



Welcome

to the

Igneous and West Texas Bolsons

Aquifers Modeling Project

**Stakeholder Advisory Forum**

Thank you for signing in early.

The meeting will begin at 10:00 am, Central Standard Time

Please stay muted during the meeting and use the chat box to submit questions

# Meeting Information

- An audio and video recording of the meeting, presentation, and the report summarizing the meeting will be made available on the project's TWDB website
- <https://www.twdb.texas.gov/groundwater/models/gam/wtbi/wtbi.asp>

# Outline

- Groundwater Availability Modeling program
- Basic terminology of groundwater flow
- Igneous and West Texas Bolsons aquifers
- Groundwater modeling process
- Data collection
- Project schedule

# Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Groundwater Modeling (GAM) Program



Groundwater Modeling Program  
Texas Water Development Board

# What is the Texas Water Development Board?



**Not regulatory agency like Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.**



**Science:** Groundwater, surface water, innovative water technology, conservation, education, flooding.



**Planning:** Assist with regional planning and state planning (drought and flood plans)



**Funding:** We assist with implementing water projects with funding

# Groundwater Modeling (GAM) Program



**Aim:** Develop groundwater flow models for the major and minor aquifers of Texas.



**Purpose:** Tools that can be used to aid in groundwater resources management by stakeholders.



**Public process:** Stakeholder involvement during model development process.

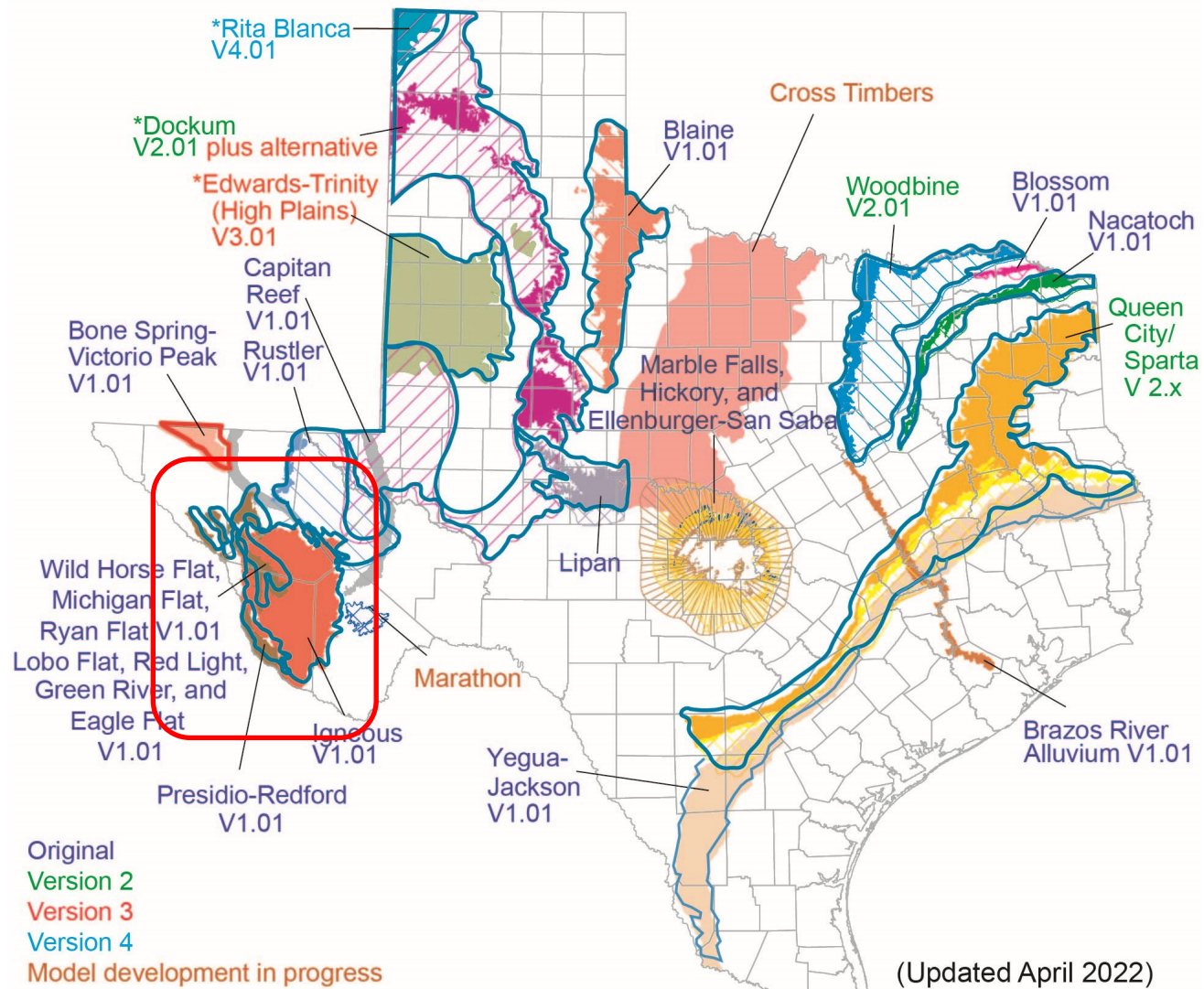


**Models:** Freely available, standardized, thoroughly documented. Reports, data, models are available for download from TWDB download page for models.



**Living tools:** Periodically updated.

# GAMs for Minor Aquifers



High Plains Aquifer System model includes Rita Blanca, Dockum, and Edwards-Trinity (High Plains) minor aquifers

# Why Stakeholder Advisory Forums?



Keep stakeholders updated about progress of the modeling project



Inform how the groundwater model can, should, and should not be used



Provide stakeholders with the opportunity to provide input and data to assist with model development



# Contact Information

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**Texas Water Development Board**

