provide technical assistance and other services to SWCDs has been restricted due to continued reductions in personnel and additional Federal program mandates. The roles and responsibilities of the NRCS have also greatly increased with the addition of Federal program mandates such as the 2001 Farm Bill. This decrease in NRCS personnel and the addition of Federal program mandates has strained the ability of the NRCS to provide technical assistance to local SWCDs in the development and implementation of WQMPs. A limited amount of technical assistance will be provided by the NRCS.

Many of the soils in this particular drainage area are saline. Consequently, the establishment of permanent vegetative will be difficult and challenging. The Kika De La Garza Plant Materials Center will be utilized to provide expertise and seed materials for the revegetation of treated rangeland sites. Some of the revegetation efforts will be used as demonstrations for technology transfer purposes.

Runoff water samples, from both treated and untreated sites, will be collected and analyzed to determine concentrations of total suspended solids. Research indicates that there is a correlation between levels of total suspended solids and the amount of erosion occurring in a watershed.

General Project Description:

This proposed project will consist of TSSWCB working cooperatively with the Zapata SWCD #335 in the Falcon Reservoir drainage area to provide technical and financial assistance to landowners in the implementation of WQMPs. The primary focus of the 319(h) program is to provide funds to States to implement best management practices (BMP) to abate or reduce NPS pollution. The use of 319(h) funds

will greatly improve and enhance the abilities of the local SWCD to provide technical and financial assistance to landowners in the implementation of WQMPs.

In this project, technical assistance will be provided by the Zapata SWCD #335 and the TSSWCB Harlingen Regional Office to landowners with the Falcon Reservoir drainage area to develop and implement WQMPs within the watershed. A planner will be hired by the Zapata SWCD to provide 100 % effort in developing and implementing WQMPs. Technical assistance is best provided by local SWCDs because it will allow for greater local support from landowners in the implementation of WQMPs.

The objective of WQMP implementation is to achieve a level of pollution prevention or abatement determined by the State Board in consultation with the local SWCD to be consistent with State water quality standards. Local SWCD will determine which landowners receive technical and financial assistance for the development and implementation of WQMPs. Financial assistance will be prioritized by the local SWCD based on proximity to the impaired segment, as well as the most cost effective and needed pollution abatement practices.

The SWCD will offer a sign-up for the implementation assistance. To obtain a WQMP, landowners and operators will submit a request for implementation assistance to the local SWCD. Upon compiling the list of producers who are interested in assistance, the SWCD will review and rank these requests based on the above listed priorities. Water quality improvement and protection will be the basis for making these decisions. Land units will further be prioritized based on site evaluations to achieve the greatest water quality benefits in the watershed

Upon approval of the request by the SWCD, the planner will work with the landowners to develop the WQMP. WQMP development includes such activities as:

- Developing Conservation Plan Maps showing boundaries, field, land use, acres and facilities
- Acquire Soil maps with appropriate interpretations
- Developing an implementation schedule
- Completing worksheets used during the planning phases (nutrient management plans, erosion worksheets, and field notes)

Once the planner completes the WQMP, the landowner, NRCS, and SWCD must sign it. It will then be sent by the SWCD to the TSSWCB Regional Office in Harlingen for technical review and certification. Upon certification, the planner will work with the landowner in taking the appropriate steps needed to implement the components of the WQMP. If the landowner does not implement the WQMP according to the conditions established in the plan, then the TSSWCB has the authority to decertify the plan. The planner will complete 100% status reviews on all WQMPs developed for the duration of the project.

Task, Objectives, Schedules, and Estimated Costs:

TASK 1: Program Coordination with project Participants

Costs: \$146,190 (Federal), \$0 (Non-Federal), \$146,190 (Total)

Objective: To foster coordinated technical assistance activities in the Falcon Reservoir drainage area in Zapata County between the TSSWCB, NRCS and Zapata SWCD and the Plant Materials Center.

