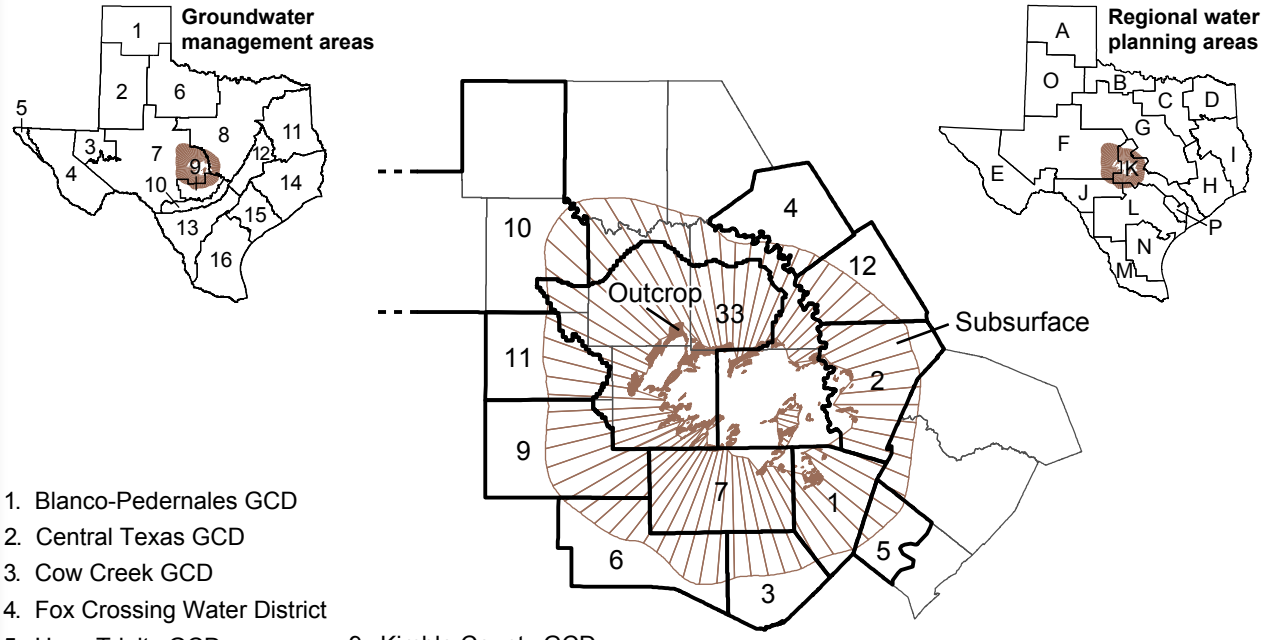
Hickory Aquifer



1. Blanco-Pedernales GCD
2. Central Texas GCD
3. Cow Creek GCD
4. Fox Crossing Water District
5. Hays Trinity GCD
6. Headwaters GCD
7. Hill Country UWCD
8. Hickory UWCD No. 1
9. Kimble County GCD
10. Lipan-Kickapoo Water Conservation District
11. Menard County GCD
12. Saratoga UWCD

GCD = Groundwater conservation district
UWCD = Underground water conservation district

The Hickory Aquifer, a minor aquifer that is found in the central part of the state, consists of the water bearing parts of the Hickory Sandstone Member of the Riley Formation. The groundwater is generally fresh, although the upper portion typically contains iron in excess of the state's secondary drinking water standards. Of greater concern is naturally occurring radioactivity—gross alpha radiation, Radium-226 and -228, and radon gas are commonly found in excess of the state's primary drinking water standards. The groundwater is used for irrigation throughout its extent and for municipal supply in the cities of Brady, Mason, and Fredericksburg. Slight water level fluctuations occur seasonally in irrigated areas. The planning groups recommend several water management strategies that use the Hickory Aquifer, including construction of new wells, more pumping from existing wells, and the maintenance of existing supplies through supplemental or replacement wells. In addition, the Region F Regional Water Planning Group recommended treating water from the aquifer and distributing it as drinking water through a bottled water program in Concho and McCulloch counties.

Aquifer characteristics

- Area of outcrop: 271 square miles
- Area in subsurface: 8,193 square miles
- Availability: 278,316 acre-feet per year (2010 to 2060)
- Well yield: generally less than 1000 gallons per minute
- Proportion of aquifer with groundwater conservation districts: 85 percent
- Number of counties containing the aquifer: 19

Groundwater supplies with implementation of water management strategies