



MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert Bradley, Texas Water Development Board

FROM: Stephanie Moore, Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc.

DATE: August 23, 2019

SUBJECT: August 6, 2019 Stakeholder Advisory Forum

The team of Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc. (DBS&A), Allan R. Standen LLC, and Blanton & Associates, Inc. (collectively referred to as the DBS&A Team) held the first Stakeholder Advisory Forum (SAF) on Tuesday, August 6, 2019, for the Cross Timbers Aquifer Conceptual Model Project. This memorandum discusses the SAF.

Stakeholder Advisory Forum Background

By statute, the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) is required to develop numerical groundwater flow models for the major and minor aquifers in Texas. The Cross Timbers Aquifer was designated as a new minor aquifer in December 2017. As a precursor to developing the groundwater availability model (GAM), the DBS&A Team is developing the conceptual model for the Cross Timbers Aquifer to describe the best understanding of how groundwater moves through this system. Stakeholder participation is critical to the success of the TWDB GAM Program and development of these models. Section 2.0, Stakeholder Participation, of the TWDB GAM standards specifies the TWDB's requirements for stakeholder participation.

To comply with these standards, the DBS&A Team is requesting input and information from the public and private sectors including regional water planning groups, groundwater conservation districts (GCDs), Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Department of Agriculture, water utilities, educational groups, agricultural interests, environmental interests, private landowners, industry, and groundwater consultants. The SAFs are designed to encourage participation in the project and to provide an understandable and convenient means to comment and ask questions. Three individual SAFs will be conducted by the DBS&A Team to encourage stakeholder and public participation. The August 6 SAF was the first one held for the project.

Stakeholder Advisory Forum Overview

SAF Date: Tuesday, August 6, 2019

SAF Location: Middle Trinity Groundwater Conservation District
930 North Wolfe Nursery Road
Stephenville, TX 76401



SAF Notices

The TWDB preferred method of SAF notification is by e-mail. Therefore, the DBS&A Team prepared individual e-mail notices to announce the August 6 SAF. Using stakeholder contact information lists provided by TWDB staff, the team distributed SAF notices by e-mail on July 12 (25 days before the SAF) and sent a reminder e-mail on July 29 (8 days before the SAF). One letter was sent by U.S. Mail on July 12 to a stakeholder without an e-mail account. For each e-mail notice, the team included information about the SAF, an outline of what would be discussed, and a project summary sheet.

SAF Purpose

The August 6 SAF was held to discuss development of the Cross Timbers Aquifer Conceptual Model, and as a general meeting to kick off the conceptual model development process and discuss the following topics as they related to the Cross Timbers Aquifer:

- Basics of groundwater flow in the aquifer
- Concepts of numerical groundwater flow modeling
- Planned approach for aquifer investigations and conceptual model development
- Request for relevant scientific data and conceptual model input information
- Project schedule
- Expectations of the conceptual model

SAF Attendance

There were 22 attendees at the SAF, as listed in the following table. Sign-in sheets are provided in Attachment 1.

Name	Affiliation
Alfonso Campos	County Judge, Erath County
Gary Kafer	Middle Trinity GCD/Office of State Representative J.D. Sheffield
Joe B. Cooper*	Middle Trinity GCD
Doug Shaw	Upper Trinity GCD
Mike McGuire	Rolling Plains GCD
Kyle Russell	Upper Trinity GCD
Cindy Ridgway	TWDB
Natalie Ballew	TWDB
Robert Bradley	TWDB
Kevin Smith	TWDB
Rick Shaffer	City of Weatherford
Tracy Mesler	Upper Trinity GCD



Name	Affiliation
Jill Garcia	Upper Trinity GCD
Blaine Hicks	Upper Trinity GCD
Johnny Wells	Middle Trinity GCD
Stephanie Keith	Middle Trinity GCD
Marc Halbert	W.T. Waggoner Estate, Inc.
Peter Schulmeyer	Collier Consulting
Stephanie Moore	DBS&A
Velma Danielson	Blanton & Associates, Inc.
Allan Standen*	Allan R. Standen LLC
Vince Clause*	Allan R. Standen LLC

* Attended the August 6 SAF, but did not sign in on the sign in sheet.

SAF Format

The SAF was held between 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Stephanie Moore, Deputy Project Manager, DBS&A, opened the meeting, and introduced the elected officials, GCD managers, and TWDB staff who were in attendance.

Robert Bradley, TWDB, made a presentation regarding the TWDB GAM Program. Cindy Ridgway, TWDB, noted that the TWDB had created a website for Cross Timbers Aquifer Conceptual Model Project to track the project's progress, access a copy of today's presentation, a copy of the memorandum report for today's SAF, and other information regarding the project.

Stephanie Moore provided an overview of the project with assistance from Allan Standen. The PowerPoint presentation is provided as Attachment 2.

Copies of two TWDB handouts and two DBS&A Team handouts made available at the SAF are provided in Attachment 3.

SAF Questions/Answers, Comments/Observations

After the presentation concluded, there were several questions and comments from the audience. The DBS&A Team's responses to these questions or observations in response to audience comments, are summarized below.

Question 1. Is the TWDB updating other GAMs along with this one?

Yes, the TWDB is developing more regional models to use as living tools to look at issues such as cross flow that may cause the TWDB to reexamine other existing aquifer GAMs (e.g., the GAM for the Trinity Aquifer). The TWDB may then take steps, depending upon timing and resources, to determine what they should do next to either incorporate available data or identify data that are needed. The first step is to look at the data and determine if there is interaction.



Question 2. For the geophysical logs gathered to date, how many of these logs are for wells that are logged/completed to surface?

We will have a better answer at the next SAF, in summer of 2020. The logs the team has gathered are for wells with depths up to 600 feet and are close to the surface. Quite a few of these wells have gamma logs.

Question 3. How many logs will the team be able to find that will provide good data?

There are thousands of wells with geophysical logs in the study area. These are being screened for both well depth and water quality. There are probably certain geographical areas where the team will need more data.

Question 4. A certain driller in the Montague area may have well information to be made available. Would the team want to use information for these wells?

Yes, having more data is helpful to the project to understand aquifer dynamics (e.g., aquifer communication at depth, water moving up into the Cross Timbers Aquifer from the Hickory Aquifer, etc.).

Question 5. What data and information does the team need from GCDs?

Whatever data and information that GCDs have available to fill data gaps would be beneficial (e.g., well logs, water use information, annual production data, unmeasured well data). Recent well information would be very helpful (e.g., new well logs or pumping test data, especially if there is an associated monitor well). Also, it will be important for the GCDs to review the interim project report and provide comments.

Question 6. Will the team be reaching out to other consultants for reports they may have prepared for other clients to use as part of this project?

Yes, if the reports were prepared for a public entity and are finalized, these reports are public and can be shared with the DBS&A Team for this project. The team reminded the audience that any information shared with the DBS&A Team will become public information, so please keep this point in mind when considering the release of information that may be proprietary.

Comment 1. For Montague, the team needs access to more public supply well data (e.g., dry wells in Wichita/Wilbarger area).

Observation: The team has reviewed information for these areas where work has been done, but does not yet know how productive the aquifer is in these areas. The team will not be starting from scratch and will certainly be reviewing and using previous peer-reviewed work by the Bureau of Economic Geology and others.

Comment 2. There was a 140-foot deep 4-inch well that was on line during the most recent drought.

Observation: The team will contact the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and check



on public water supply well and other available data.

Comment 3. This aquifer and related issues present the team with a nightmare, but it is a good project to work on.

Observation: Yes, it is a complex aquifer and the team is planning to spend a lot of time on this project.

Attachment 1
Sign-In Sheets

SIGN-IN SHEET (please print)

NAME	AFFILIATION	MAILING ADDRESS/PHONE NO.	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Kyle Russell	Upper Trinity GCD	1854 W Hwy 194 Springtown, TX 76082	Kyle@uppertrinitygcd.com
Tracy Mesler	"	PO Box 539 Macon, TX 76255	tracymesler@yubco.com
Johnny Wells	MTGCD	930 Wolfe Nursery Rd Stephenville	mtgcd3@centurylink.net
Stephanie Keenan	MTGCD	930 Wolfe Nursery Rd Stephenville	MTgcd4@centurylink.net
Marc Halbert	W.T. Waggoner Estate, Inc.	1700 Deaf Smith, Vernon, TX 76385	marc@waggonerranch.com
Peter Schelmyer	Collier Consulting	590 E South Loop	peter@collierconsulting.com
Rick Shaffer	City of Weatherford	917 Eureka St, Weatherford 76086	rshaffer@weatherfordtx.gov
* Gary Kater	MTGCD St. Rep. JDSheffield	PO Box 254-679-9016 704, Gatesville, TX 76528	gary.kater@house.texas.gov

SIGN-IN SHEET (please print)

NAME	AFFILIATION	MAILING ADDRESS/PHONE NO.	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Stephanie Moore	DBS&A	505-235-9561 Austin, TX	smaore@geo-logic.com
* Cindy Ridgeway	TWDB	512-936-2386 AUSTIN	cindy.ridgeway@twdb.texas.gov
* Robert Bradley	TWDB	512-936-0870 Austin, TX	robert.bradley@twdb.texas.gov
Velma Daniels	Blanco	264 Center Court, Suite 200 Austin, TX 78758	velma.lanetta@blancoconservation.com
* Natalie Ballew	TWDB	512 463 2779	natalie.ballew@twdb.texas.gov
* Doug Shaw	UTGCD	PO Box 1859 1749 Springtown, TX 76082	doug@uppertrinitygcd.com
Jill Garcia	UTGCD	8117 Doreen Ave 8844 817-523-5700	jill@uppertrinitygcd.com
Blaine Hicks	UTGCD	1859 Wilby 199 Springtown, TX 76082	Blaine@uppertrinitygcd.com
* Alfonso Campos	Eighth County		countyjudge@co.eighth.tx.us

SIGN-IN SHEET (please print)

NAME	AFFILIATION	MAILING ADDRESS/PHONE NO.	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Kevin Smith	TWDB	1700 N. Congress 512-475-1561	Kevin.Smith@twdb.texas.gov
MIKE MCGUIRE	ROLLING PLAIN GCD GMA C	P.O. BOX 717 MUNDAY, TX 76371 940-422-1095	MCGUIRE@RPCCD.ORG

Attachment 2
Presentation

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

Robert Bradley (Contract Manager)
Groundwater Availability Modeling Program
Texas Water Development Board



Disclaimer

Unless specifically noted, this presentation does not necessarily reflect official Board positions or decisions.

