Texas Water Conditions Report

February 2021

Surface Water News:

A Collison Floating Evaporation Pan station was deployed in Twin Buttes Reservoir. This pan station is the first of its kind in Texas. Funding for this station, and for four other on-water evaporation estimation stations to be deployed later this year, comes from a U.S. Bureau of Reclamation/Drought Response Program – Drought Resiliency Funding grant to the TWDB. Data collected from this station and from other on-water evaporation estimation stations will enhance the accuracy of reservoir evaporative loss estimates in Texas.



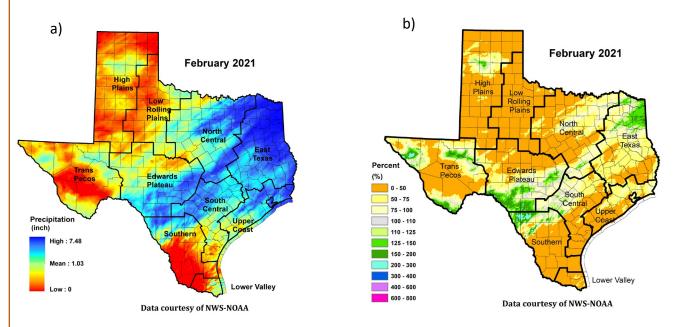
RAINFALL

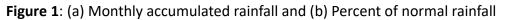
Little to no rain [yellow, orange, and red shading, Figure 1(a)], fell over much of the Trans Pecos, High Plains, Low Rolling Plains, northern Edwards Plateau, central and southern Southern, western North central, southern South Central, much of the Lower Valley, and western Upper Coast climate divisions.

Some rainfall [light blue and dark blue shading, Figure 1(a)], was recorded over portions of northwestern, eastern, and southern Trans Pecos, northern High Plains, northeastern and southern Low Rolling Plains, much of North Central, portions of northwestern and southern Edwards Plateau, northern South Central, central and eastern Upper Coast, portions of eastern Lower Valley, and much of East Texas climate divisions, reaching 7.48 inches in eastern portions of the state [dark blue shading, Figure 1(a)].

Monthly rainfall for February was below average [yellow and orange shading, Figure 1(b)], compared to historical data from 1981–2010, in much of Trans Pecos, High Plains, Low Rolling Plains, North Central, Lower Valley, Upper Coast, South Central, central and southern Southern, central and northern Edwards Plateau, and northwestern and southern East Texas climate divisions.

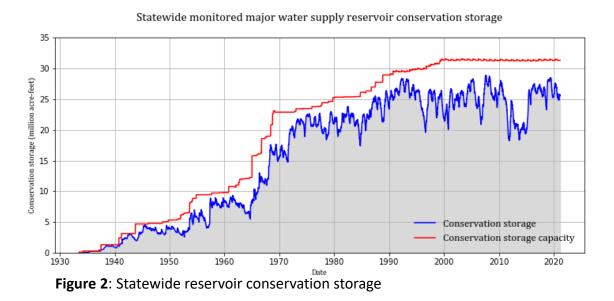
Above average rainfall [green and light blue shading, Figure 1(b)] occurred in portions of northern High Plains, northwestern, northeastern, and southern Trans Pecos, southern Edwards Plateau, northwestern South Central, northern Southern, southern North Central, northeastern East Texas climate divisions.



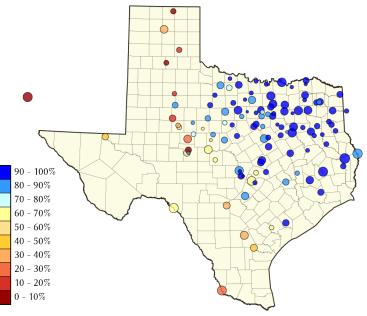


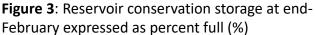
RESERVOIR STORAGE

At the end of February 2021, total conservation storage* in 118 of the state's major water supply reservoirs plus Elephant Butte Reservoir in New Mexico was 25.7 million acre-feet or 79.9 percent of total conservation storage capacity (Figure 2). This is approximately 0.15 million acre-feet less than a month ago and approximately 1.4 million acre-feet less than at the end of February 2020.



Out of 118 reservoirs in the state, 37 reservoirs held 100 percent of conservation storage capacity (Figure 3). Additionally, 33 were at or above 90 percent full. Eight reservoirs, E.V. Spence (22 percent full), Greenbelt (16.5 percent full), J.B. Thomas (13 percent full), Mackenzie (8.8 percent full), O. C. Fisher (6.2 percent full), Palo Duro Reservoir (1.4 percent full), Falcon (28 percent full), and White River (12.1 percent full) remained below 30 percent full. Elephant Butte Reservoir (located in New Mexico) was at 9.2 percent full.





