2016 AGI Critical Issues Forum: Addressing Changes in Regional Groundwater Resources

Ochiltree

#### Dallam

#### Sherman

Hartley

Moore Hutchinson

Hansford



High Plains Aquifer: A Perspective from Texas Steve Walthour, PG October 27, 2016

Lipscomb



## High Plains Aquifer System (HPAS) Model

Ogallala Aquifer Rita Blanca Aquifer Dockum Aquifer Edwards – Trinity Aquifer

Pecos Valley Aquifer

From: TWDB HPAS Report (INTERA 2015)





## HPAS River Basins

Basins	River		
Rio Grande	Pecos River		
Colorado	Colorado River		
Brazos	Brazos River		
Red	Red River		
	Washita River		
Canadian	Canadian River		
	Beaver River		
Arkansas	<b>Cimarron River</b>		







## Groundwater Level Declines 1930 - 2010

From: TWDB HPAS Report (INTERA 2015)





#### State and Regional Water Planning







## 2016 Panhandle Regional Water Plan (PRWP) Demand Projections





## 2016 PRWP Projected Need

	Water Need (ac-ft/yr)								
Water User Group	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060	2070			
Irrigation	156,704	185,043	192,876	180,151	165,133	148,519			
Livestock	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Manufacturing	4,017	6,986	10,048	14,243	18,369	22.538			
Mining	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Municipal	10,074	24,142	38,521	52,624	66,847	81,559			
Steam Electric Power	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Total	170,795	216,171	241,445	247,018	250,349	252,616			



### 2016 PRWP Demand Projections by County

- Agriculture demand highest in Dallam, Hartley, Sherman, Moore, Hansford Counties
- Municipal/Manufacturing demand highest in Potter and Randall Counties
- Recommended Water Management Strategies:
  - Conservation
  - Further developing groundwater

DALLAM	SHERMAN	HANSFORD	(	OCHILTREE		LIPSCOMB	
MARTLEY	MOORE	HUTCHINSON	ROBERTS		HEMPHILL		
OLDHAM	POTTER	CARSON	GRAY		WHEELER		
	RANDALL	ARMSTRONG	DONLEY		COLLINGSWORTH		
:	d	HALL		CHILDRESS			
-							







#### Groundwater Conservation Districts

- Management Plans
- Conservation Rules
- Conservation Programs
- Groundwater Monitoring/Science



## Groundwater = Private Property

Private property interests and rights can be benefited or enhanced by:

- -Current groundwater use.
- -Near future groundwater use.
- -Long-term groundwater use.
- -Leaving groundwater in place.



#### Groundwater Management Areas







## Groundwater Management Area 1





## **Desired Future Conditions**

- Provide a balance between the highest practicable level of groundwater production and the conservation, preservation, protection, recharging, and prevention of waste.....
- Aquifer uses or conditions
- Water supply needs and water management strategies
- Hydrological conditions, including TERS, recharge, inflows, and discharge
- Environmental impacts (spring flow/ groundwater - surface water)
- Subsidence
- Socioeconomic impacts
- Impact on private property interests and rights
- the feasibility



#### **Desired Future Conditions**

Ogallala Aquifer - GMA#1 - 2016





# Groundwater Available Compared to Projected Demand and Use





## **Texas Groundwater Policy Questions**

- What oil and gas law principles/rules, if any, would improve groundwater management?
- Should Texas allow GCDs to adopt so-called userbased rules for groundwater permitting?
- How can Texas stop or prevent GCDs reverseengineering DFCs?
- How can Texas better protect judicially and statutorily recognized private property rights in groundwater?
- Are GCDs impeding the development of groundwater within Texas?



## **Motivations for Conservation**

- Regulatory
- Financial
- Environmental
- Other







Steve Walthour, North Plains GCD 806-922-7402 <u>swalthour@northplainsgcd.org</u>