Subtask 1.1 The Zapata SWCD will hire a planner who will coordinate and carry out the project. The TSSWCB Harlingen Regional Office will train the planner. (Start Date: Month 1; Completion Date: Month 36)

Subtask 1.2: Conduct semi-annual meetings with project participants and TSSWCB project manager to discuss technical assistance activities. (Start Date: Month 1; Completion Date: Month 36)

Subtask 1.3: Coordinate with other agencies and programs providing landowners incentives for adopting Best Management Practices. (Month 1 through month 36)

Subtask 1.4: Prepare quarterly reports and a final report for submittal to the TSSWCB. (Start Date: Month 1; Completion Date: Month 36)

Deliverables:

- Quarterly Reports
- Final report at culmination of project in electronic format
- Copies agendas, attendance, and minutes from semi-annual meetings

TASK2: Development and Implementation of WQMPs

Costs: \$300,000 (Federal), \$100,000 (Non-Federal), \$400,000 (Total)

Objective: To provide technical assistance to landowners in developing and implementing WQMPs within the Falcon Reservoir drainage area in Zapata County.

Subtask 2.1: The SWCD planner will develop approximately 30 WQMPs within the Falcon Reservoir drainage area. The SWCD planner will complete all WQMPs with assistance from the NRCS as needed. (Month 1 to Month 36)

Subtask 2.2: The SWCD planner will send out notifications announcing the availability of assistance for implementing WQMPs, and will assist the Harlingen Regional Office and Zapata SWCD in accepting and prioritizing the WQMP applications.

Subtask 2.3: The planner, with assistance from NRCS and the TSSWCB Harlingen Regional Office, will provide landowners with information on appropriate best management practices and will work with landowners in developing and implementing WQMPs within the Falcon Reservoir drainage area in Zapata County. (Start Date: Month 1; Completion Date: Month 32)

Subtask 2.4: TSSWCB will provide technical review and certification of WQMPs. (Start Date: Month 1; Completion Date: Month 32)

Subtask 2.5: The SWCD planner will conduct status reviews on all WQMPs to ensure BMP implementation schedules are being followed.

Deliverables:

- 30 WQMPs developed and implemented within the watershed.
- Records of BMPs implemented to date by each producer.
- Copies of status reviews.

TASK 3: Compilations of WQMPs Implemented in the Falcon Reservoir drainage area in Zapata County.

Costs: \$15,100 (Federal), \$0 (Non-Federal), \$15,100 (Total)

Objective: To compile information on the location and types of BMPs for each WQMP implemented.

Subtask 3.1 The Planner, with assistance from NRCS, the TSSWCB Harlingen Regional Office and the SWCDs will compile information on the location and types of BMPs for each WQMP implemented within the Falcon Reservoir drainage area. (Start Date: Month 1; Completion Date: Month 36)

Deliverables:

A spreadsheet and map showing the location and types of BMPs for each WQMP implemented.

Coordination, Roles and Responsibilities:

Participating organizations and agencies along with their roles in this project include:

- Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board - Project Lead - Responsible for technical review and certification of WQMPs. Work with and assist, as needed local SWCD in the implementation and development of WQMPs. Also assist the district in inventorying current BMPs and land use practices and the implementation of WQMPs
- Zapata SWCD- Responsible for developing and implementing WQMPs on a drainage area basis. Also responsible for inventorying current BMPs and land use practices on a watershed basis and for tracking/inventorying the implementation of WQMPs
- Natural Resources Conservation Service - Work with, and assist as needed, local SWCD in the implementation and development of WQMPs
- Kika De La Garza Plant Materials Center-Responsible for providing expertise and seed source for establishment of vegetative cover particularly on saline soils.

Public Participation:

This is an internal TSSWCB project with the Zapata SWCD, NRCS, and Plant Materials Center. This project will provide technical assistance to landowners in this district in the implementation of WQMPs in the Falcon Reservoir drainage area in Zapata County.

Measures of Success:

- Implementation of 30 WQMPs throughout the course of the project by the planner within the targeted area.
- Measured improvement in total dissolved solids and salinity levels within drainage area based on monitoring results.
- Increased awareness of agricultural NPS impacts on water quality thru BMP technology transfer.

