



WHAT IS THE TSSWCB?

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) is a state agency that administers Texas' soil and water conservation law and coordinates conservation and pollution abatement programs throughout the State. Headquartered in Temple, Texas, the TSSWCB offers technical assistance to the State's 216 soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs). The TSSWCB is governed by a seven-member board composed of two Governor appointees and five landowners elected throughout Texas by more than 1,000 SWCD Directors. The TSSWCB is the lead Texas agency for planning, implementing, and managing programs and practices for abating agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint source (NPS) pollution. The TSSWCB also administers Technical Assistance and Cost-Share Assistance Programs for natural resource conservation land improvement measures. The TSSWCB fulfills its responsibilities as the lead agency through its Total Maximum Daily Load, NPS Coastal Management Plan, and Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) Programs, as well as the Clean Water Act, §319(h) Grant Program funded by the Environmental Protection Agency. The TSSWCB also administers a NPS complaint resolution process, a Poultry WQMP Initiative, and the Texas Brush Control Program. The TSSWCB maintains regional offices in strategic locations in the State to help carry out the agency's water quality responsibilities.



REGIONAL OFFICE LOCATIONS:

DUBLIN REGIONAL OFFICE:

611 East Blackjack
Dublin, TX 76446-2321
(254) 445-4814; (254) 445-4815
Fax: (254) 445-4819

HALE CENTER REGIONAL OFFICE:

1201 Avenue E
Hale Center, TX 79041
(806) 839-1030
Fax: (806) 839-1323

HARLINGEN REGIONAL OFFICE:

1826 West Jefferson, Ste. A
Harlingen, TX 78550
(956) 421-5841
Fax: (956) 421-5853

MOUNT PLEASANT REGIONAL OFFICE:

1809 West Ferguson, Ste. B
Mount Pleasant, TX 75455
(903) 572-4471; (903) 572-4472
Fax: (903) 572-4897

WHARTON REGIONAL OFFICE:

1120 Hodges Lane
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-9496; (979) 532-9497
Fax: (979) 532-8765

TSSWCB BRUSH CONTROL OFFICE:

(325) 481-0335
Fax: (325) 481-0584

TSSWCB POULTRY OFFICE

(936) 462-7020
Fax: (936) 462-7009



THE TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

*PROTECTING AND ENHANCING
NATURAL RESOURCES FOR
TOMORROW*

4311 South 31st Street,
Suite 125
P.O. Box 658
Temple, Texas 76503

Phone: 254-773-2250
Fax: 254-773-3311
www.tsswcb.state.tx.us



WATER QUALITY

Texas Agricultural and Silvicultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement Program

The TSSWCB is the lead agency for agricultural and silvicultural (forestry) nonpoint source (NPS) pollution abatement. NPS pollution originates from different sources that cannot be traced to any single point, such as a pipe. It is normally associated with agricultural and silvicultural runoff, urban stormwater, and runoff from construction sites.

The Texas Legislature as well as the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), provides funding to the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) to demonstrate and implement activities that control and abate NPS pollution.



Local Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the TSSWCB employ the Certified Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) Program

as a first line of defense against NPS pollution. This traditional conservation planning program is based on the United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Field Office Technical Guide, and is recognized by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) as an effective alternative to water quality permitting on smaller animal feeding operations.

The TSSWCB also works with other state and federal agencies on NPS issues as they relate to Water Quality Standards and Criteria, Total Maximum Daily Loads, and Coastal Zone Protection. The TSSWCB works to ensure SWCDs and local landowners are adequately represented in these matters that could have a significant impact on future conservation and utilization of natural resources.

SWCD ASSISTANCE

The TSSWCB was created in 1939 by the Texas Legislature to organize the State into soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) and to serve as a centralized agency for communicating with other state and federal entities as well as the Texas Legislature.

Today there are 216 SWCDs across Texas. Each SWCD is an independent political subdivision of state government and is governed by five directors elected by rural landowners. Local SWCDs are actively involved throughout the State in soil and water conservation activities such as operation and maintenance of flood control structures, sponsoring pesticide workshops, producer field days, land and range judging contests, scholarships, and securing money for the construction of outdoor classrooms.

The TSSWCB provides assistance to SWCDs in financial and program matters, as well as administration of grant programs. Also, the TSSWCB provides SWCDs with information and guidance on planning and implementing projects and regulatory issues related to nonpoint source pollution. TSSWCB Field Representatives regularly meet with SWCDs and provide assistance in areas such as the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Texas Open Records Act, audits and financial reporting, wage and hour laws, and assistance in coordinating programs carried out in neighboring districts. In addition, the TSSWCB assists SWCDs in obtaining funding for a wide variety of special conservation initiatives.

The TSSWCB administers a state-funded technical assistance program and provides additional assistance to SWCDs through five Regional Offices located in Hale Center, Harlingen, Mount Pleasant, Dublin, and Wharton.



WATER QUANTITY

Texas Brush Control Program

Water has become the most limiting natural resource in Texas. The ability to meet the growing water needs will significantly impact the continued growth and economic well-being of this state. Control of brush presents a viable option for increasing the availability of water allowing the state to meet its present and future needs. The TSSWCB administers the Texas Brush Control Program through a Brush Control Office located in San Angelo and works closely with various state and federal entities to efficiently implement the program.

Upland Brush Control: Juniper and mesquite have invaded millions of acres of rangeland in Texas, reducing or eliminating stream flow through interception of rainfall and transpiration. In order to control these upland species and mitigate the resulting water quantity deficits, a voluntary program was established in which landowners may contract with the State for cost-share assistance. Working through local soil and water conservation districts, landowners develop resource management system plans addressing brush control, soil erosion, water quality, wildlife habitat and other natural resource issues.



Riparian Brush Control: Saltcedar was introduced as an ornamental in the early 1900s and planted for stream bank stabilization in the 1920s. This aggressive species now dominates the riparian areas of many West Texas Rivers and has had severe impacts on water quantity and quality.

The Texas Legislature, as well as the EPA, NRCS and other entities, have provided funding to implement activities that control saltcedar for the purposes of improving water quality and enhancing water flow. Through voluntary agreements with landowners along river corridors, saltcedar is treated at no cost to the landowner.