*Storage is based on end of the month data in 118 major reservoirs that represent 96 percent of the total conservation storage capacity of 188 major water supply reservoirs in Texas plus Elephant Butte Reservoir in New Mexico. Major reservoirs are defined as having a conservation storage capacity of 5,000 acre-feet or greater. Only the Texas share of storage in border reservoirs is counted.

Total regionally combined conservation storage was at or above-normal (storage ≥70 percent full) in the North Central (95.9 percent full), East Texas (95.9 percent full), and Upper Coast (98.3 percent full) climate divisions (Figure 4). Conservation storage in the Edwards Plateau (60.2 percent full), Low Rolling Plains (63.0), and South Central (69.4 percent full) climate divisions was abnormally low (Figure 4). The High Plains (29.2 percent full), and Southern (31.7 percent full) climate divisions had severely low storage, and the Trans Pecos (15.3 percent full) climate division had extremely low conservation storage (Figure 4).

Combined conservation storage by river basin or sub-basin showed normal to high (>70 percent full, Figure 5) conservation storage in the Upper and Lower Red, Upper and Lower Brazos, Upper and Lower Sabine, Upper and Lower Trinity, Sulphur, Cypress, Neches, San Jacinto, Lower Colorado, Guadalupe, and Lavaca river basins. Conservation storage in the Upper Colorado, and Lower Rio Grande basins was moderately low (40–60 percent full). The Canadian, San Antonio, and Nueces basins had severely low (20–40 percent full, Figure 5) storage. Conservation storage in the Upper/Mid Rio Grande river basin was extremely low (10–20 percent full, Figure 5).

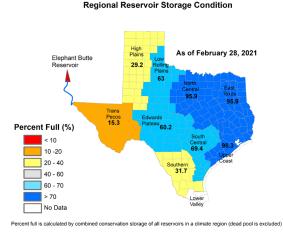


Figure 4: Reservoir Storage Index* by climate division at 2/28/2021

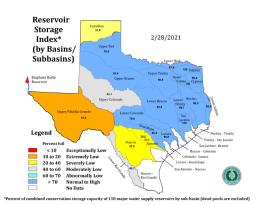


Figure 5: Reservoir Storage Index* by river basin/sub-basin at 2/28/2021 *Reservoir Storage Index is defined as the percent full of conservation storage capacity.

Name of lake or reservoir	Storage capacity	Storage at end- February		Storage change from end-Jan 2021		Storage change from end-Feb 2020	
	(acre-feet)	(acre-feet)	(%)	(acre-feet)	(%)	(acre-feet)**	(%)
Abilene, Lake	7,900	5,343	67.6	-108	-1.4	-223	-2.8
Alan Henry Reservoir	96,207	83,334	86.6	-963	-1.0	-5,779	-6.0
*Amistad Reservoir (Texas & Mexico)	3,275,532	1,198,887	36.6	-43,681	-1.3	-431,490	-13.2
*Amistad Reservoir (Texas)	1,840,849	1,116,849	60.7	-51,959	-2.8	-182,959	-9.9
Amon G Carter, Lake	19,266	17,874	92.8	-214	-1.1	-681	-3.5
Aquilla Lake	43,243	40,038	92.6	-356	0.0	-3,205	-7.4
Arlington, Lake	40,157	34,791	86.6	1,241	3.1	-4,828	-12.0
Arrowhead, Lake	230,359	227,181	98.6	-1,586	0.0	20,463	8.9
Athens, Lake	29,503	29,503	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
*Austin, Lake	23,972	23,050	96.2	170	0.7	462	1.9
B A Steinhagen Lake	69,186	61,484	88.9	-2,214	-3.2	-1,342	-1.9
Bardwell Lake	46,122	46,122	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Belton Lake	435,225	426,415		-2,765	0.0	9,542	2.2
Benbrook Lake	85,648	76,632		-2,450	-2.9	-3,147	-3.7
Bob Sandlin, Lake	192,417	192,417		0	0.0	0	0.0
Bonham, Lake	11,027	11,027		147	1.3	74	
Brady Creek Reservoir	28,808	19,320		-353	-1.2	-5,640	-
Bridgeport, Lake	366,236	320,063		-3,112	0.0	-887	0.0
*Brownwood, Lake	130,868	111,598		-1,427	-1.1	4,339	3.3
Buchanan, Lake	860,607	715,420		-4,114	0.0	-49,080	
Caddo, Lake	29,898	29,898		-,114	0.0	no data	5.7
Canyon Lake	378,781	333,954		-1,592	0.0	-20,242	-5.3
Cedar Creek Reservoir in Trinity	644,686	644,686		0	0.0	654	0.1
Champion Creek Reservoir	41,580	24,212		-188	0.0	-3,339	-8.0
Cherokee, Lake	40,094	40,094		0	0.0	-3,339	
Choke Canyon Reservoir	662,820	226,545		-3,650	0.0	-66,337	
*Cisco, Lake	29,003	220,343		-3,030	0.0	-2,490	
Coleman, Lake	38,075	32,427		-307	0.0	-2,490	-8.0
Colorado City, Lake	31,040	21,275		20	0.0	-1,127	-3.6
					-		
*Coleto Creek Reservoir	30,758	11,093		-172	0.0	-2,625	
Conroe, Lake	410,988	410,988		0		30,252	
Corpus Christi, Lake	256,062	123,549		-5,534	-2.2	-58,439	
Crook, Lake	9,195		100.0	125	1.4	125	1.4
Cypress Springs, Lake	66,756	66,756		0	0.0	0	
E. V. Spence Reservoir	517,272	114,039		-1,498	0.0	-24,075	
Eagle Mountain Lake	179,880	164,966		-1,908	-1.1	-14,914	
Elephant Butte Reservoir (Texas)	852,491	78,422		11,226	1.3	-184,618	
Elephant Butte Reservoir (Total Storage)	1,985,900	181,532		25,987	1.3	-427,356	
*Falcon Reservoir (Texas & Mexico)	2,646,817	500,821		12,985	0.5	-57,018	
*Falcon Reservoir (Texas)	1,551,007	434,396		7,182	0.5	-51,060	
Fork Reservoir, Lake	605,061	605,061		16,230	2.7	5,547	
Fort Phantom Hill, Lake	70,030	61,137		-715	-1.0	-4,523	
Georgetown, Lake	36,823	24,006		-247	0.0	-2,711	
Gibbons Creek Reservoir	25,721	23,185		-23	0.0	1,753	
Graham, Lake	45,288	42,320	93.4	-456	-1.0	3,096	6.8
Granbury, Lake	132,949	132,134	99.4	-815	0.0	-815	0.

