North Texas Urban Feral Hog Forum

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., May 1, 2017
Miles H Building, Room H-126, Brookhaven College
Feral Hog Impacts to Water Quality in North Texas

North Central Texas Council of Governments
North Texas Urban Feral Hog Forum - May 1, 2017
What is NCTCOG?

• Voluntary association of local governments
• Established in 1966
• Assists local governments in:
  • Planning for common needs
  • Cooperating for mutual benefit
  • Recognizing regional opportunities
  • Resolving regional problems
  • Making joint decisions
• One of 24 COGs in Texas

www.nctcog.org/TMDL
Bacteria Impairments in the DFW Metroplex

• What does impairment mean?
  
  A waterway is not meeting state water quality standards for its designated use.

• What could be causing the impairment?
  
  Pet waste, sanitary sewer overflows, agricultural practices, wastewater treatment plants, illicit discharges, onsite sewage facilities, and wildlife waste.

• What is a total maximum daily load (TMDL)?
  
  A budget for a pollutant that estimates the amount of a pollutant that a waterway can receive and still support its designated use.
Feral Hogs and Water Quality

• Feral hogs lack sweat glands and are naturally attracted to riparian corridors to wallow

• Wallowing and rooting causes damage in watersheds by destabilizing riparian zones, increasing sedimentation

• Large contributions of waste in and around water sources cause increased bacteria loading in waterways

Photo source: fotolia

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Greater Trinity River Region TMDL Implementation Plan Program

- Commitment by local entities to address elevated bacteria levels in local waterways
- Implementation of best management practices (BMPs) to reduce the sources of bacteria in the Greater Trinity River region
  - Examples of BMPs:
    - Participation in regional initiatives
    - Education and outreach
    - Ordinance, guideline, or management plan adoption

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Why Feral Hog Management?

• Increased urban activity
  • Negative water quality impacts
  • Destruction of property and infrastructure
  • Public health and safety concern

• Current efforts are piecemeal strategies, as needed

• Everyone working in silos
  • Need for regional coordination to address challenges (feral hogs do not know jurisdictional boundaries!)

[Photo source: fotolia]
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Implementation Activities

The TMDL & I-Plan Program Coordination Committee encourage NCTCOG and TMDL area stakeholders to...

• Disseminate available tools and technical resources

• Participate in regional collaboration to promote coordinated control efforts

• Adopt dedicated feral hog control programs

• Increase education efforts related to feral hogs

www.nctcog.org/TMDL
The Greater Trinity River Region I-Plan Program is funded by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to improve the quality of streams in North Texas.
Regional Priorities

What can NCTCOG do to help?

• Defining regional success
• Education and outreach
• Compilation of resources and information
• Establishing partnerships