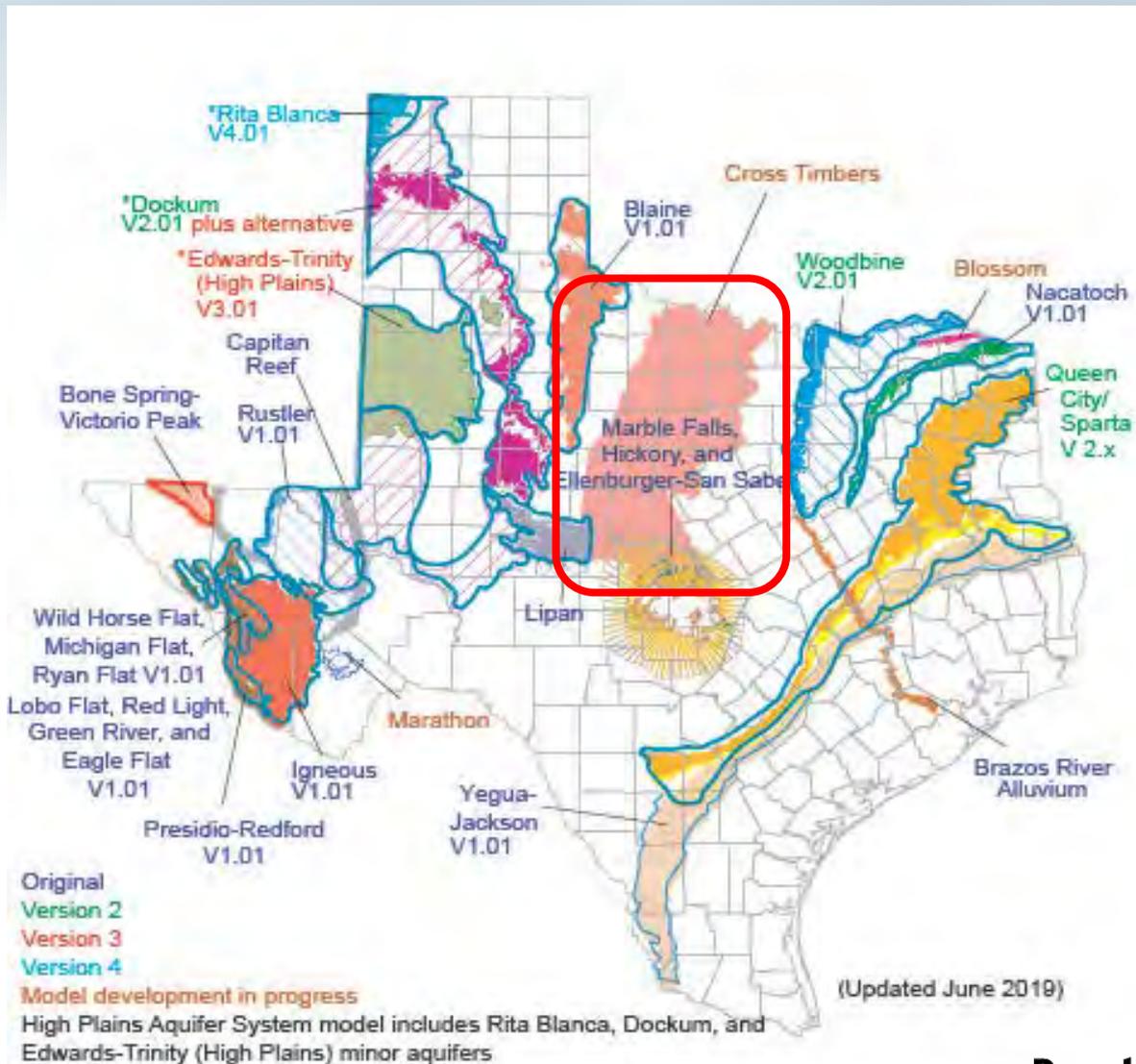
Agenda

- TWDB Introduction GAM
- Introduce Contract Team
- Daniel B. Stephens & Assoc., Inc. Presentation
 - *Introductions to Project Team*
 - *Schedule*
 - *Cross Timbers Overview*
 - *Current Objectives*
 - *Approach & Preliminary Data Review*
 - *Request for Data*
 - *Stakeholder Input*

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 available over the internet.
- **Living tools:** Periodically updated.

Minor Aquifers with Models



Why Stakeholder Advisory Forums?

- Keep stakeholders updated about the progress of the model
- 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

**Robert Bradley, P.G, C.T.C.M.
TWDB Contract Manager
512-936-0870**

Robert.bradley@twdb.texas.gov

**Cindy Ridgeway, P.G.
Manager of Groundwater Availability Modeling Section
512-936-2386**

Cindy.ridgeway@twdb.texas.gov

**Texas Water Development Board
P.O. Box 13231
Austin, Texas 78711-3231**

Website information:

www.twdb.texas.gov/groundwater/models/gam/cstb/cstb.asp



Cross Timbers Aquifer Conceptual Model

Stakeholder Advisory Forum #1

August 6, 2019

Stephenville, Texas



DBS&A
Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc.
a Geo-Logic Company



Blanton & Associates, Inc.
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING • PLANNING • PROJECT MANAGEMENT



Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc.

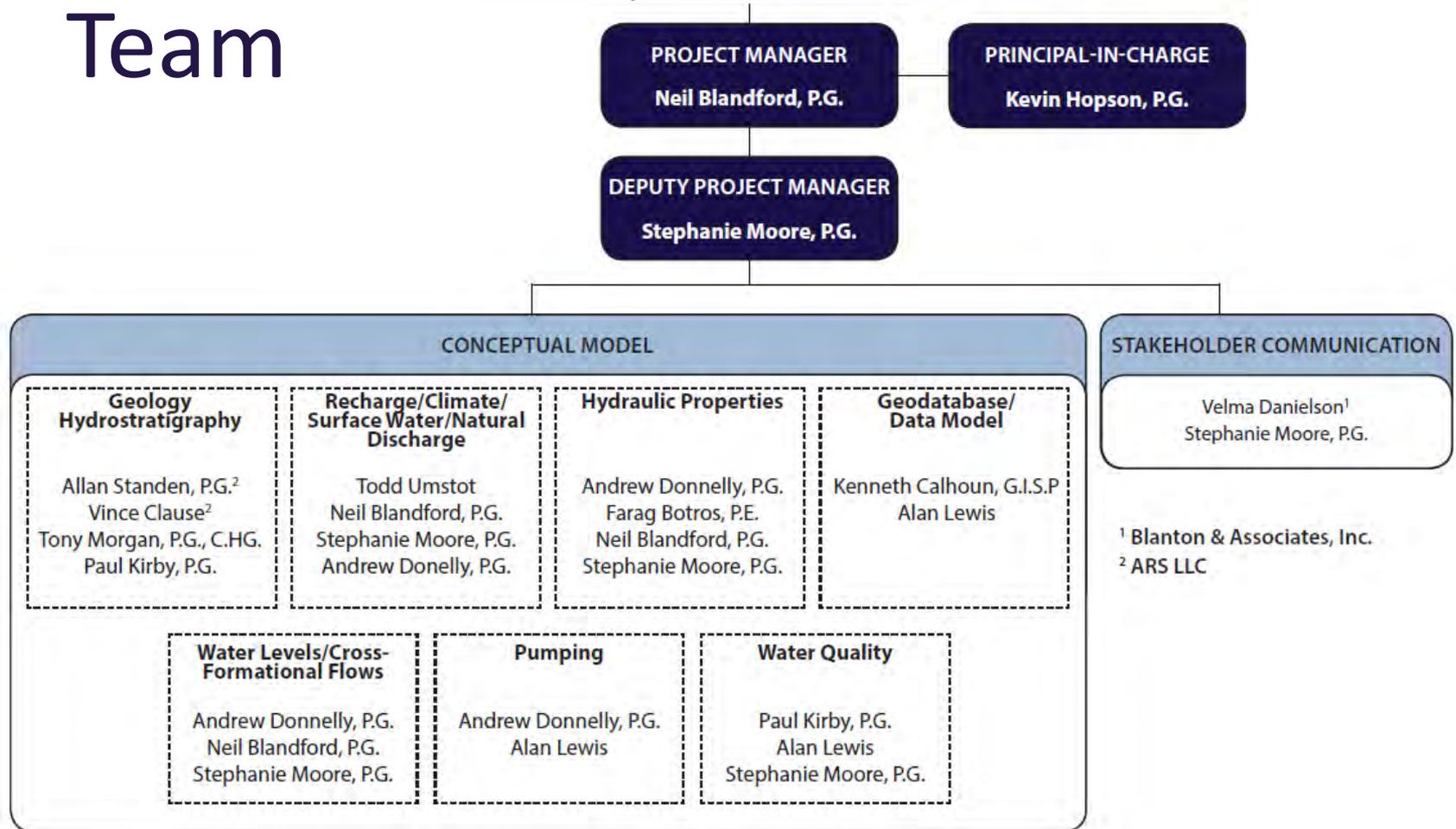
Agenda

1. Introductions to Project Team
2. Schedule
3. Cross Timbers Overview
4. Current Objectives
5. Approach & Preliminary Data Review
6. Request for Data
7. Stakeholder Input