		Storage at end	1-	Storage change f	rom	Storage change	from
Name of lake or reservoir	Storage capacity	February		end-Jan 202		end-Feb 2020	
	(acre-feet)	(acre-feet)	(%)	(acre-feet)	(%)	(acre-feet)**	(%
		Continued					
Granger Lake	51,822	51,822	100.0	1,584	3.1	no data	
Grapevine Lake	163,064	163,064	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Greenbelt Lake	59,968	9,905	16.5	38	0.1	-2,179	-3.0
*Halbert, Lake	6,033	5,258	87.2	-38	0.0	-120	-2.0
Hords Creek Lake	8,109	4,184	51.6	-140	-1.7	-2,055	-25.3
Houston County Lake	17,113	17,113	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Houston, Lake	130,147	130,147	100.0	1,462	1.1	2,469	1.9
Hubbard Creek Reservoir	313,298	273,306	87.2	-2,886	0.0	287	0.:
Hubert H Moss Lake	24,058	23,853	99.1	-11	0.0	-97	0.0
Inks, Lake	13,962	12,937	92.7	-45	0.0	-15	0.0
J. B. Thomas, Lake	199,931	25,982		-1,203	0.0	-22,049	-11.(
Jacksonville, Lake	25,670	25,670		0	0.0	0	0.0
Jim Chapman Lake (Cooper)	260,332	260,332	100.0	9,482	3.6	0	0.0
Joe Pool Lake	175,800	165,972		-360	0.0	-7,097	-4.0
Kemp, Lake	245,307	208,500		-709	0.0	-10,742	
Kickapoo, Lake	86,345	69,208		-1,192	-1.4		
Lavon Lake	406,388	406,388	100.0	0	0.0	0	
Leon, Lake	27,762	25,332		-280	-1.0	1,369	4.9
Lewisville Lake	563,228	563,228		0	0.0	0	
Limestone, Lake	203,780	203,780		0	0.0	0	
*Livingston, Lake	1,741,867	1,736,955		-4,912	0.0	-4,912	0.0
*Lost Creek Reservoir	11,950	11,455	_	17	0.1	-495	-4.:
Lyndon B Johnson, Lake	115,249	110,759		-428	0.0	854	0.
Mackenzie Reservoir	46,450	4,096		-48	0.0	-1,184	-2.
Marble Falls, Lake	6,901	6,831		-70	-1.0	27	0.4
Martin, Lake	75,726	75,726		0	0.0	0	0.0
Medina Lake	254,823	99,384		-3,220	-1.3	-91,216	-35.8
Meredith, Lake	500,000	177,576		-552	0.0	-31,916	
Millers Creek Reservoir	26,768	26,526		-242	0.0		
*Mineral Wells, Lake	5,273		100.0	0	0.0		
Monticello, Lake	34,740	31,399		988	2.8		2.8
Mountain Creek, Lake	22,850	22,850		0	0.0	0	0.0
Murvaul, Lake	38,285	38,285		0	0.0	0	
Nacogdoches, Lake	39,522	36,864		1,125	2.8		
Nasworthy	9,615		85.1	-25	0.0		
Navarro Mills Lake	49,827	49,827		0	0.0		
New Terrell City Lake	8,583		100.0	0	0.0		
Nocona, Lake (Farmers Crk)	21,444	20,083		13	0.1		
North Fork Buffalo Creek Reservoir	15,400	14,859		-158	-1.0		
O' the Pines, Lake	241,363	241,363		0	0.0		
O. C. Fisher Lake	115,742	7,210		-85	0.0		
*O. H. Ivie Reservoir	554,340	337,088		-1,103	0.0		
Oak Creek Reservoir	39,210	30,108		-337	0.0		