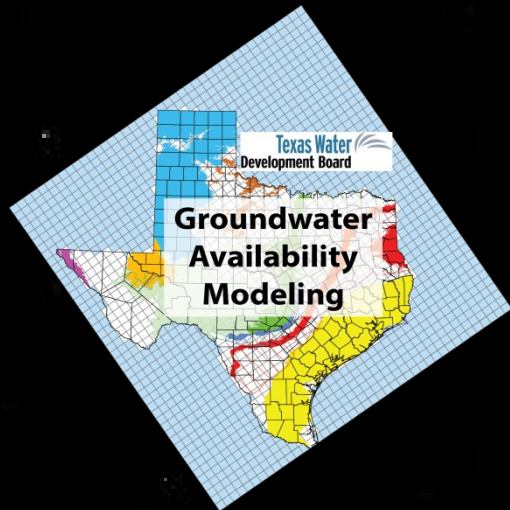
**P.O. Box 13231**

**Austin, Texas 78711-3231**

**Web information:**

**<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/groundwater/models/gam/wtbi/wtbi.asp>**

# Igneous and West Texas Bolsons Aquifers



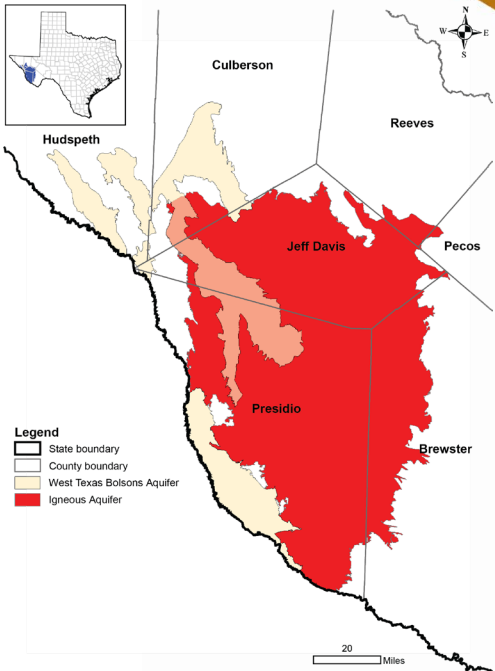
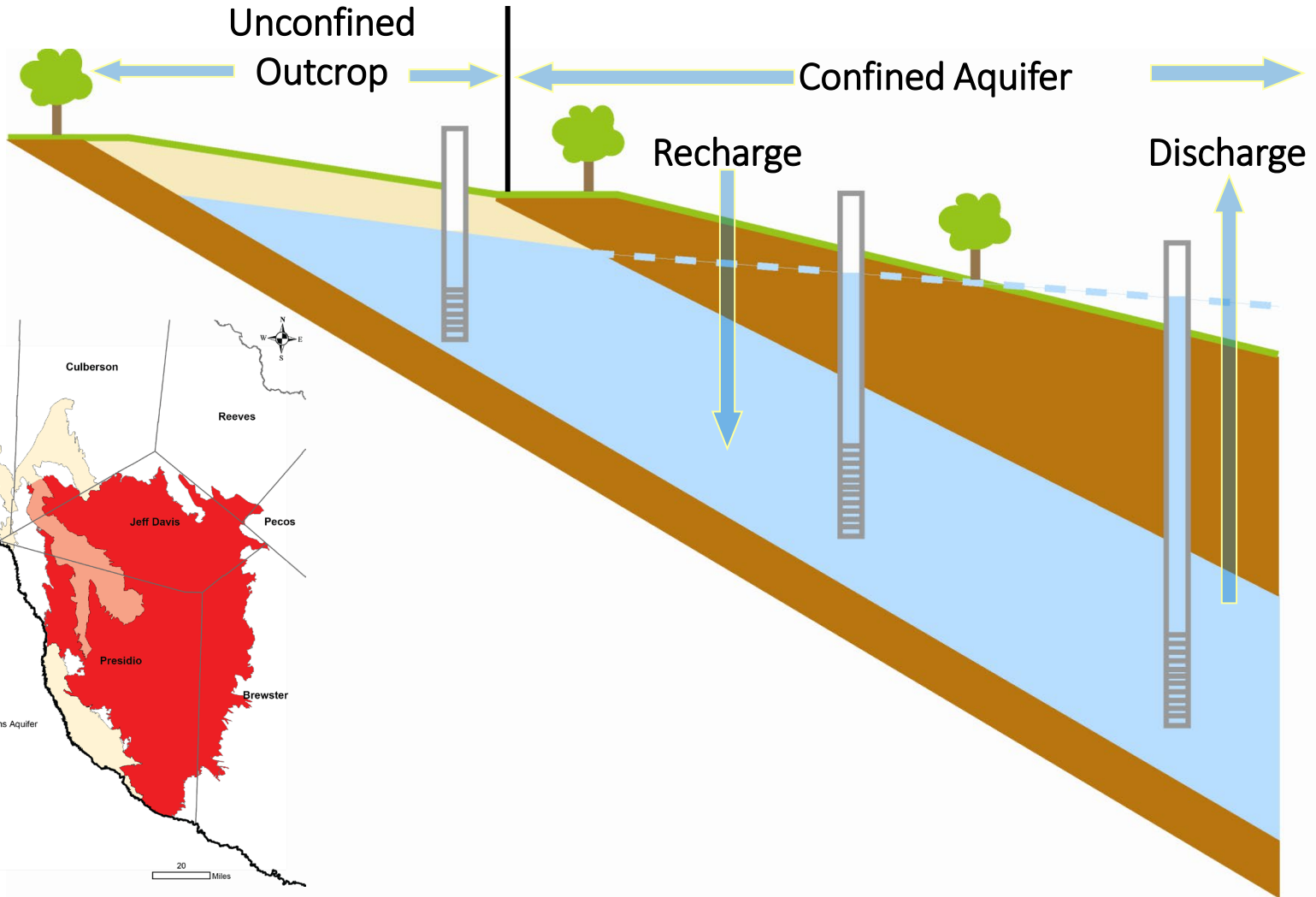
Ian Jones, Ph.D., P.G.

January 19, 2023

# BASICS OF GROUNDWATER FLOW

Ryan Flat

# Confined/Unconfined Aquifer



# Hydrogeology Terminology

**Aquifer:** Geologic unit capable of transmitting useable amounts of groundwater to a well. **Unconfined** – water table is upper boundary. **Confined** – overlain by non-aquifer material, groundwater under pressure.

**Water Table:** Boundary between saturated (filled with water) and unsaturated zones (filled with air).

**Hydraulic head:** Water level in well expressed as an elevation

**Hydraulic conductivity:** A measure of the ability of material to transmit groundwater.

**Recharge:** The processes involved in water entering an aquifer. Examples, infiltration through the soil or from streams