Project Team

Texas Water Development Board



DBS&A
Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc.
a Geo-Logic Company



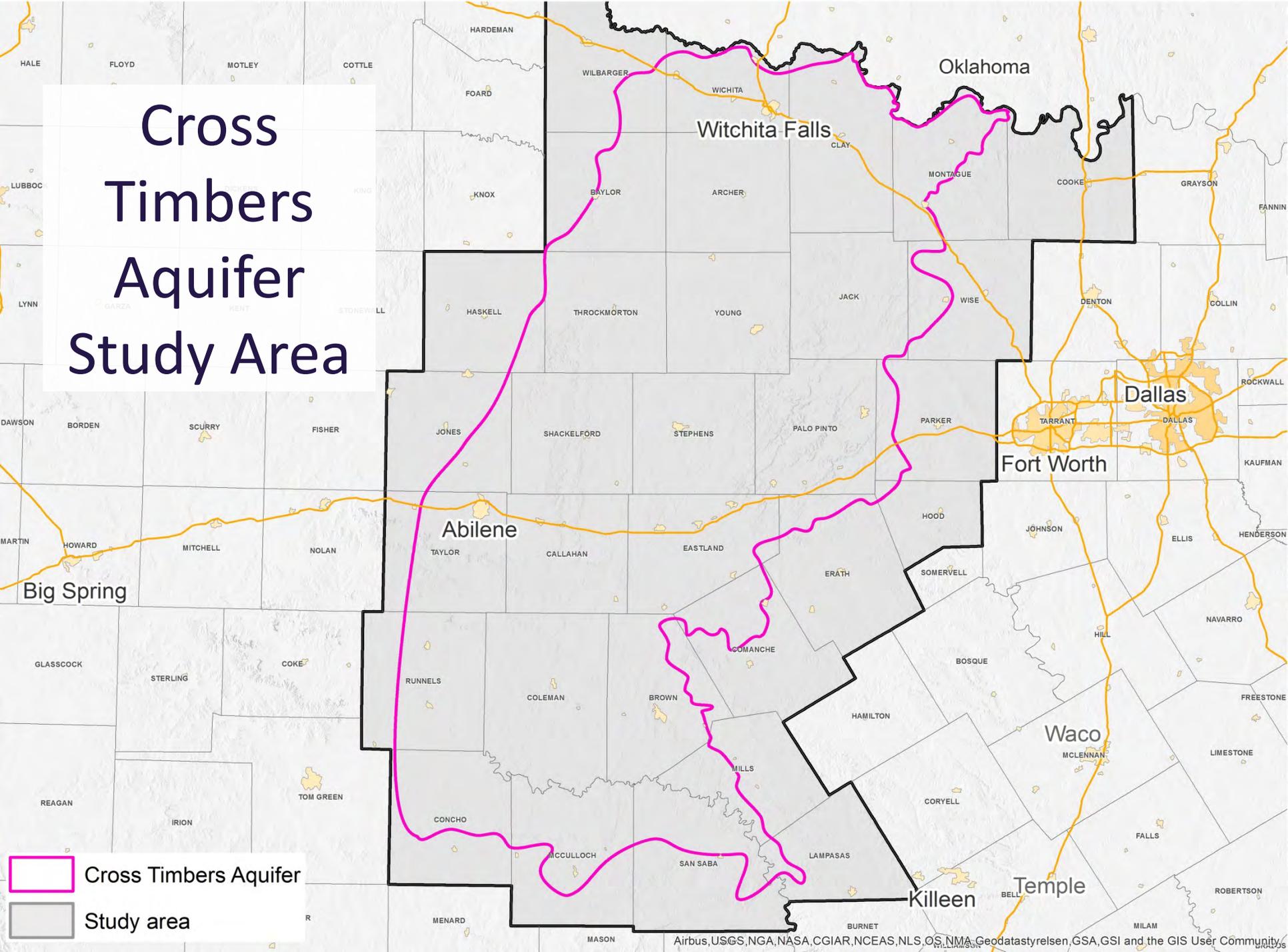
Blanton & Associates, Inc.
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING • PLANNING • PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Schedule

- Past: Cross Timbers Aquifer designated as minor aquifer in December 2017
- Current: Develop Conceptual Model
 - June 1, 2019 - Start date
 - June 1, 2020 - Interim Deliverable
 - March 31, 2021 - Study Completion Date
- Future: Groundwater Availability Model