Reference to Project in the NPS Management Program:

Category: Agriculture

TSSWCB Project Manager:

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BUDGET

**“WQMP Implementation Assistance in the Falcon Reservoir Drainage Area in Zapata County”
Zapata SWCD**

<u>Object Class Category</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Non-Federal Match</u>	<u>Total Costs</u>
1. Personnel			
Zapata SWCD			
One Technician at Nueces SWCD @ \$28,000/yr			
100% Effort	\$90,000	\$0	\$90,000
One Bookkeeper @ \$10/hr for 16 hrs/month	<u>\$5,760</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$5,760</u>
Subtotal Personnel	\$95,760	\$0	\$95,760
2. Fringe Benefits			
Benefits@ 11.8%	\$680	\$0	\$680
Benefits@ 28%	<u>\$25,200</u>	\$0	<u>\$25,200</u>
Subtotal Fringe	\$25,880	\$0	\$25,880
3. Travel			
Mileage @ \$.35/mi for 750 mi/month	<u>\$525</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$525</u>
Subtotal Travel	\$525	\$0	\$525
4. Equipment			
	\$0	\$0	\$0
5. Supplies			
Computer/Printer	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000
Office Furniture	\$800	\$0	\$800
General Office Supplies @ 50/month	<u>\$1,800</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,800</u>
Subtotal Supplies	\$5,600	\$0	\$5,600
6. Contractual			
Office Space (NRCS)	\$7,800	\$0	\$7,800
Financial Audit	\$2,500	\$0	\$2,500
Plant Materials Center	\$10,000	<u>\$0</u>	\$10,000
Laboratory Analyses	<u>\$2,500</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$2,500</u>
Subtotal Contractual	\$22,800	\$0	\$22,800
7. Construction			
Cost-Share Payments for WQMP Implementation	<u>\$300,000</u>	<u>\$100,000</u>	<u>\$400,000</u>
Subtotal Construction	\$300,000	\$100,000	\$400,000
8. Other			
Phone Service @ \$50/month	\$1,800	\$0	\$1,800
Truck Maintenance, Fuel	<u>\$8,925</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$8,925</u>
Subtotal Other	\$10,725	\$0	\$10,725
9. Total Direct Costs	\$461,290	\$	\$471,290
10. Indirect Costs	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
11. Total Project Costs	\$461,290	\$100,000	\$561,290

Itemized Budget Justification

The Zapata SWCD will hire a full-time planner for three years at a salary of \$30,000 / year. The Zapata SWCD will also employ a part-time bookkeeper at wages of \$10.00 / hr for 16 hours a month. Fringe Benefits for the planner are calculated at 28% and include employers FICA, unemployment insurance/workers compensation, fees to the TWC, and medical insurance. The medical insurance will be reimbursed at a maximum of \$200.00 per month for individual and \$350.00 per month for family covering one half of spouse and one half of child expenses. Other options such as dental, vision, life, etc. will not be reimbursed through this project. Fringe Benefits for the bookkeeper include employers FICA and unemployment insurance/workers compensation.

Travel will be reimbursed at a rate of \$0.35 per mile. Mileage will be recorded on a daily log sheet and submitted on a monthly basis.

A computer and printer (laptop with docking station, optional) will be purchased at a cost of \$3,000.00. Office furniture will be supplied up to \$800.00 and general office supplies will be reimbursed for an average of \$50/month.

Office will be rented from the NRCS service center located in Zapata, TX (if available). If space is not available at the NRCS service center, an office will need to be rented from an outside source. Cost of office space rental will be \$7,800 for three years. A certified public accountant will be contracted to complete an audit before the final year of the project at a cost of \$2,500.00.

Cost-share assistance payments to producers to aid in WQMP implementation will not exceed \$300,000.

Phone/fax service will be reimbursed for an average of \$50/month.

It will cost approximately \$2500 for the laboratory analyses needed to determine concentrations of total suspended solids.