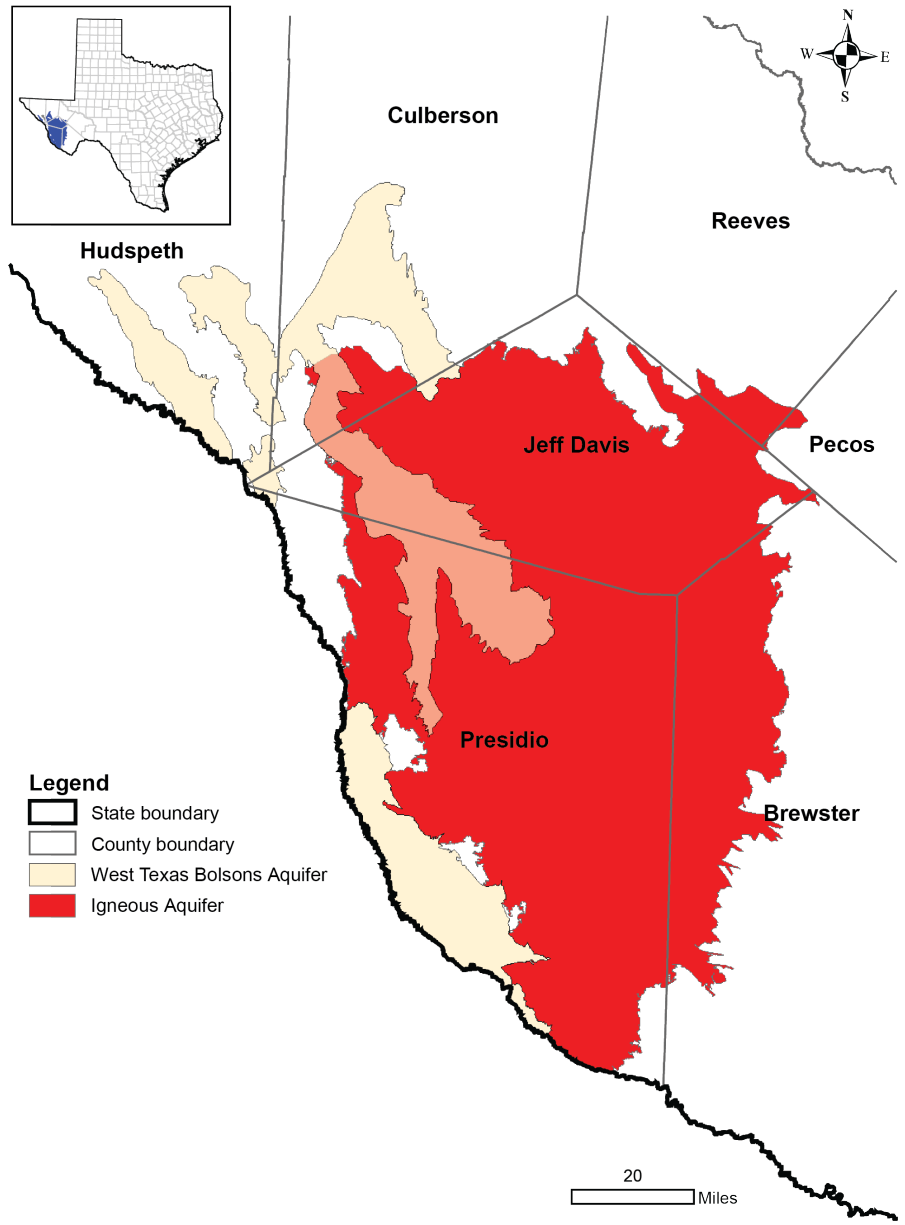
**Discharge:** The processes involved in water leaving an aquifer. Examples, discharge from springs, pumping wells, discharge to streams.





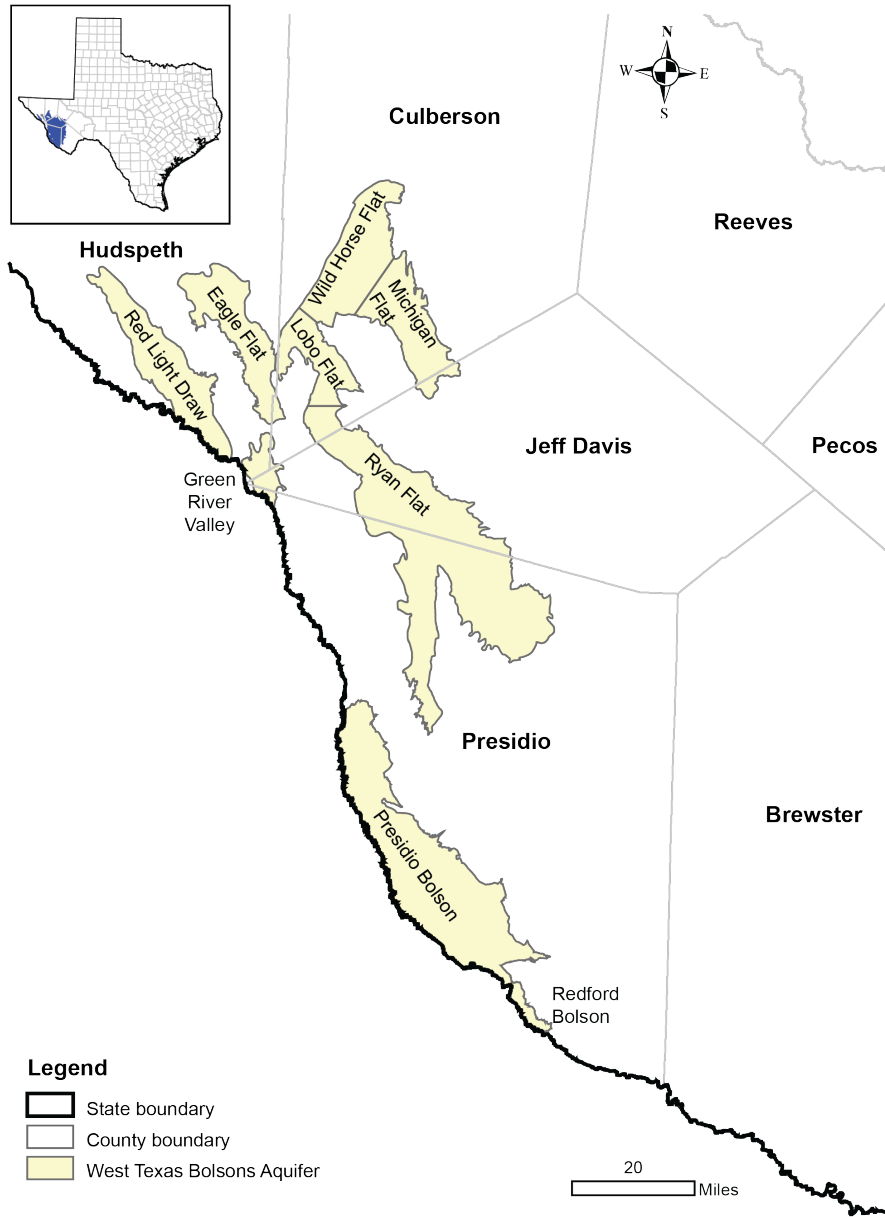
# HYDROGEOLOGY

Eagle Mountains






Era	System	Stratigraphic Units	
Cenozoic	Quaternary	Quaternary deposits	
		Windblown sand	
		Bolson deposits	
	Tertiary	Volcanic rocks undivided	
		Intrusive Igneous rocks	
		Chambers Tuff	
		Garren Group	
		Tarantula Gravel	
		Hogeye Tuff	
		Trachyte Porphyry	
		Upper Rhyolite	
		Pantera Trachyte	
		Perdiz Conglomerate	
		Petan Basalt	
		Tascotal Formation	
		Mitchell Mesa Welded Tuff	
		Brooks Mountain Formation	
		Goat Canyon Formation	
		Medley Formation	
		Wild Cherry Formation	
Eppenauer Ranch Formation			
Mount Locke Formation			
Barrel Springs Formation			
Capote Mountain Tuff			
Mesozoic	Cretaceous	Cretaceous undivided	
		Buda Limestone	
		Boracho Formation	
		San Martine Limestone Member	
		Levinson Limestone Member	
		Eagle Mountain Sandstone	
		Espy Limestone	
	Jurassic	Malone Formation	
Paleozoic	Permian	Hueco Limestone	
Precambrian	Precambrian	Carrizo Mountain Group	
		Precambrian bedrock undivided	