Cross Timbers Aquifer Study Area



 Cross Timbers Aquifer
 Study area

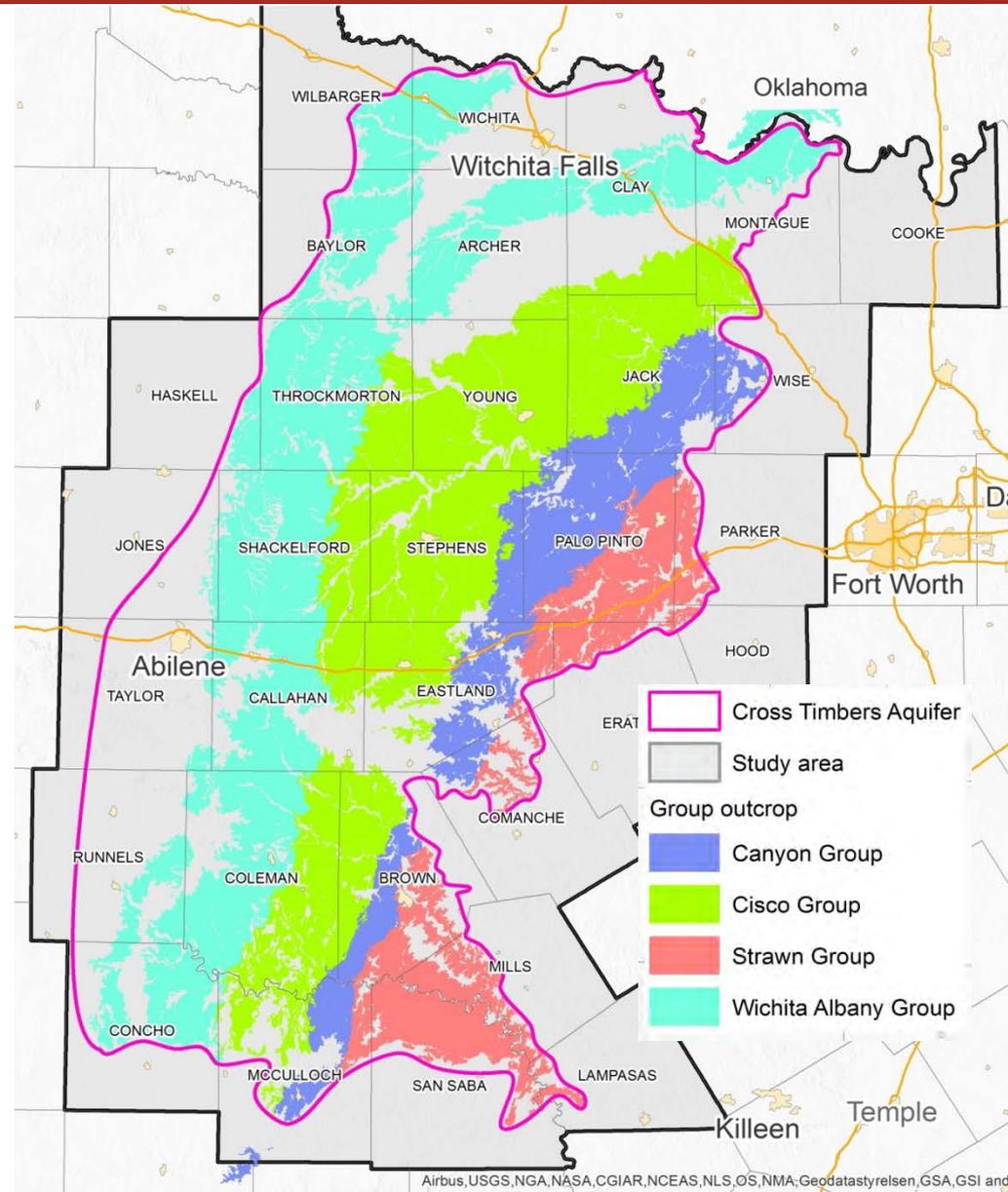
Geology

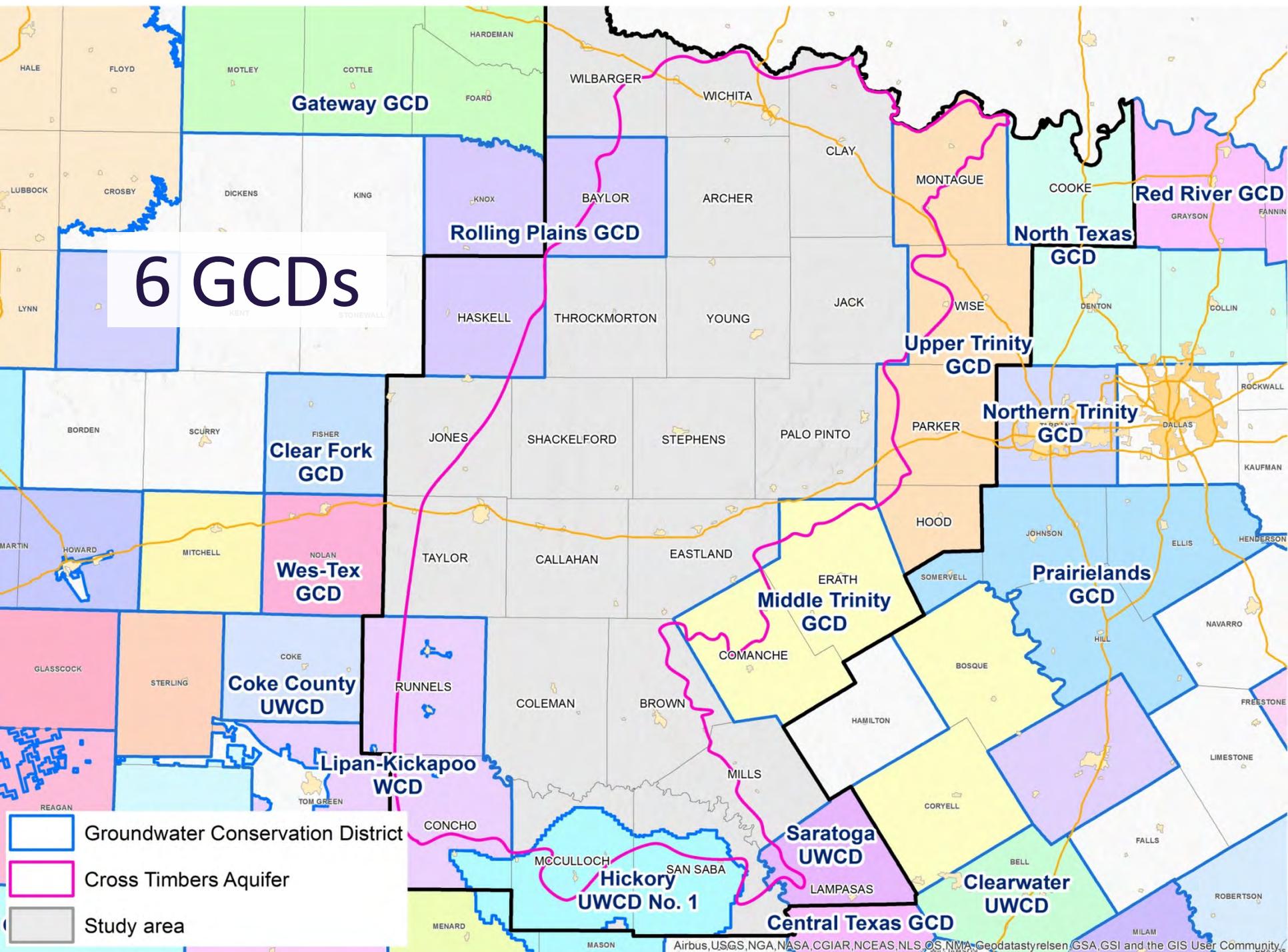
Four Paleozoic-age water-bearing formations (oldest to youngest):

- Strawn group
- Canyon group
- Cisco group
- Wichita group (Wolfcamp)

The aquifer is primarily composed of limestones, shales, and sandstones.

The Project study area extends from the eastern edge of the Blaine Aquifer to the Ouachita Fold Belt and from southern Oklahoma to the Llano Uplift area in Central Texas.