CONSERVATION STO	DRAGE DATA I	OR SELECTED	MA	JOR TEXAS RI	ESER	VOIRS			
Name of lake or reservoir	Storage capacity	Storage at end- February		Storage change from end-Jan 2021		Storage change from end-Feb 2020			
	(acre-feet)	(acre-feet)	(%)	(acre-feet)	(%)	(acre-feet)**	(%		
	··	Continued							
Palestine, Lake	367,303	367,303	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0		
Palo Duro Reservoir	61,066	847	1.4	-75	0.0	-1,957	-3.2		
Palo Pinto, Lake	26,766	22,748	85.0	-358	-1.3	2,942	11.0		
Pat Cleburne, Lake	26,008	21,801	83.8	-268	-1.0	-3,677	-14.1		
*Pat Mayse Lake	113,683	113,683	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0		
Possum Kingdom Lake	538,139	530,125		-1,418	0.0	-8,014			
Proctor Lake	54,762	52,840	96.5	-137	0.0	11,712	21.4		
Ray Hubbard, Lake	439,559	439,559	100.0	0	0.0	835			
Ray Roberts, Lake	788,167	775,469	98.4	0	0.0	-12,698	-1.6		
Red Bluff Reservoir	151,110	75,415	49.9	1,497	1.0	-25,029	-16.6		
Richland-Chambers Reservoir	1,087,839	1,080,995	99.4	-6,844	0.0	-6,844	0.0		
Sam Rayburn Reservoir	2,857,077	2,704,437	94.7	17,594	0.6	-152,640	-5.3		
Somerville Lake	150,293	129,820		1,983	1.3	-20,473	-13.6		
Squaw Creek, Lake	151,250	149,266	98.7	-1,984	-1.3	1,094	0.7		
Stamford, Lake	51,570	51,570	100.0	0	0.0	3,674	7.1		
Stillhouse Hollow Lake	227,771	227,771	100.0	0	0.0	20,585	9.0		
Striker, Lake	16,934	16,934	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0		
Sweetwater, Lake	12,267	10,000	81.5	-42	0.0	-2,267	-18.5		
*Sulphur Springs, Lake	17,747	17,747	100.0	0	0.0	2,505	14.1		
Tawakoni, Lake	871,685	871,685	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0		
Texana, Lake	159,566	154,640	96.9	-3,275	-2.1	43,760	27.4		
Texoma, Lake (Texas & Oklahoma)	2,487,601	2,262,037	90.9	-236,328	-9.5	-121,701	-4.9		
Texoma, Lake (Texas)	1,243,801	1,131,018	90.9	-112,783	-9.1	-60,850	-4.9		
Toledo Bend Reservoir (Texas & Louisiana	4,472,900	4,011,397	89.7	65,219	1.5	-332,770	-7.4		
Toledo Bend Reservoir (Texas)	2,236,450	2,003,648	89.6	32,609	1.5	-166,386	-7.4		
Travis, Lake	1,113,348	748,143	67.2	-1,965	0.0	-167,812	-15.1		
Twin Buttes Reservoir	182,454	99,228	54.4	109	0.1	-20,693	-11.3		
Tyler, Lake	72,073	72,073	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0		
Waco, Lake	189,418	183,475	96.9	-957	0.0	3,958	2.1		
Waxahachie, Lake	10,780	10,284	95.4	-7	0.0	-496	-4.6		
Weatherford, Lake	17,812	16,325	91.7	186	1.0	-1,422	-8.0		
White River Lake	29,880	3,610	12.1	-86	0.0	-1,745	-5.8		
Whitney, Lake	553,344	485,646	87.8	-18,561	-3.4	14,825	2.7		
Worth, Lake	24,419	18,700	76.6	897	3.7	-5,548	-22.7		
Wright Patman Lake	122,593	122,593	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0		
STATEWIDE TOTAL									
STATEWIDE TOTAL	32,168,837	25,692,232	79.9	-149,816	0	-1,399,512	-4.4		

STREAMFLOW CONDITIONS

Much of the state had near normal streamflow (25–75th percentile, green shading in Figure 6) in February 2021. Above normal streamflow (76–90th percentile, light blue shading in Figure 6) was seen in the Sulphur river basin. Below normal streamflow (10–24th percentile, orange shading in Figure 6) was recorded in the Upper and Lower Red, Neches, San Jacinto, Lower Brazos, Upper and Lower Colorado, Guadalupe, San Antonio, San Antonio-Nueces, Nueces, Lavaca-Guadalupe, and Nueces-Rio-Grande river basins.

