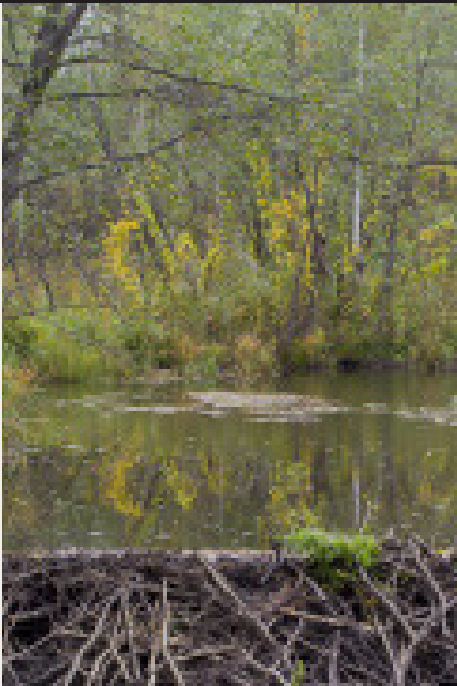


# Protecting the State's NATURAL RESOURCES

## Challenges

- Population growth, urbanization, land conversion and increasing water demand threaten Texas' natural resources.
- Environmental factors such as drought, floods, non-point source water pollution and exotic species invasion have placed the state's water supply under tremendous stress.



## Contact

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## AgriLife Extension Response

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service delivers a wide range of researched-based educational resources and programs on water quality, water-use efficiency, wildlife and fisheries practices, ecosystem and parks management, tourism and open-space planning to improve habitat. These programs delivered more than **4,700 educational events**, planning meetings and workshops in 2021 to more than **940,000** educational and other contacts..

- **Water resource** programs focus on watershed health and protection, onsite wastewater treatment systems, water-use efficiency, private water wells and soil nutrient management.
- **Wildlife and fisheries** programs focus on restoration and conservation of wildlife habitat, disease and predator control, harvest management practices and aquaculture and pond management tools.
- **Land and ecosystem** programs address the ecology and restoration of rangeland and coastal wetlands, including best practices for brush, pasture, rangeland and weed management.
- **Community and economic development** programs bolster parks tourism, including open space planning and outreach to support planned development and growth as well as the **\$28 billion** outdoor recreation and tourism industry.
- **Texas Master Naturalist** encompasses **5,800 volunteers** who help with research and provide stewardship education at nature centers, parks, and other nature-based sites totaling more than 228,000 acres.
- **Texas 4-H Youth Development** Program engaged more than **44,700 youth** in natural resource and environmental learning activities.

## Economic Impacts

- **Wildlife management** programs led to estimated economic gains of **\$14.4 million** by reducing property damages from feral hogs and improving quail biology and habitat.
- **Wildlife Services' predation and beaver damage** management efforts led to **\$62.3 million** in economic benefits for landowners.
- **Texas Master Naturalists** contributed **442,000 hours** of volunteer service in 2021, which was valued at **\$12.6 million**.
- **Water conservation** programs produced estimated cost savings of **\$15.0 million**, while **groundwater protection education** led to over **\$789,000** in economic benefits for private well owners.
- Participants in **ecosystem management** programs reported anticipated economic benefits of **\$32.7 million** on 15.6 million managed acres.