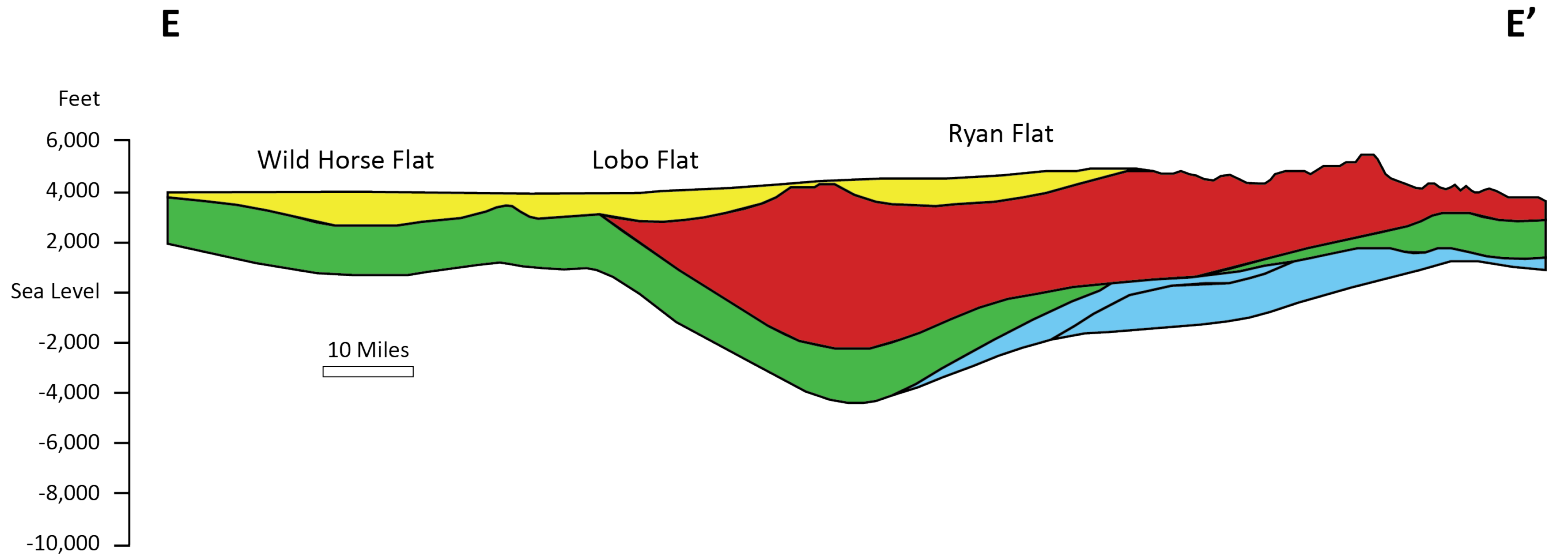










**Legend**

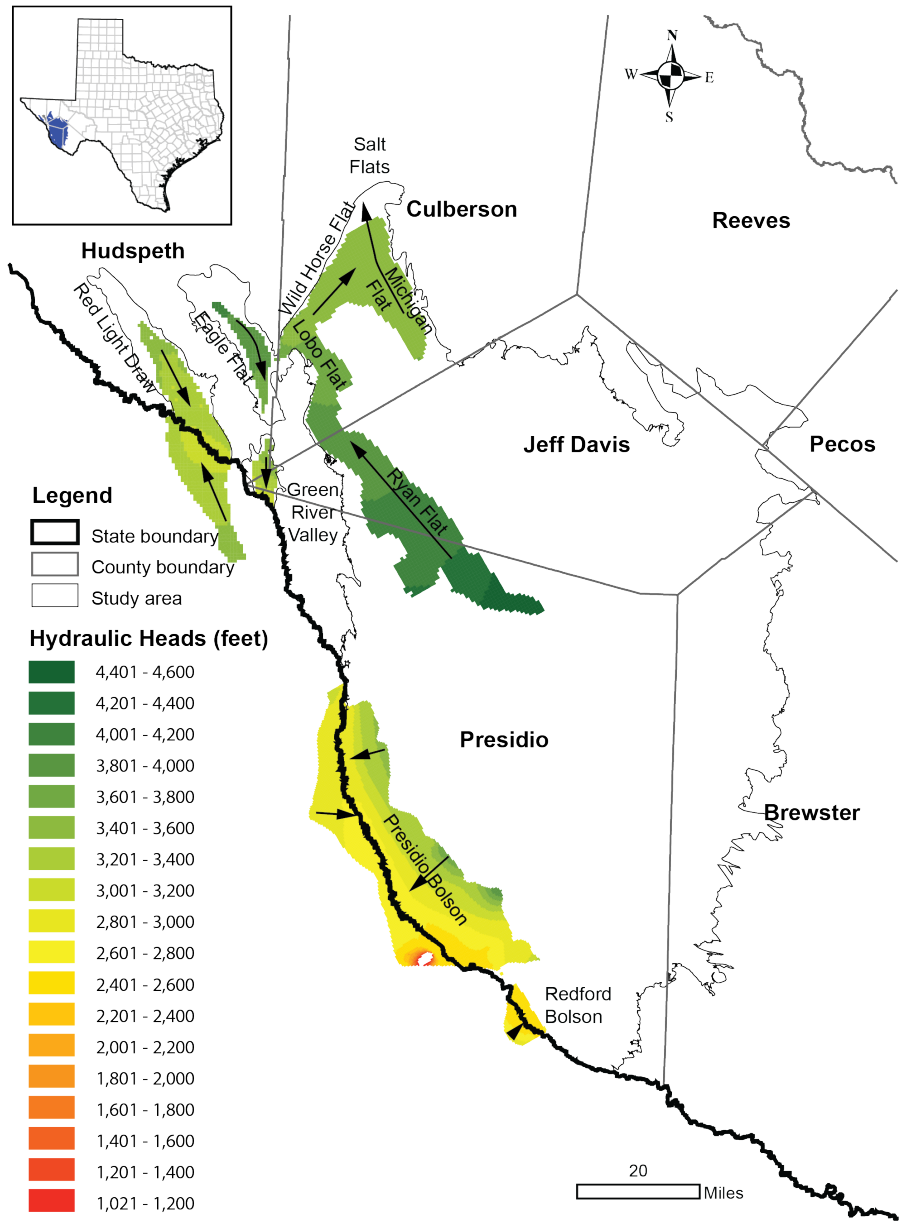
-  State boundary
-  County boundary
-  West Texas Bolsons Aquifer