Some watersheds in the Upper Red, Upper Brazos, Upper Colorado, Lavaca, Guadalupe, Nueces, and Upper Rio Grande river basins had much below normal streamflow (less than the 10th percentile, dark brown shading in Figure 6). A record low was seen in the Upper Colorado river basin (red shading, Figure 6).

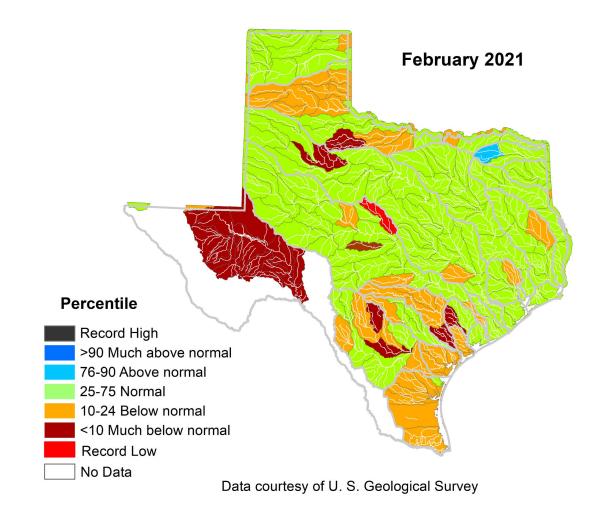
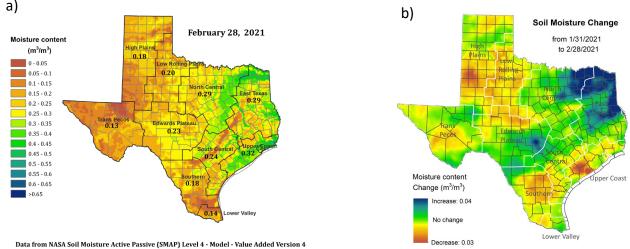


Figure 6: Runoff percentiles by the U.S. Geological Survey's Hydrologic Unit Code

SOIL MOISTURE

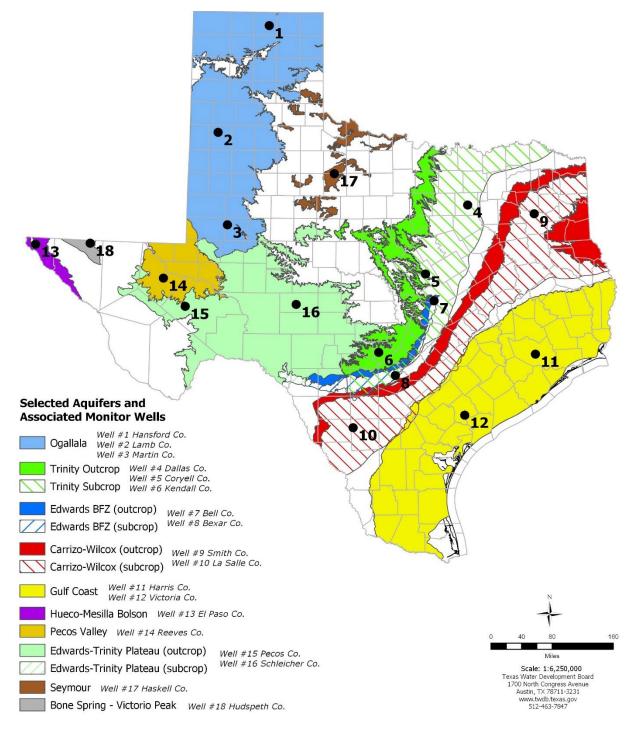
Root zone soil moisture at the end of February 2021 [Figure 7(a)] was moderate [> 0.20 cubic meters of water per bulk cubic meter soil (m^3/m^3)] in portions of the Trans Pecos, northern High Plains, portions of Low Rolling Plains, Edwards Plateau, northern Southern, Lower Valley, central South Central, parts of East Texas, and western North Central climate divisions. There were areas of low soil moisture [< 0.15 cubic meters of water per bulk cubic meter soil (m^3/m^3)] in portions of the Trans Pecos, southern and northern High Plains, parts of the Low Rolling Hills, southern Southern, northeastern and southern South Central, western East Texas, and portions of northern Lower Valley climate divisions. Soil moisture was high [> 0.3 cubic meters of water per bulk cubic meter soil (m^3/m^3)] in areas of central and eastern Edwards Plateau, eastern North Central, northern and southern South Central, Upper Coast and parts of East Texas climate divisions [Figure 7(a)].