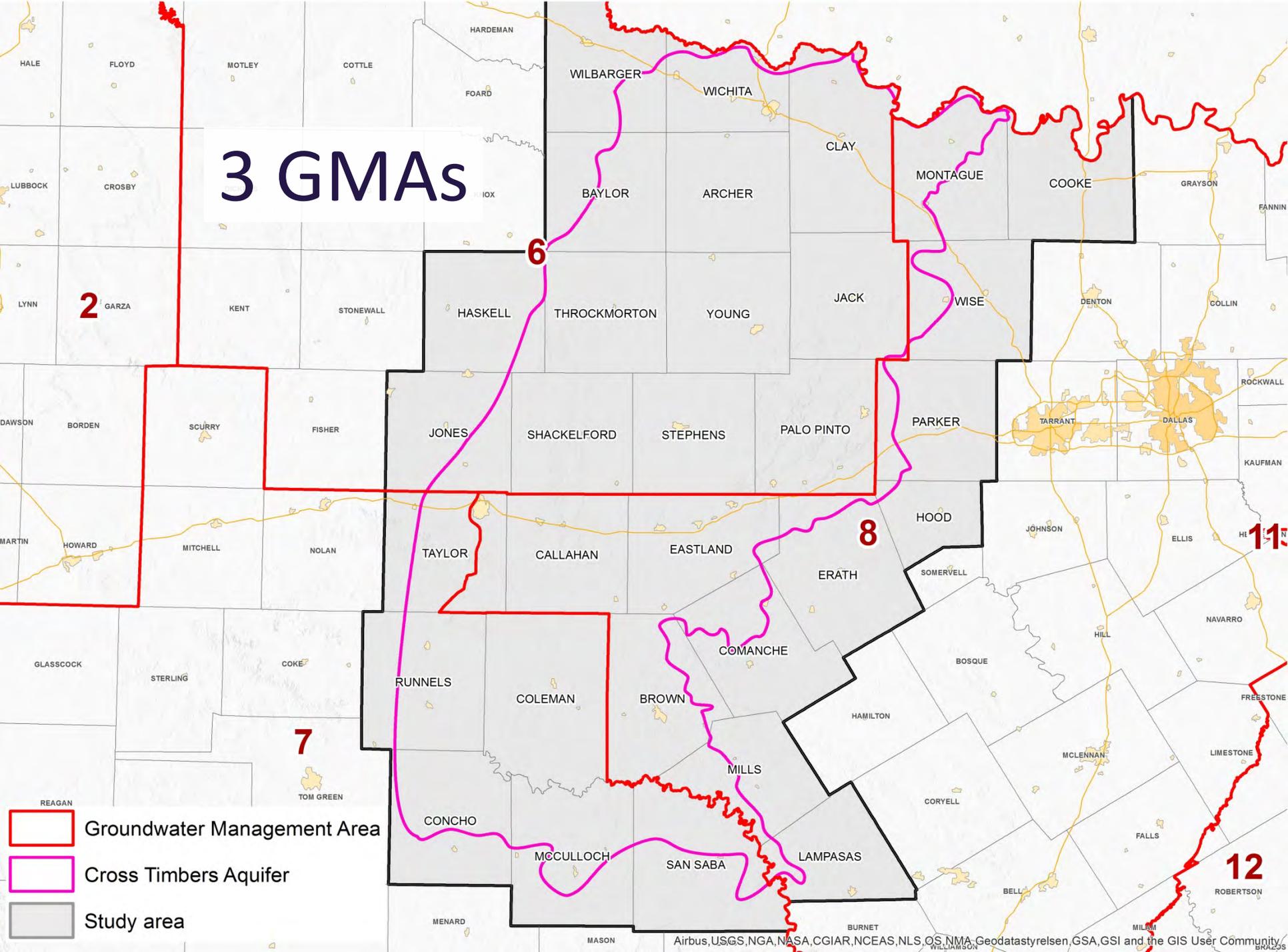




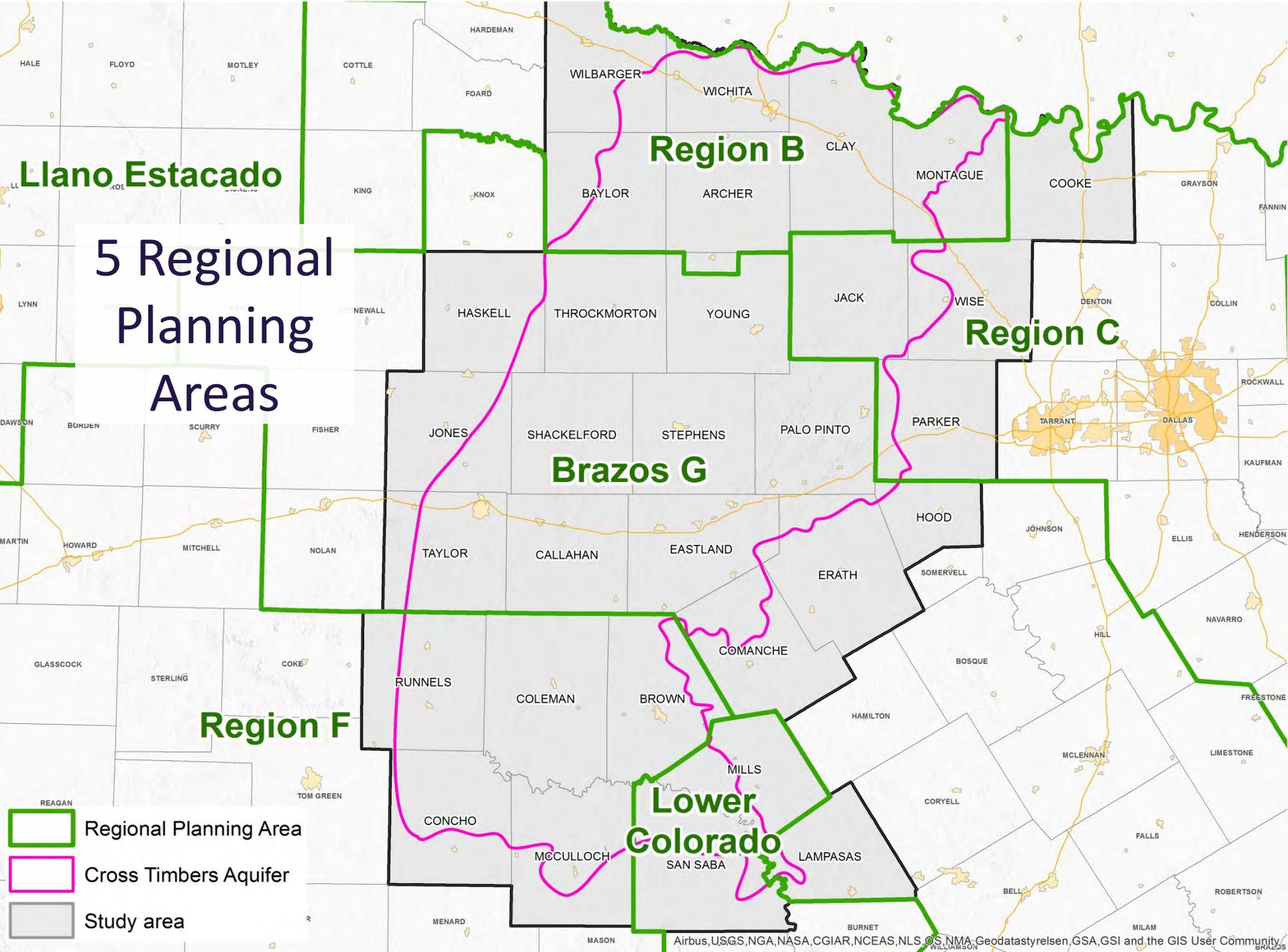
6 GCDs

- Groundwater Conservation District
- Cross Timbers Aquifer
- Study area

3 GMAs



-  Groundwater Management Area
-  Cross Timbers Aquifer
-  Study area



Llano Estacado

**5 Regional
Planning
Areas**

Region B

Region C

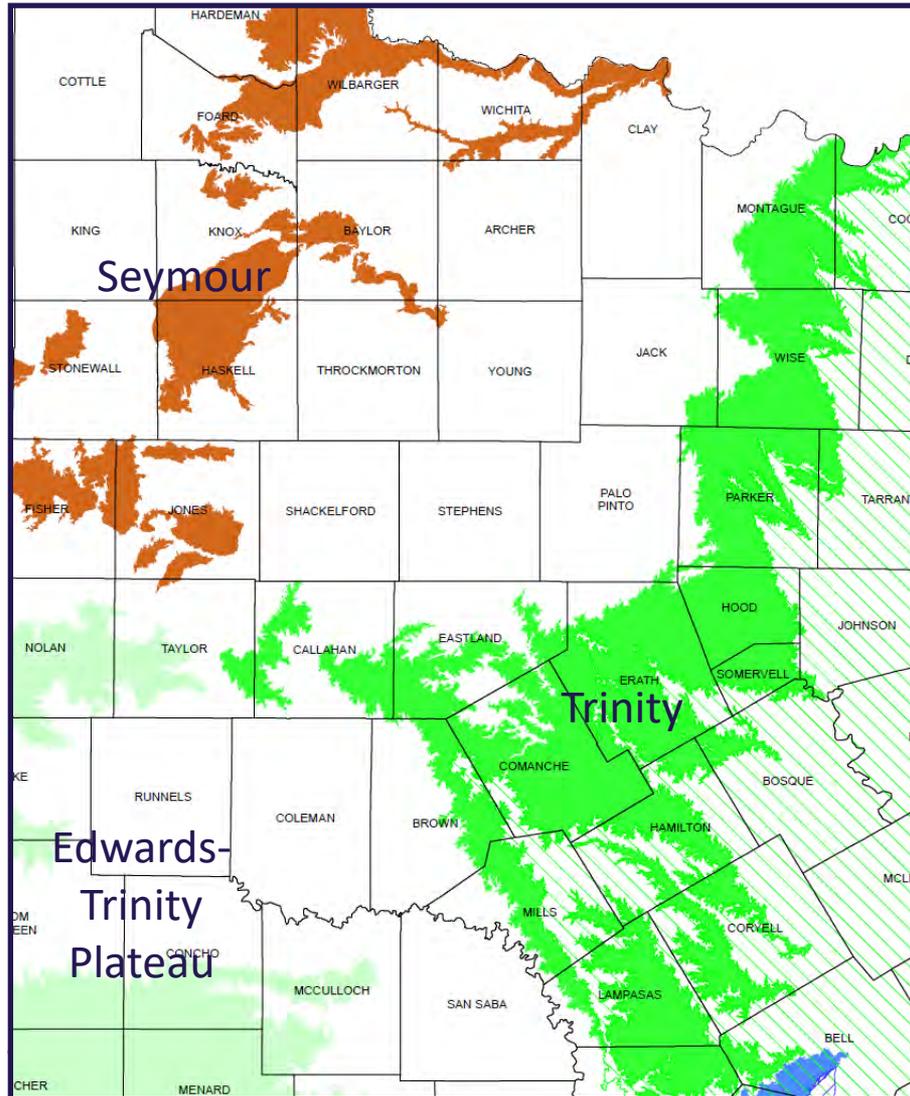
Brazos G

Region F

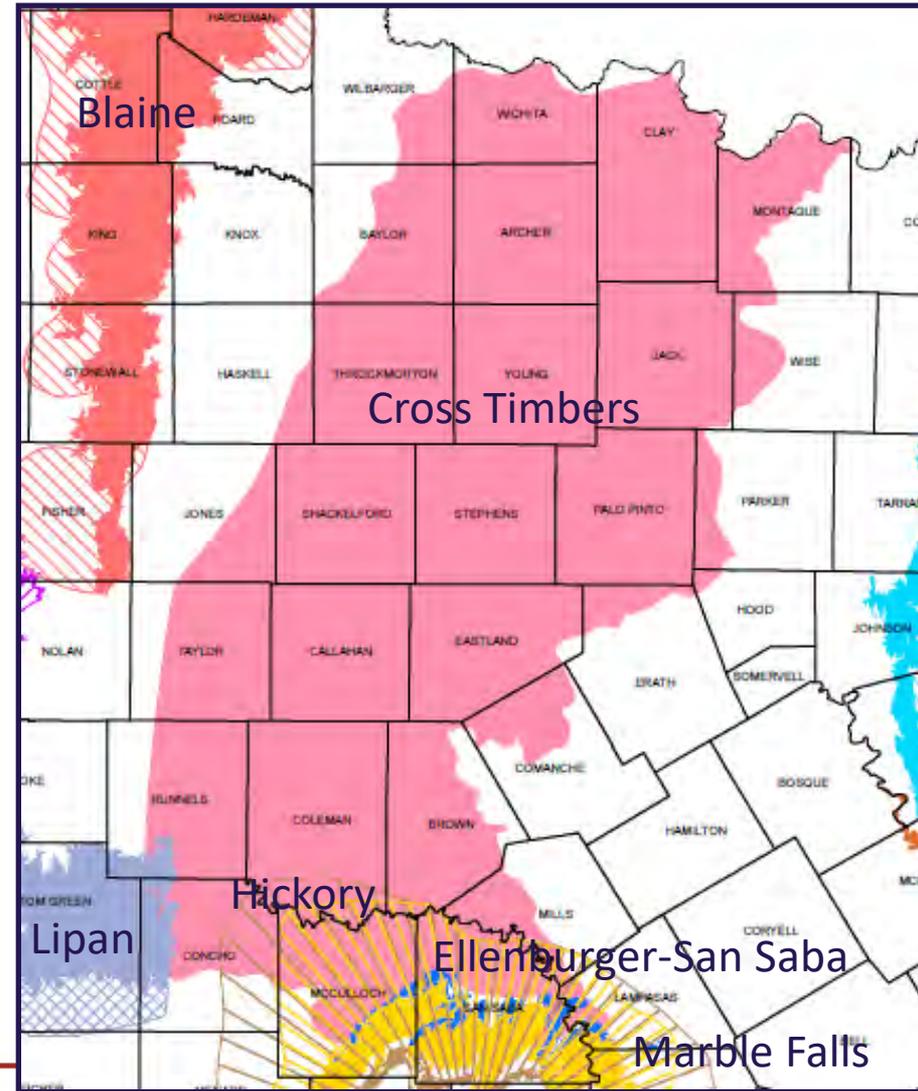
**Lower
Colorado**

- Regional Planning Area
- Cross Timbers Aquifer
- Study area

Major Aquifers



Minor Aquifers



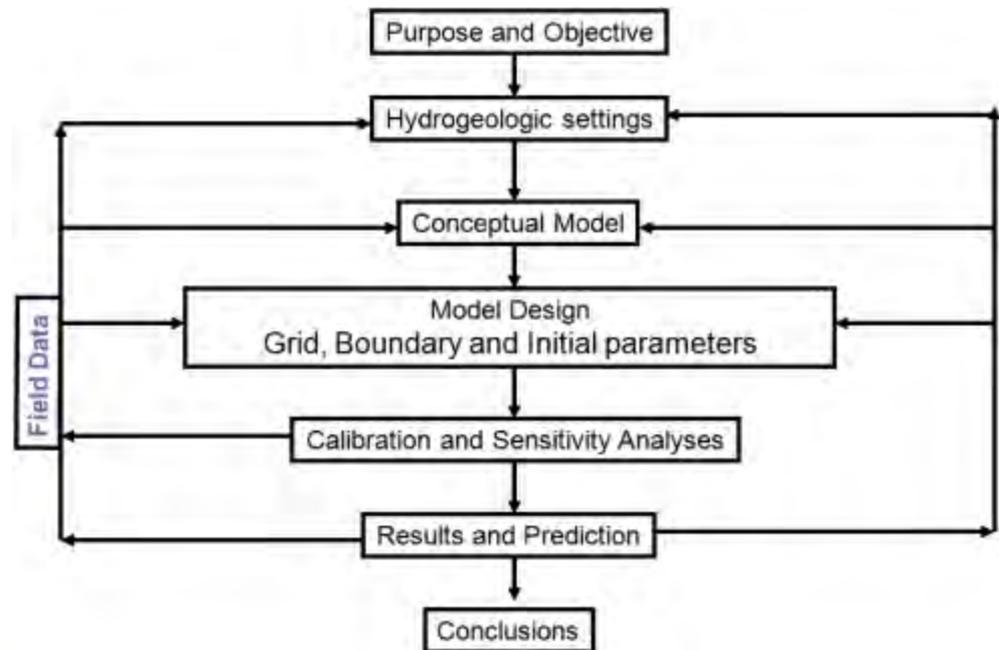
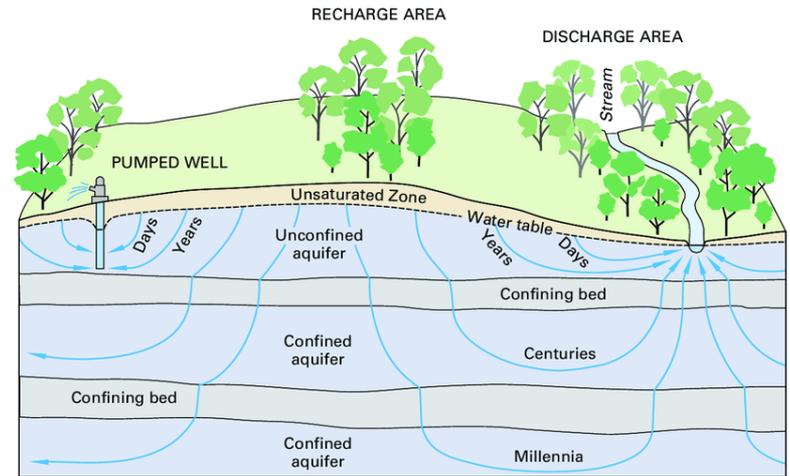
Project Objectives

- Develop a conceptual model of the Cross Timbers Aquifer
 - Describe the best understanding of how groundwater moves through the aquifer system
- Future Goal: Develop numerical groundwater flow model (GAM) of the Cross Timbers Aquifer