**West Texas Bolsons Aquifer**

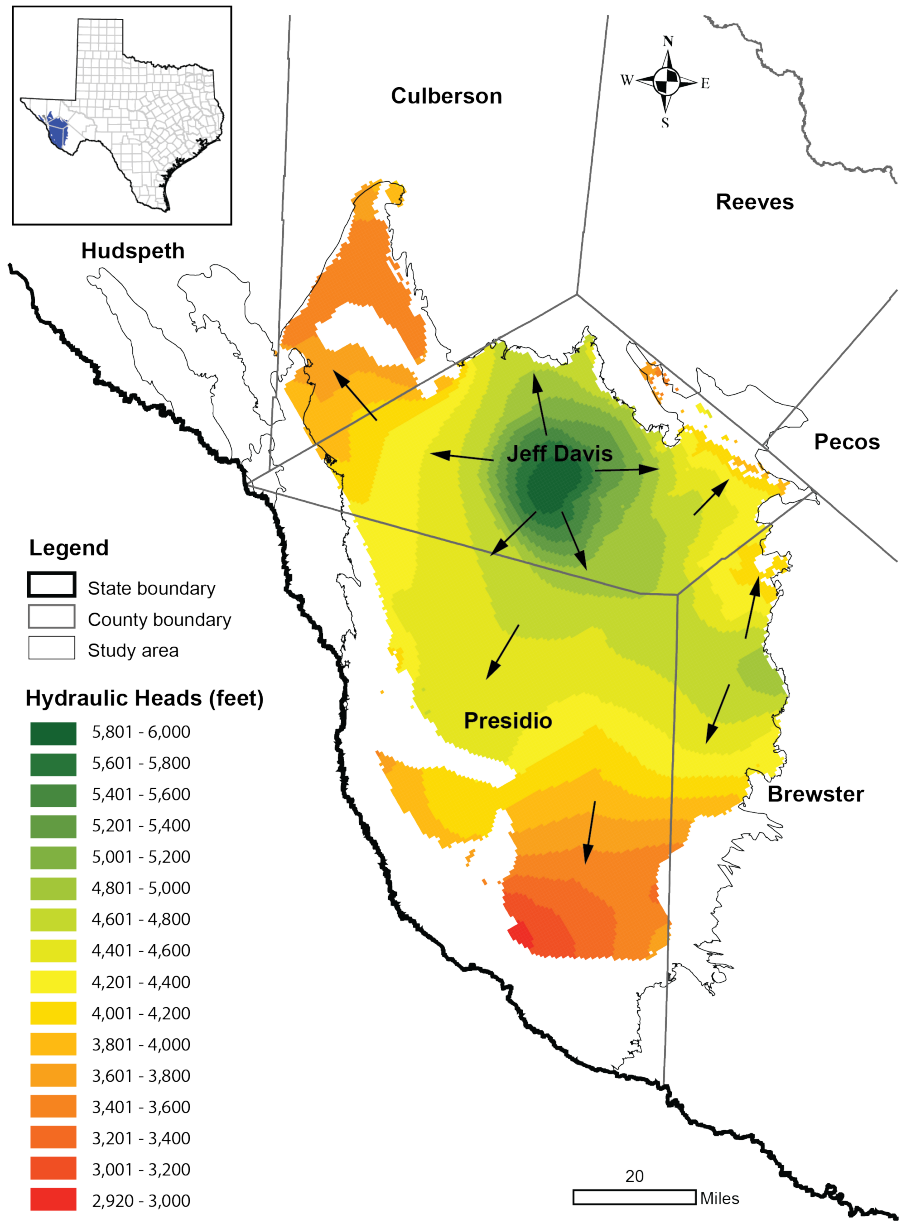


- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
|  Alluvium and Bolson Fill |  Tertiary Volcanics              |  Cretaceous Formations       |
|  Paleozoic Formations    |  Cretaceous-Paleozoic Undivided |  Precambrian Basement Rocks |
























