

National Water Quality Initiative Fact Sheet

Texas: Overview

Through the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is offering financial and technical assistance to farmers, ranchers and forest landowners interested in improving water quality and aquatic habitats in priority watersheds with impaired streams. NRCS will help producers implement conservation and management practices through a systems approach to control and trap nutrient and manure runoff. Qualified producers will receive assistance for installing conservation practices such as cover crops, filter strips and terraces. For over 75 years, NRCS has provided agricultural producers with assistance to implement voluntary conservation practices that protect natural resources while maintaining production and profits.

Texas

Priority Watersheds

Chambers Creek watershed above Richland-Chambers Reservoir in the Trinity River Basin has been selected because of turbidity, siltation, dissolved oxygen, and high nutrient levels. It has also been targeted because it has great potential for addressing the identified problems.

Eligible producers in the watershed in Ellis and Navarro Counties will invest in voluntary conservation practices to help provide cleaner water for their neighbors and communities. Using funds from the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), NRCS will provide financial and technical assistance to producers for implementing conservation practices such as cover crops, filter strips, and terraces in watersheds with impairments where federal investments can make a difference in improving water quality.



Conservation practices such as no till farming help reduce erosion and sedimentation in streams, as well as trap nutrients before they leave the field.

Conservation Funding and Practices

NRCS conservation professionals will provide technical assistance and planning tools to determine which conservation actions will provide the best results to improve water quality on your land. Nutrient management

The National Water Quality Initiative will work in selected watersheds to help farmers, ranchers and forest landowners improve water quality and aquatic habitats in impaired streams.

systems, erosion control, conservation tillage, pest management, and buffer systems are just some of the practices offered as part of the National Water Quality Initiative. To help install these conservation practices, financial assistance to share in the cost of these conservation practices is available through EQIP.

Partnerships

NRCS identified priority watersheds through the help of local partnerships and state water quality agencies. Partners sometimes offer financial assistance in addition to NRCS programs.

NRCS will work with their partners in this initiative -- the Tarrant Regional Water District, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and the Environmental Protection Agency, as well as the Navarro and Ellis-Prairie Soil and Water Conservation Districts. NRCS will continue to coordinate with local and state agencies, conservation districts, nongovernmental organizations and others to implement this initiative. This strategic approach will leverage funds and provide streamlined assistance to help individual agricultural producers take needed actions to reduce the flow of sediment, nutrients and other runoff into impaired waterways.

Producer Benefits

Water quality conservation practices benefit agricultural producers by lowering input costs and enhancing the productivity of working lands. Conservation investments are good for all Americans because well managed farms limit pollution from runoff, produce food and fiber, sustain rural economies, and provide food security to the Nation. All across the country—farmers, ranchers and forest landowners are voluntarily taking action and putting conservation on the ground to improve water quality on millions of acres!

Public Benefits

NRCS is proud to be involved in a nationwide effort with landowners and communities to improve and protect our water resources. The landowners and farmers participating in the initiative will receive conservation payments to work on the land in a sustainable way which provides cleaner water. In addition to the financial assistance, the land will remain productive into the future. Communities benefit by having clean waterways, safer drinking water and healthy habitat for fish and wildlife.

How to Apply

Interested parties can apply for assistance at your local USDA NRCS Service Center in Corsicana for Navarro County agriculture producers or Waxahachie for those operating in Ellis County. The address for the Corsicana field office is 4321 West Highway 22 and the phone number is 903 874-5131 ext 3. In Waxahachie, the field office is located at 1822 FM 66, Suite 101 and the phone number is 972 937-2660 ext. 3.

You will need to establish eligibility and

farm records for your land. NRCS will help you complete an application while explaining which conservation practices are available in your watershed. Remember to check with your local NRCS office to see if you are located in a selected watershed. All applications for funding consideration, during fiscal year 2012, must be received by June 15, 2012. NRCS provides assistance to private landowners and operators free of charge and there is no obligation to participate in this program.

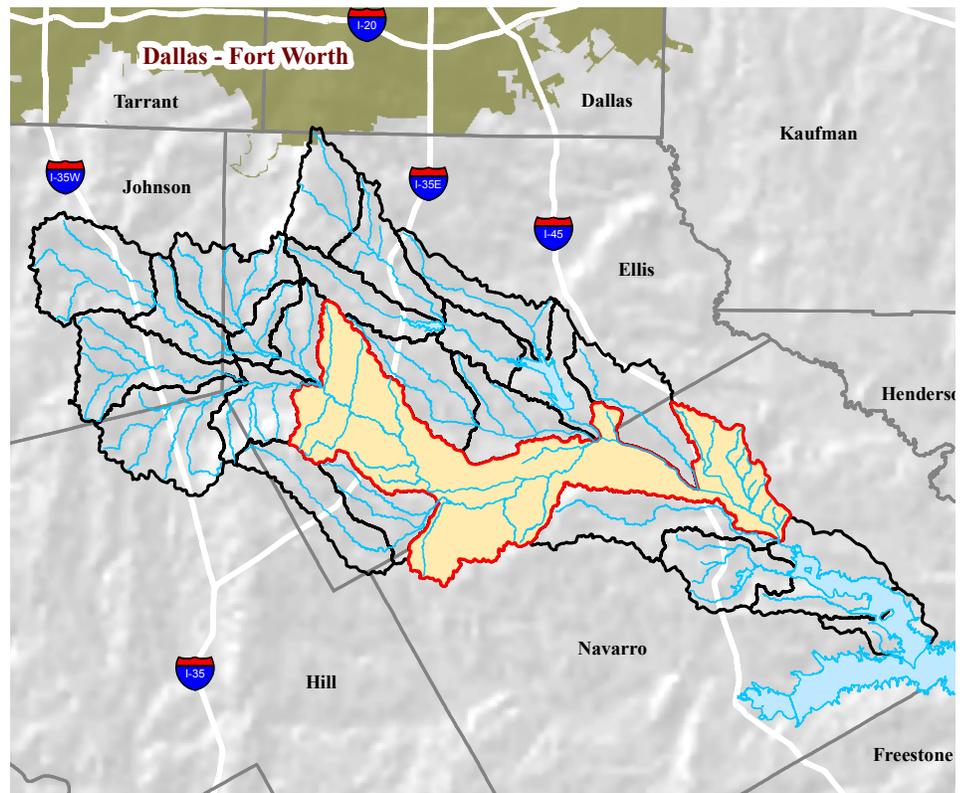
For more Information

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Chambers Creek Watershed



Chambers Creek above Richland-Chambers Reservoir has been selected as an area for concentration because of turbidity, siltation, dissolved oxygen, and high nutrient levels. It has also been targeted because it has great potential for addressing the identified problems.

Map courtesy of
USDA-NRCS, Texas