Compared to conditions at the end of January 2021, soil moisture content increased [green to blue shading in Figure 7(b)] in the northern High Plains, portions of northern and southern Trans Pecos, central and southern Edwards Plateau, northern and southeastern portions of Southern, northern South Central, much of North Central and East Texas, portions of the Upper Coast, and eastern Lower Valley climate divisions. Soil moisture content decreased [yellow, orange, and brown shading in Figure 7(b)] in the central and northwestern Trans Pecos, portions of the High Plains, much of the Low Rolling Plains, northern Edwards Plateau, much of the Southern, eastern Lower Valley, southern and central east South Central, much of the Upper Coast, and portions of central North Central climate divisions.



Soil moisture content is shown as volume of water per unit volume of bulk soil. Root zone: 0 to 1 meter depth.

Figure 7: Root zone soil moisture conditions in February 2021 (a) and the difference in root zone soil moisture between end-January 2021 and end-February 2021 (b)



February 2021 GROUNDWATER LEVELS IN MONITORING WELLS

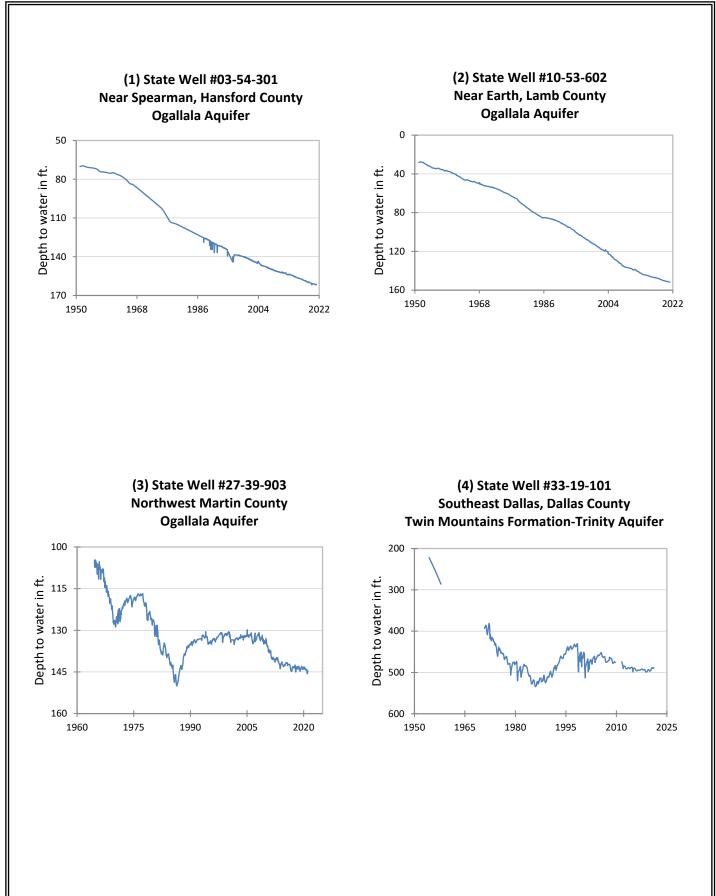
Water-level measurements were available for 15 key monitoring wells in the state. Recorders in 3 wells (#10, #14, & #17) were temporarily offline and scheduled for repair. Water levels rose in 4 monitoring wells since the beginning of February, ranging from an increase of 0.06 feet in the Martin County Ogallala Aquifer well (#3 on map) to 3.84 feet in the Pecos County Edwards-Trinity (Plateau) Aquifer well (#15 on map). Water levels declined in 11 monitoring wells, ranging from a decline of -0.08 feet in the Harris County Gulf Coast Aquifer well (#11 on map) to -9.23 feet in the Kendall County Trinity Aquifer well (#6 on map). The J-17 well (#8 on map) in San Antonio recorded a water level of 71.90 feet below land surface or 659.10 feet above mean sea level. Water levels are 0.90 feet below the Stage I critical management level for the San Antonio portion of the Edwards (Balcones Fault Zone) Aquifer.

