

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, sediment and manure runoff.

Qualified producers will receive assistance for installing conservation practices such as cover crops, waste storage facility, pasture planting and tree planting. 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

NRCS in Texas is committed to improving impaired waterways in five East Texas sub-watersheds, which reach downstream into East Texas' Lake O' the Pines.

Sub-watersheds are located in Upshur, Camp, Titus and Morris Counties.

Lake O' the Pines is an important municipal, cultural, recreational, ecological and aesthetic asset. Working to preserve and maintain water quality will ensure prosperity, productivity and quality of life for surrounding communities and lands.

**Sign up time period to apply for NWQI is:
May 15 through June 15, 2013**



Conservation practices such as pasture planting 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, prescribed grazing, 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 is available through the agency's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

Partnerships

NRCS identified priority watersheds through the help of local partnerships and state and federal water quality agencies.

NRCS will work with their partners in this initiative. Partners include the Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board and the EPA, along with the Upshur-Gregg and Sulphur-Cypress Conservation Districts making them the perfect delivery system for this incentive based conservation effort.

NRCS will continue to coordinate with local, state and federal agencies, conservation districts, nongovernmental organizations and others to implement this initiative. This strategic approach will leverage funds and provide stream-lined 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 their local USDA NRCS Service Center in Mount Pleasant for Titus, Morris and Camp Counties. The address for the Mount Pleasant office is 1809 W Ferguson Road and the phone number is 903-572-4511 ext 3. Interested parties in Upshur County can apply for assistance in Gilmer at the Gilmer Service Center located at 1259 HWY 271 South or call 903-734-8732 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.

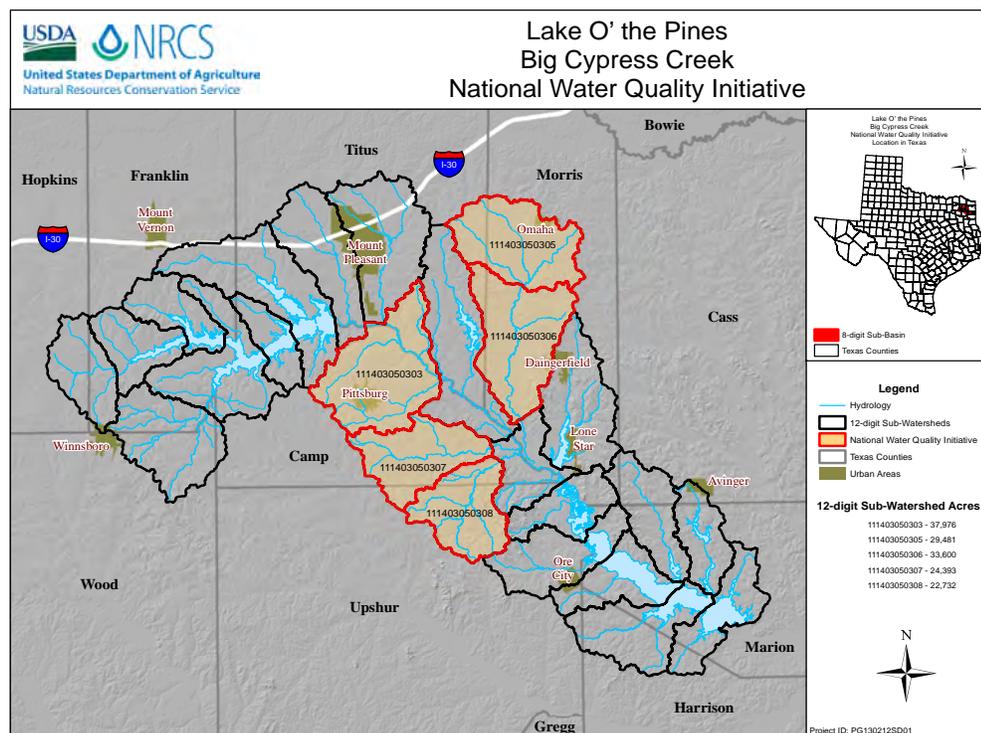
NRCS provides assistance to private landowners and operators free of charge and there is no obligation to participate in this program.

For more Information

USDA - NRCS, TEXAS
101 N. Main Street
Temple, TX 76501

(254) 742-9800

www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov



Lake O' the Pines impaired sub-watersheds have been selected for management of nutrient, pathogen and sediment resource concerns by working with farmers, ranchers and forestland owners on installing best management conservation practices on their lands.

Map courtesy of
USDA-NRCS Texas

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