Conceptual Model

- Basics of groundwater flow in the aquifer
- Concepts of numerical groundwater flow modeling
- Planned approach for aquifer investigations and conceptual model development
- Expectations of the conceptual model

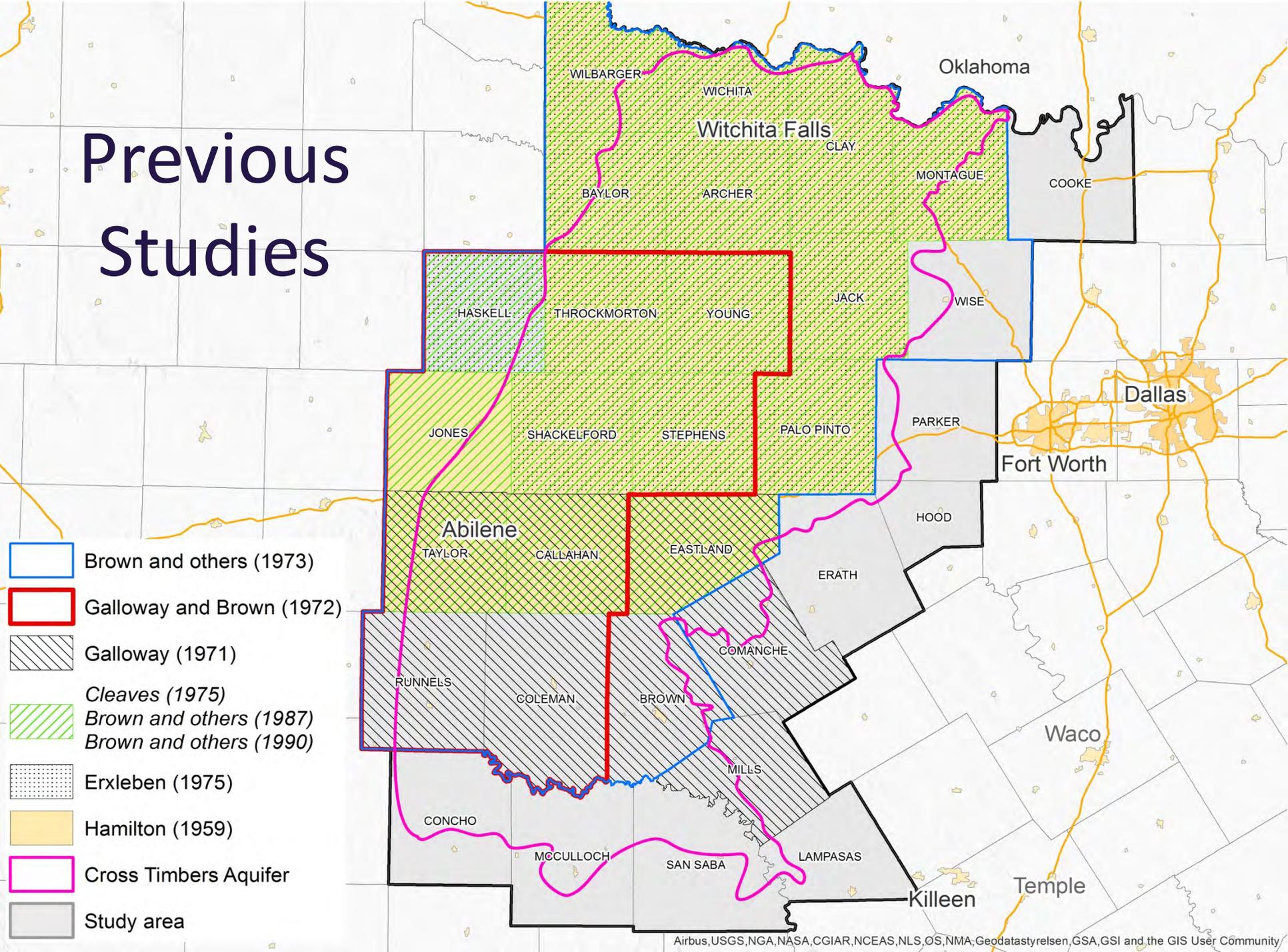


Components of Conceptual Model

1. Physiography and climate
2. Geology
3. Hydrostratigraphy
4. Hydrostratigraphic framework
5. Water levels and regional groundwater flow
6. Recharge
7. Rivers, streams, reservoirs, springs and other surface water features
8. Hydraulic properties
9. Subsidence
10. Discharge
11. Water quality



Previous Studies



- Brown and others (1973)
- Galloway and Brown (1972)
- Galloway (1971)
- Cleaves (1975)*
- Brown and others (1987)*
- Brown and others (1990)*
- Erxleben (1975)
- Hamilton (1959)
- Cross Timbers Aquifer
- Study area