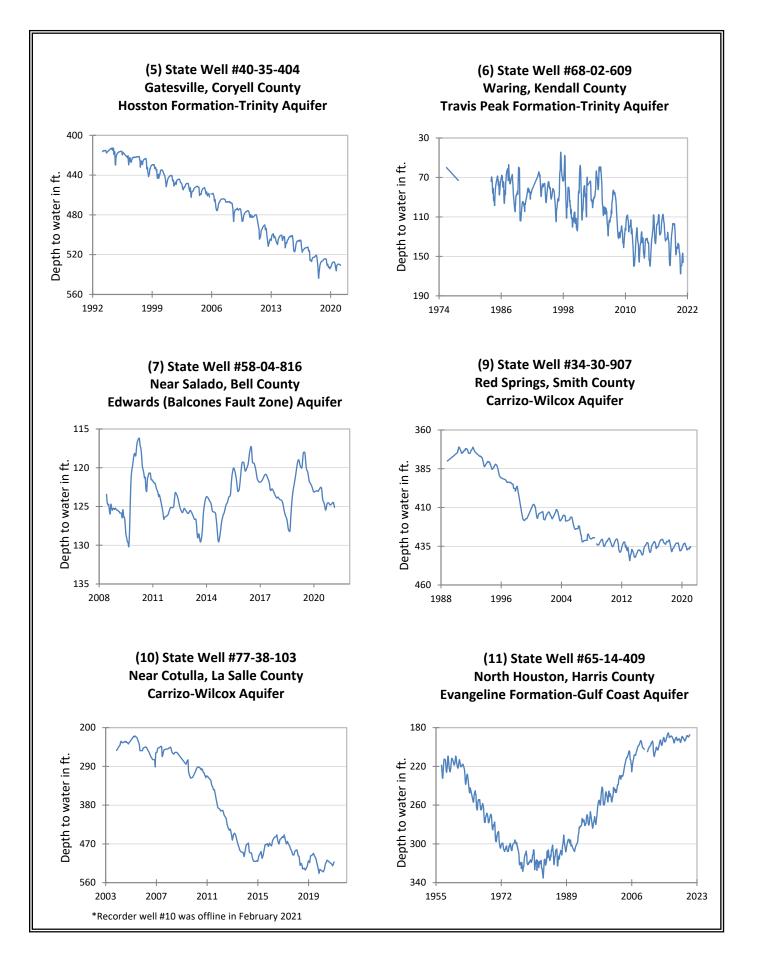
*Well numbers used in this publication on the aquifer map to indicate the monitoring well location (numbers 1–18) are different than the TWDB's seven-digit state well number.

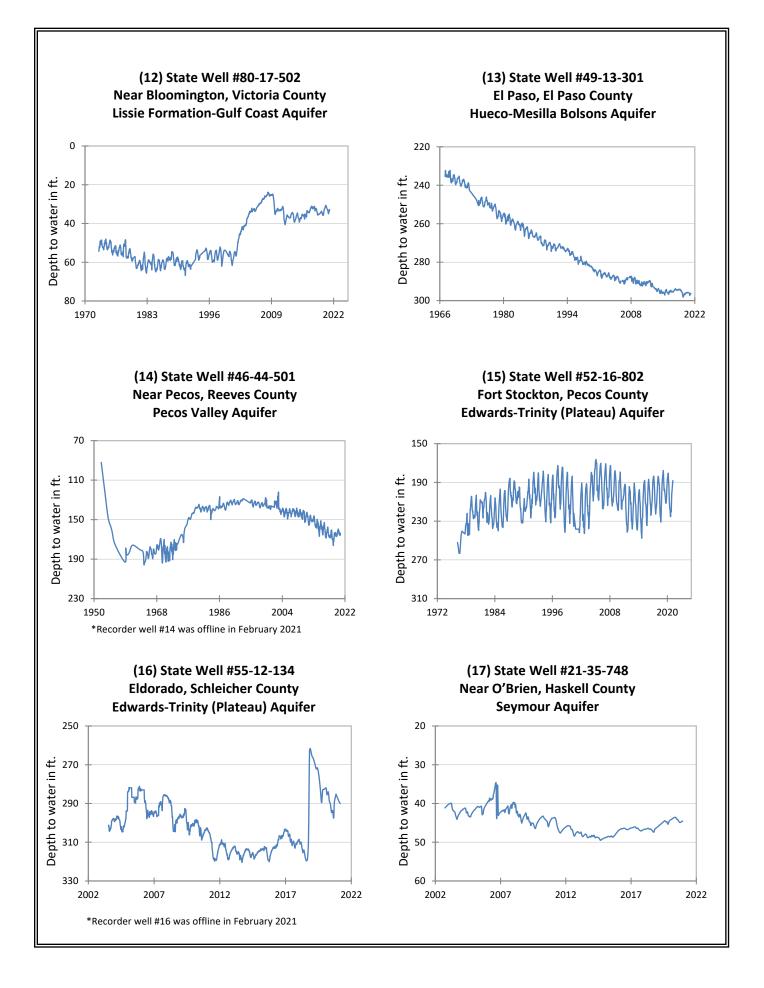
Monitoring Well	February	January	Month Change	Year Change	Historical Change	First Measured
(1) Hansford 0354301	161.65	161.37	-0.28	NA	-91.53	1951
(2) Lamb 1053602	151.72	151.63	-0.09	-0.82	-123.55	1951
(3) Martin 2739903	144.62	144.68	0.06	-1.43	-39.73	1964
(4) Dallas 3319101	488.44	488.97	0.53	6.84	-266.44	1954
(5) Coryell 4035404	530.79	529.97	-0.82	-1.76	-238.79*	1955**
(6) Kendall 6802609	156.08	146.85	-9.23	-19.19	-96.08	1975
(7) Bell 5804816	125.12	124.48	-0.64	-2.15	-1.61	2008
(8) Bexar 6837203	71.90	65.70	-6.20	-14.40	-25.26	1932
(9) Smith 3430907	435.77	435.34	-0.43	-1.43	-135.77*	1977**
(10) La Salle 7738103	NA	511.89	NA	NA	NA	2003
(11) Harris 6514409	187.54	187.46	-0.08	2.85	-52.04*	1947**
(12) Victoria 8017502	33.37	32.75	-0.62	-1.38	0.63*	1958**
(13) El Paso 4913301	296.30	296.16	-0.14	-0.47	-64.40*	1964**
(14) Reeves 4644501	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1952
(15) Pecos 5216802	188.15	191.99	3.84	-7.79	58.73	1976
(16) Schleicher 5512134	289.98	288.96	-1.02	-4.46	11.9 <mark>2</mark>	2003
(17) Haskell 2135748	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2002
(18) Hudspeth 4807516	143.57	144.82	1.25	-4.33	-39.65	1966