**West Texas Bolsons Aquifer**



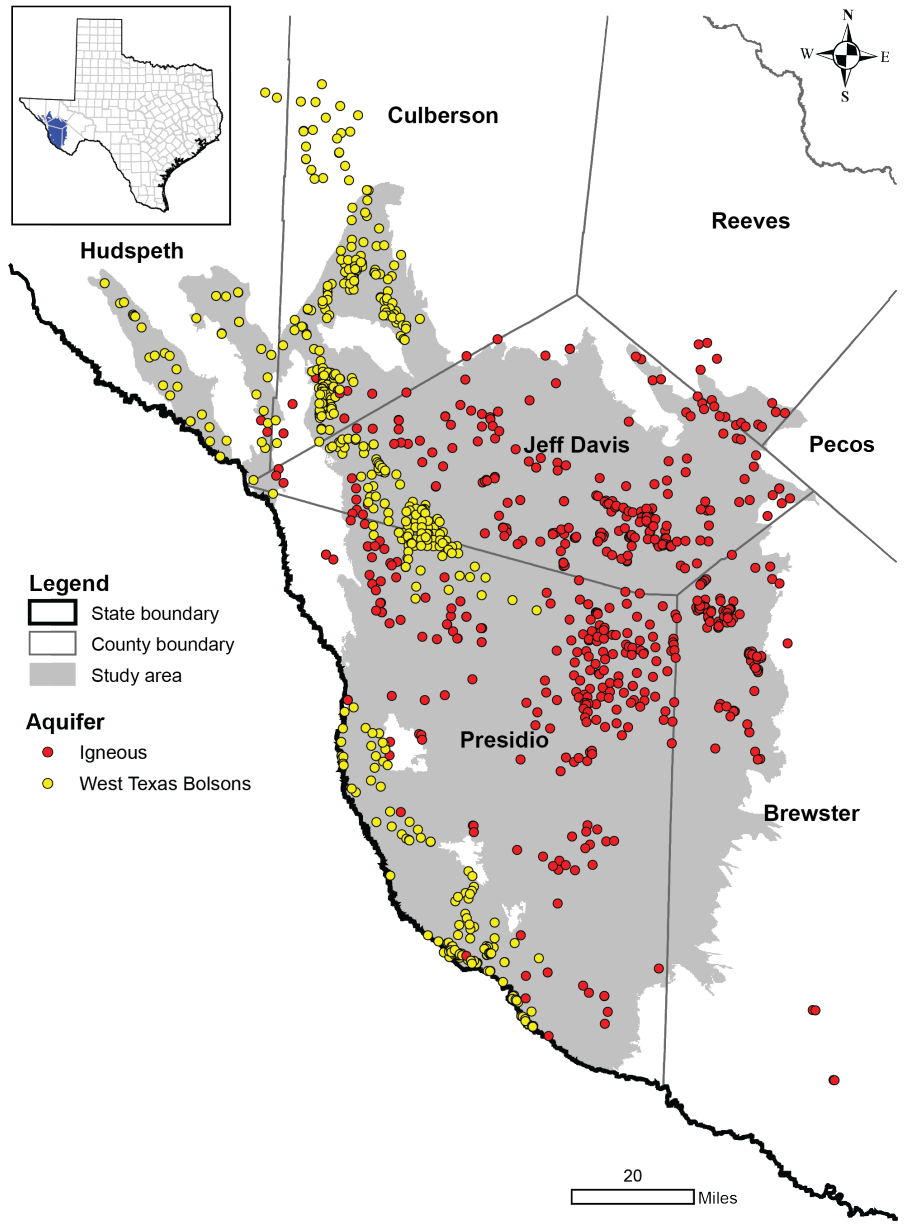
**Legend**

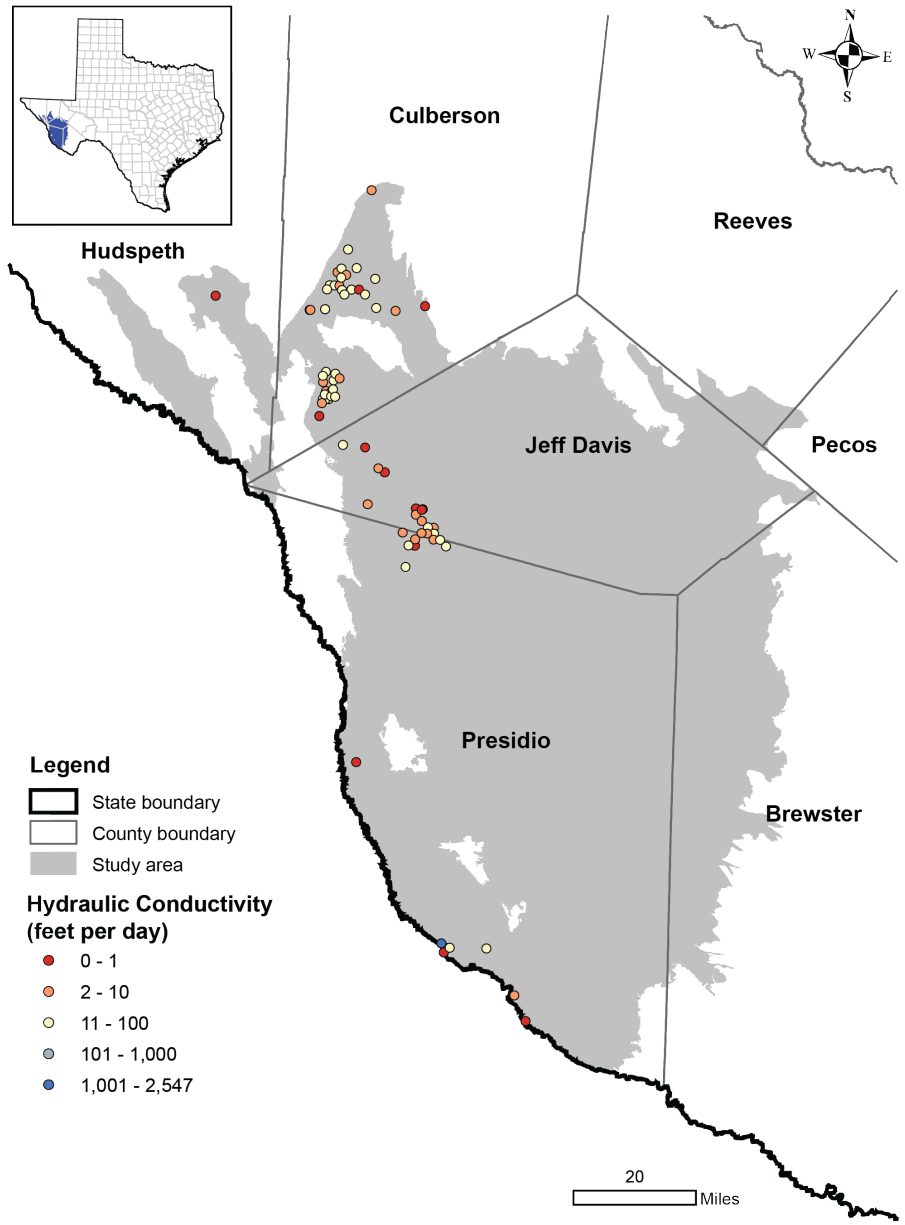
-  State boundary
-  County boundary
-  Study area

**Hydraulic Heads (feet)**

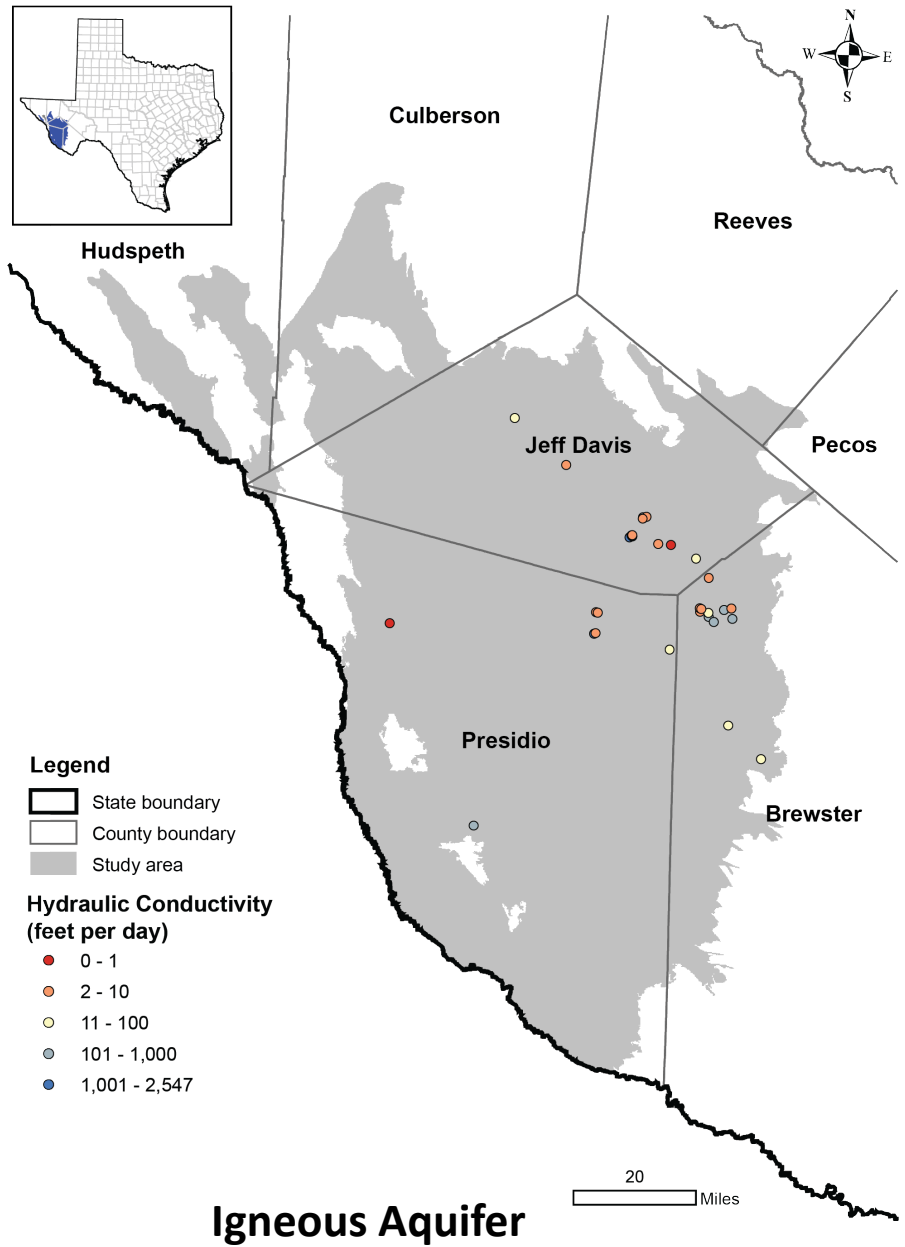
-  5,801 - 6,000
-  5,601 - 5,800
-  5,401 - 5,600
-  5,201 - 5,400
-  5,001 - 5,200
-  4,801 - 5,000
-  4,601 - 4,800
-  4,401 - 4,600
-  4,201 - 4,400
-  4,001 - 4,200
-  3,801 - 4,000
-  3,601 - 3,800
-  3,401 - 3,600
-  3,201 - 3,400
-  3,001 - 3,200
-  2,920 - 3,000