Previous Studies

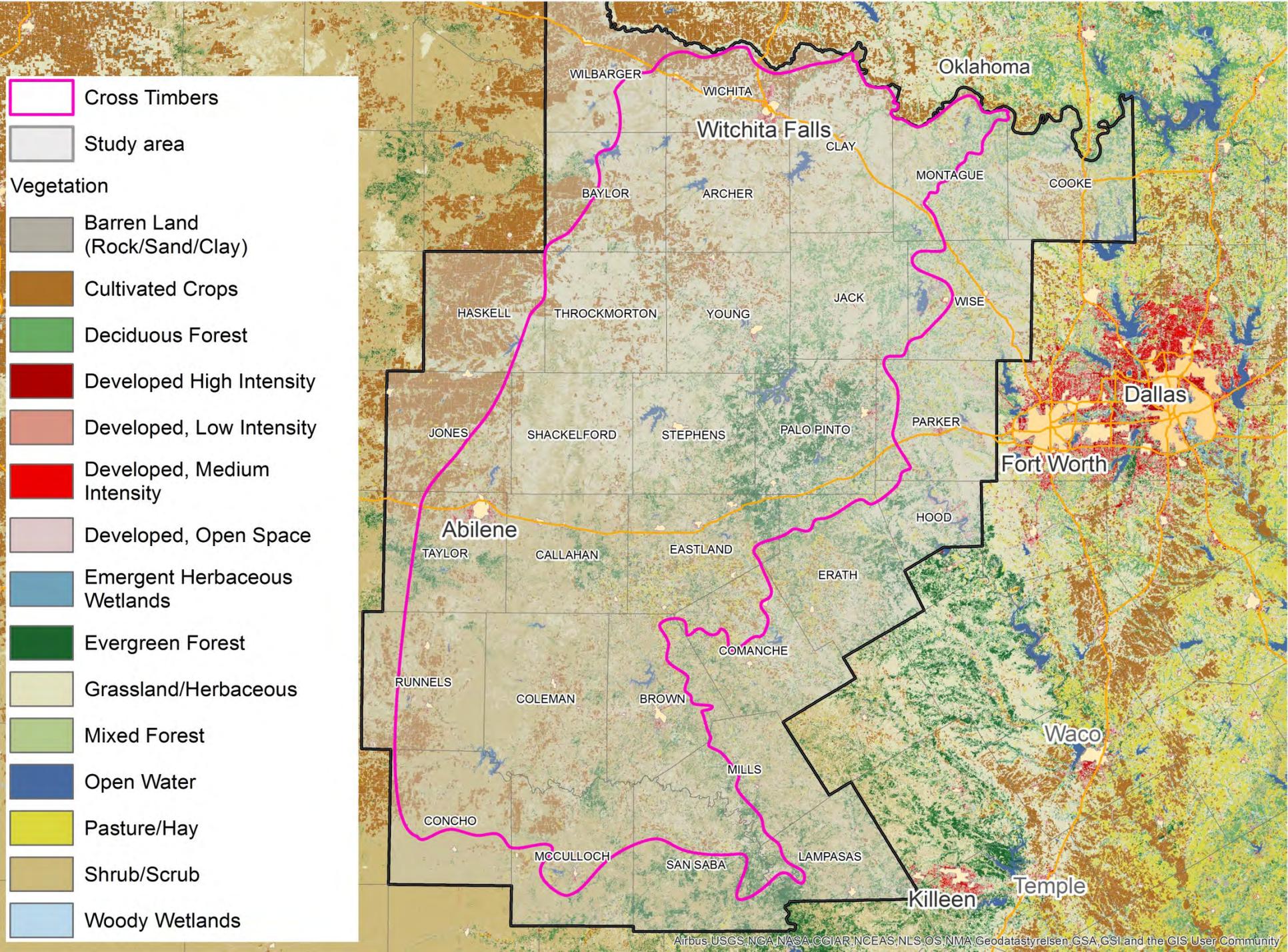
- Oliver and Kelley (2014)
- Nicot and others (2013)
- Brown and others (1990)
- Brown and others (1987)
- Cleaves (1975)
- Erxleben (1975)
- Brown and others (1973)
- Galloway and Brown (1972)
- Galloway (1971)
- Hamilton (1959)



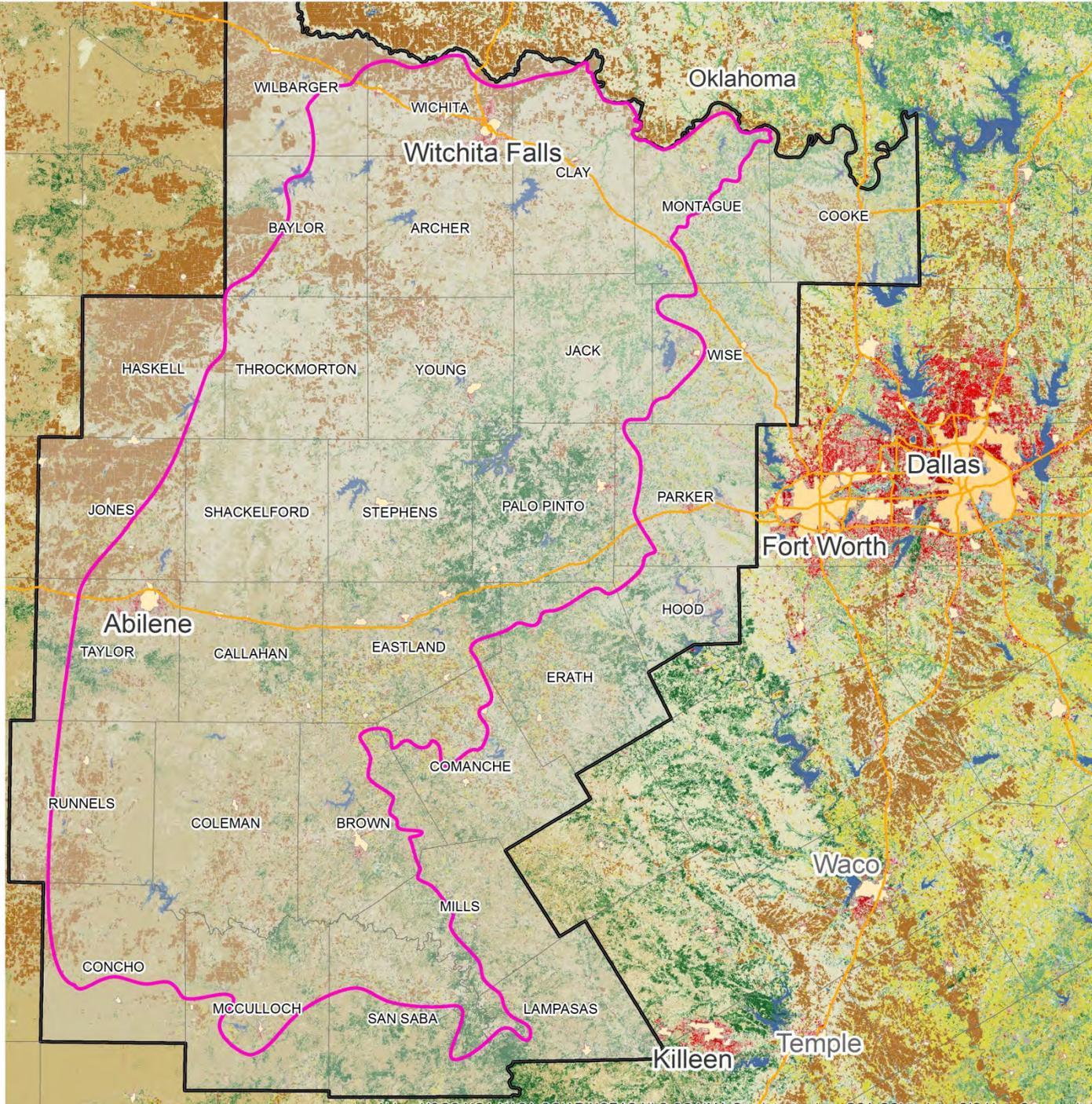
Approach: Physiography and Climate

- Compile, analyze and summarize all available data
- Describe areal extent and topography
- Analyze spatial and temporal variability in
 - temperature
 - precipitation
 - evaporation
- Summarize soil properties and vegetation





- Cross Timbers
- Study area
- Vegetation**
- Barren Land (Rock/Sand/Clay)
- Cultivated Crops
- Deciduous Forest
- Developed High Intensity
- Developed, Low Intensity
- Developed, Medium Intensity
- Developed, Open Space
- Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands
- Evergreen Forest
- Grassland/Herbaceous
- Mixed Forest
- Open Water
- Pasture/Hay
- Shrub/Scrub
- Woody Wetlands