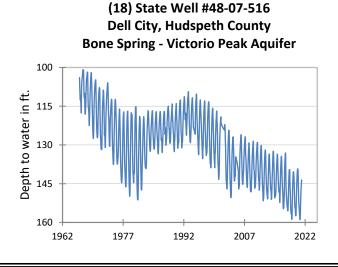
*Change since the original measurement taken on the date indicated in the last column (**measurement not shown on the hydrograph)

February 2021 MONITORING WELL HYDROGRAPHS

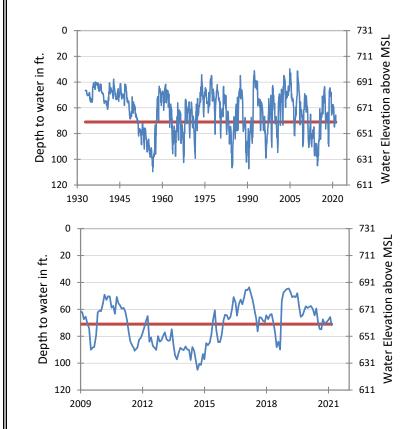








(8) State Well #68-37-203 (J-17) San Antonio, Bexar County Edwards (Balcones Fault Zone) Aquifer



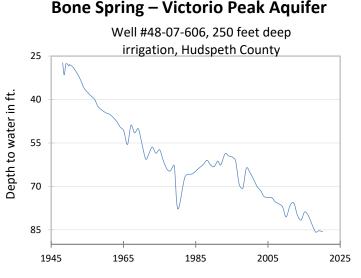
The late February water-level measurement in this Edwards (Balcones Fault Zone) Aquifer well, located at an elevation of 731 feet above mean sea level, was 71.90 feet below land surface, or 659.10 feet above mean sea level. This was 6.20 feet below last month's measurement, 14.40 feet below last year's measurement and 25.26 feet below the initial measurement recorded in 1932.

Water levels below the red line indicate periods in which Edwards Aquifer Authority Stage 1 drought restrictions are in effect. In February 2021, Stage 1 drought restrictions were in effect because the aquifer dropped 0.9 feet below the Stage 1 critical management level.



Each month this space features a new hydrograph (marked with the • symbol on the map) depicting different aquifers and their conditions in Texas.

The Bone Springs – Victorio Peak Aguifer is a minor aguifer located in northern Hudspeth County. The principal water-bearing units in the aquifer are the Permian Bone Spring and Victorio Peak limestones. The formations produce groundwater from solution cavities developed along joints and fracture planes. Water is generally slightly saline, with total dissolved solids of 1,000 to 3,000 milligrams per liter. In the Dell Valley area, total dissolved solids increase to 3,000 to 10,000 milligrams per liter. Since the late 1940s, pumping has been the principle means of discharge for the aquifer. Water levels have declined in the Dell Valley area from 5 to 60 feet, with an average of about 30 feet over a period of about 55 years. These declines are most likely due to pumping for irrigation.



The initial measurement of 27.29 feet below land surface was observed by the USGS in March of 1948. Since then, USGS and the TWDB have taken near-yearly water level measurements. The period of record reveals an overall steady decline in water level of about 58 feet over 72 years (equivalent to about 0.81 feet per year), with a period of recovery occurring from approximately 1982 to 1994.





Far away (left), and close-up (right) images of well #48-07-606.