**Igneous Aquifer**













**West Texas Bolsons Aquifer**



**Legend**

-  State boundary
-  County boundary
-  Study area

**Hydraulic Conductivity  
(feet per day)**

-  0 - 1
-  2 - 10
-  11 - 100
-  101 - 1,000
-  1,001 - 2,547

20 Miles

**Igneous Aquifer**

# GROUNDWATER MODELING

A landscape photograph of a desert plain. In the foreground, there is a large, dark silhouette of a yucca plant on the left side. The middle ground shows a flat, open area with some sparse vegetation. In the background, there are several layers of mountains, with the closest ones appearing as dark silhouettes and the more distant ones appearing as lighter, hazy shapes against a bright sky. The sky is filled with large, white, fluffy clouds, and the overall lighting suggests a bright, sunny day.

Eagle Flat



# Definition

- A mathematical device that represents an approximation of an aquifer (*The Compendium of Hydrogeology*)
- Simulation of groundwater flow by means of a governing equation used to represent the physical processes that occur in the aquifer, together with equations that describe heads or flows along the boundaries of the model (*Anderson and Woessner, 2002*)

# Why Groundwater Flow Models?

- In contrast to surface water, groundwater flow is difficult to observe
- Aquifers are typically complex in terms of spatial extent and hydrogeological characteristics
- A groundwater model provides the only means for integrating available data for the prediction of groundwater flow at the scale of interest

# Objectives/Goals



**Update the MODFLOW code**

Original Models developed in older MODFLOW code



**Better understand  
Intraformational Flow**

Important for updates to local models



**Explore better ways to model surface water/groundwater interactions**

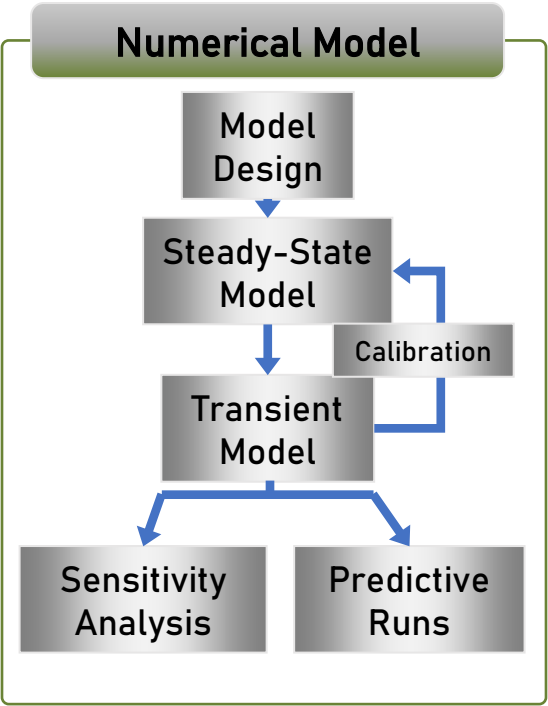
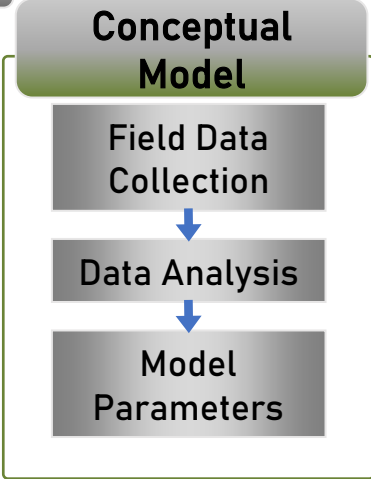


**Provide updates on local models**

Newer MODFLOW is more robust, easier to link models or refine areas of interest.

# Flow Chart

Model Objectives

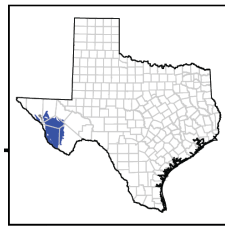


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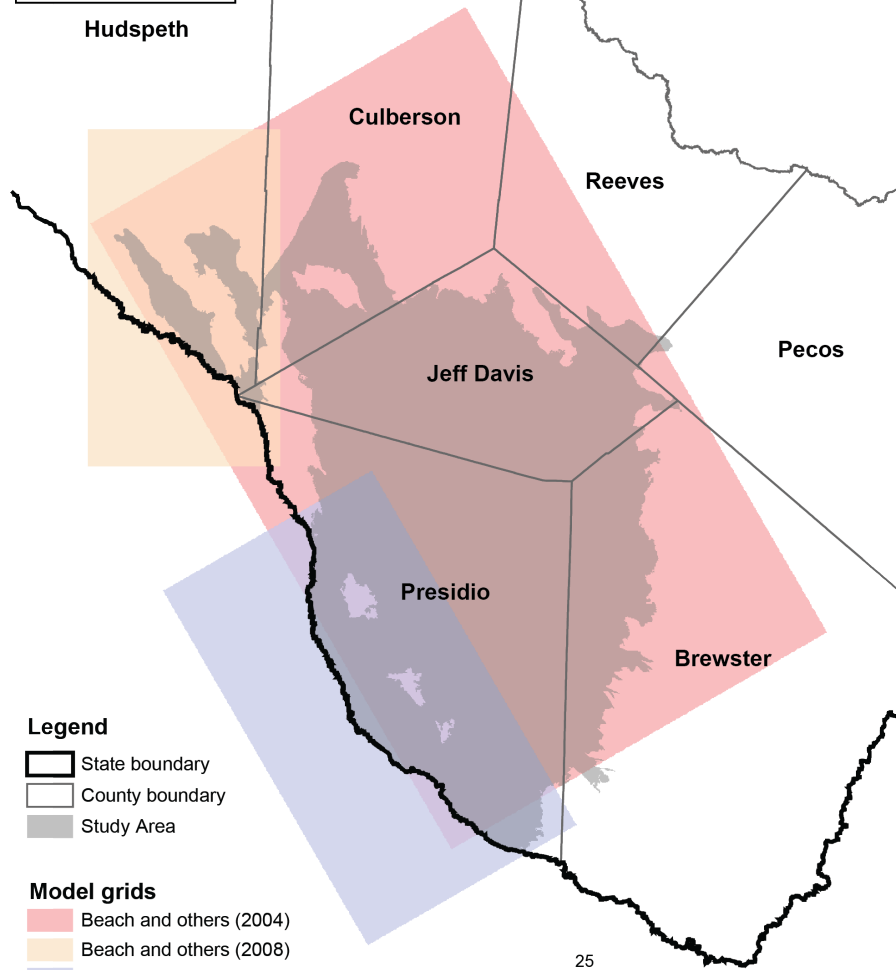
Conceptual Model Report

Numerical Model Report

Groundwater Availability Model for Igneous and West Texas Bolsons aquifers



Hudspeth



**Legend**

- State boundary
- County boundary
- Study Area

**Model grids**

- Beach and others (2004)
- Beach and others (2008)
- Wade and Jigmond (2013)

25

Miles



# DATA COLLECTION

# Data Collection

- Heads, discharge, hydraulic properties, water quality data
  - County Reports (predevelopment)
    - Evidence of artesian wells
    - Evidence of flowing springs
  - TWDB groundwater database
  - Railroad Commission Surface Casing Database
  - GCDs
  - Thesis work
  - Other literature
  - Stakeholders

# Data Request



**Well information - log/location/construction**



**Groundwater data - level/pumping/water quality**



**Aquifer data - testing/study**



**Surface water information – Groundwater Diversion/Interaction**



**Not currently publicly available/  
May be a great study we need to consider.**



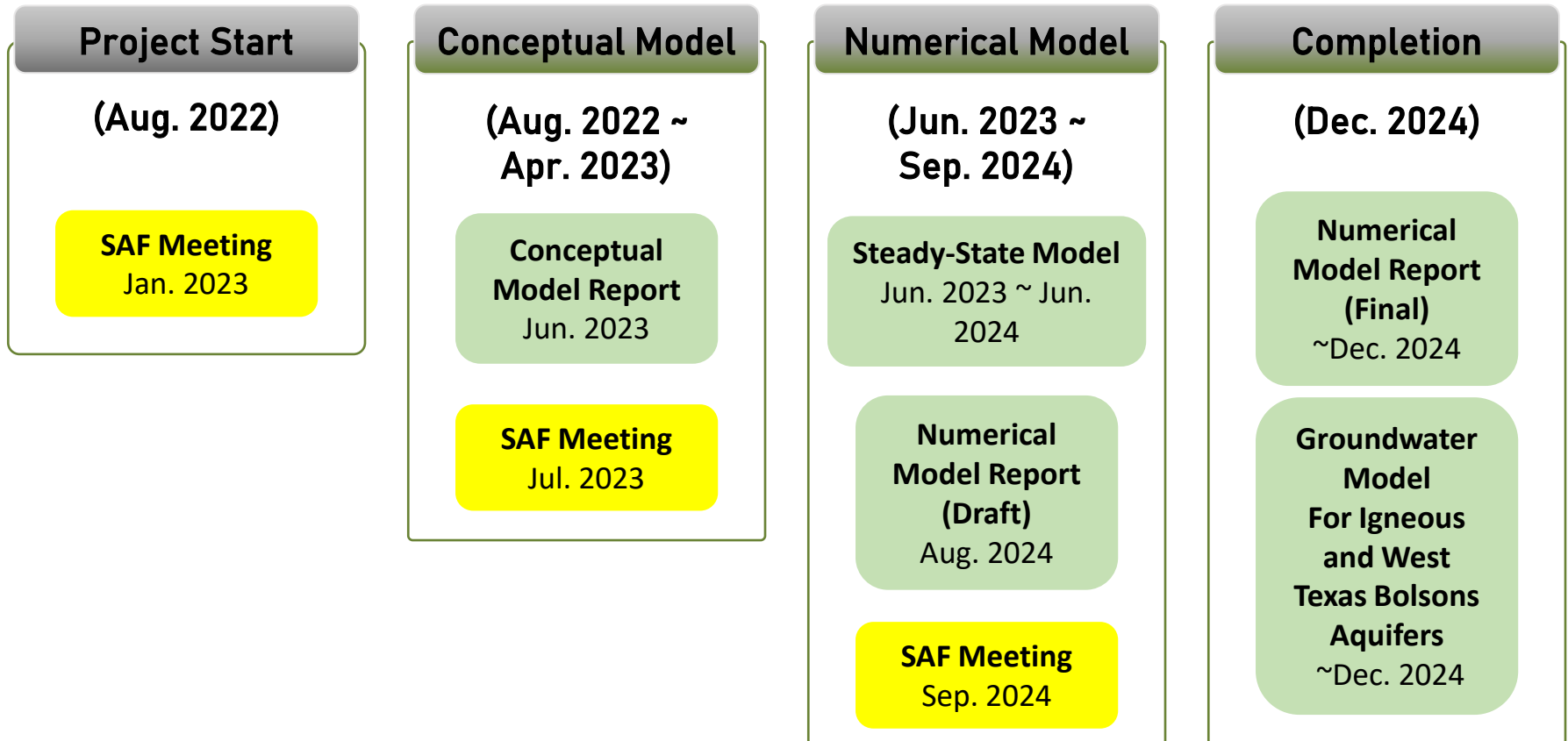
# When do we need the data?

- No later than March 2023

A landscape photograph of a desert. In the foreground, there are several tall, spiky green plants, possibly yucca or agave. In the middle ground, a metal windmill stands on a hill. The background shows a range of low mountains under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The text "PROJECT SCHEDULE" is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

# PROJECT SCHEDULE

# Project Schedule\*



\*Schedule is Tentative

# Additional Information

## Web information:

<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/groundwater/models/gam/wtbi/wtbi.asp>

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A landscape photograph showing a wide, flat plain in the foreground covered with green and brown shrubs. In the middle ground, a large, rounded mountain with a flat top dominates the view. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The word "QUESTIONS?" is overlaid in large, bold, black capital letters across the center of the image.

**QUESTIONS?**

Wild Horse Flat