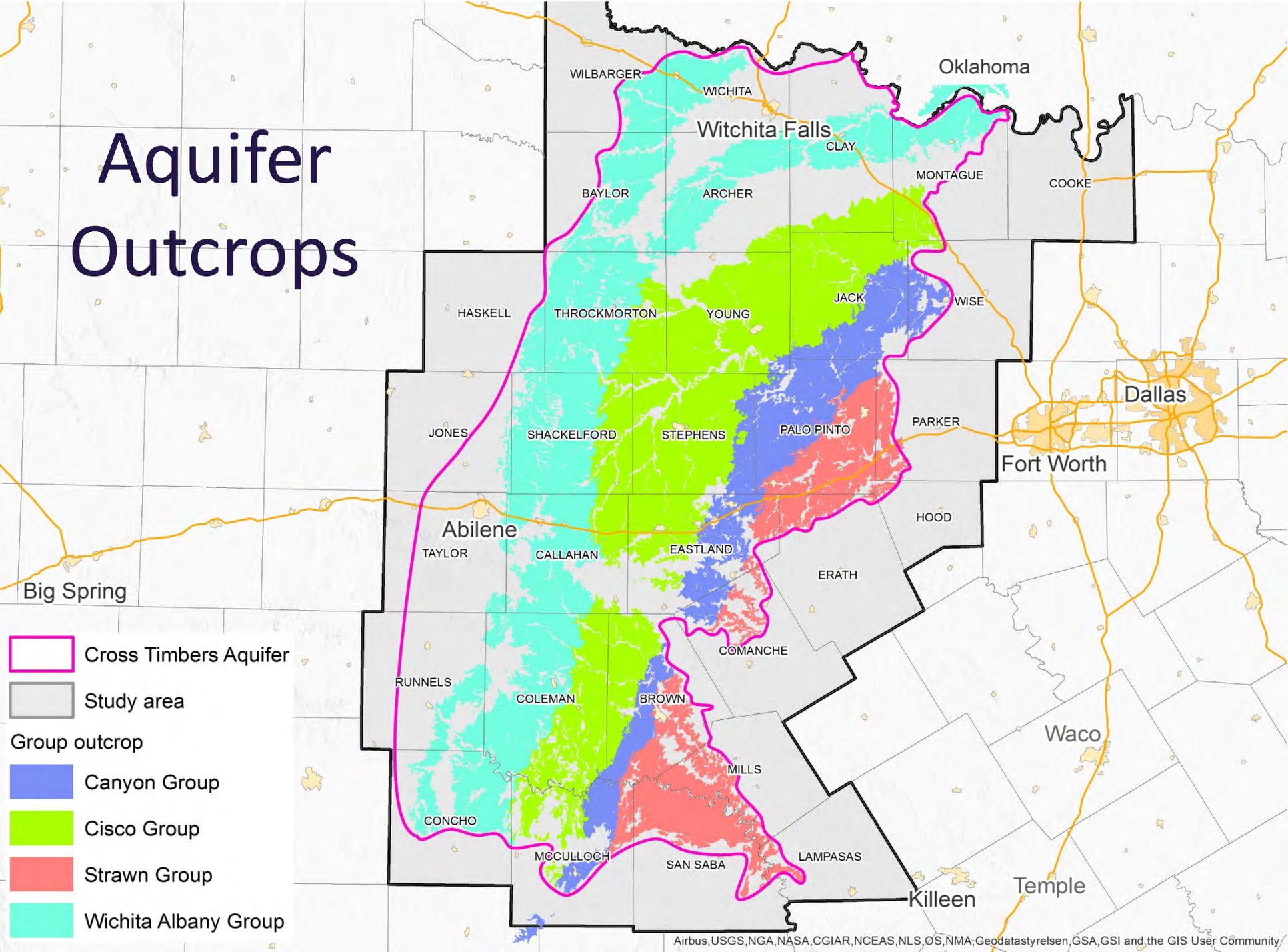


Approach: Geology & Aquifer Extent

- Evaluate geology and aquifer extent
- Recommend boundaries for future GAM

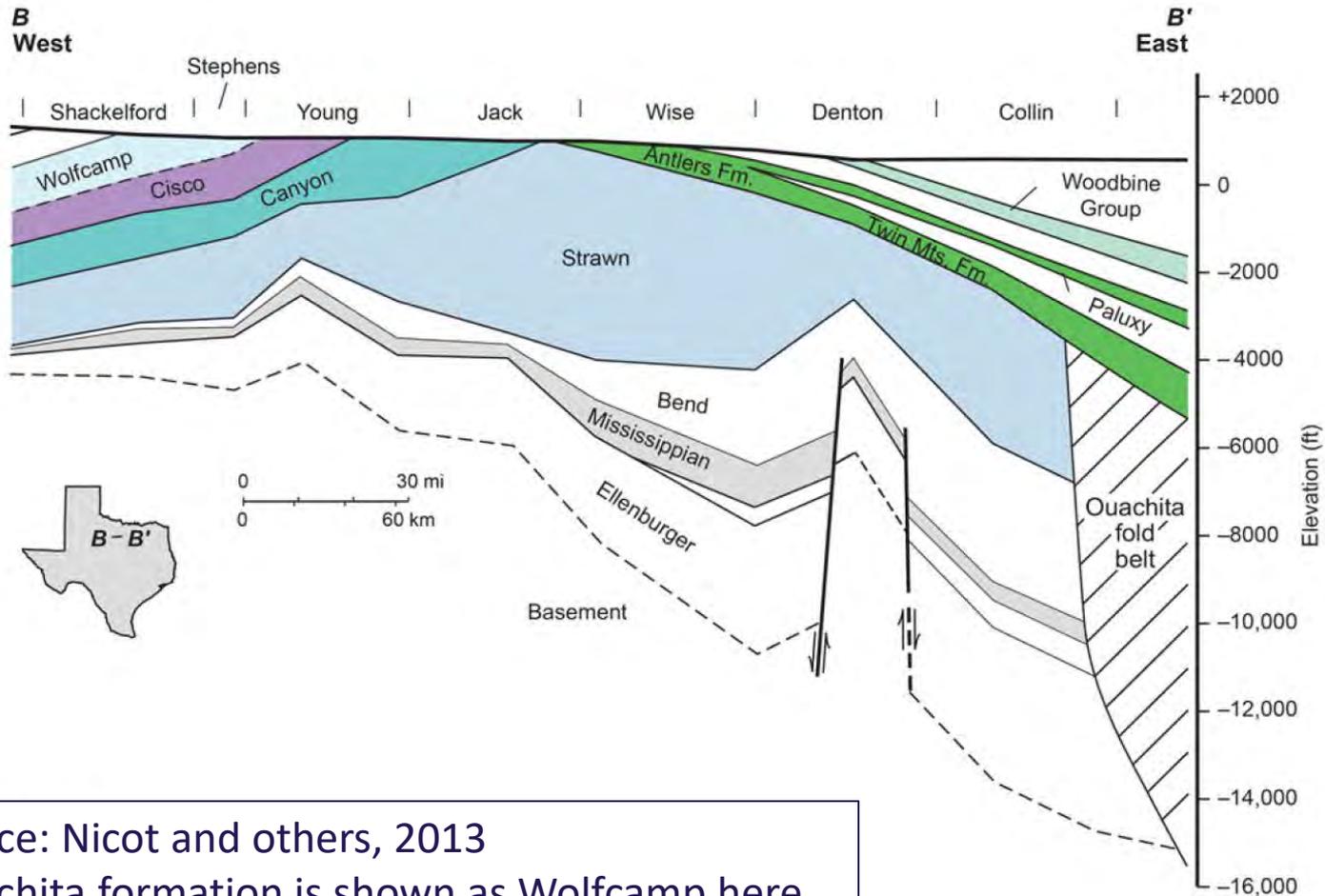


Aquifer Outcrops



-  Cross Timbers Aquifer
-  Study area
- Group outcrop
 -  Canyon Group
 -  Cisco Group
 -  Strawn Group
 -  Wichita Albany Group

Geology

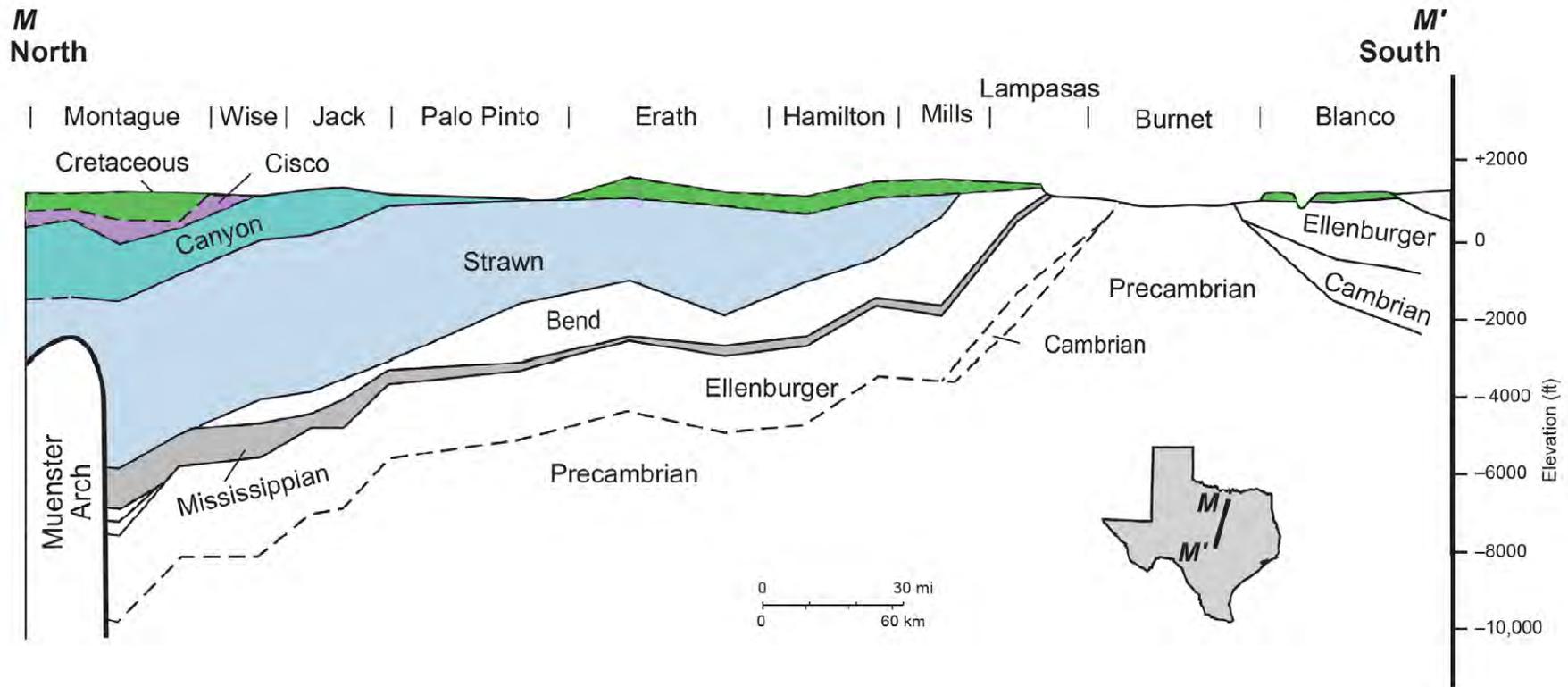


Source: Nicot and others, 2013

* Wichita formation is shown as Wolfcamp here.



Geology



Source: Nicot and others, 2013



Approach: Hydrostratigraphy

- Compile and analyze all available data
- Refine initial stratigraphic column

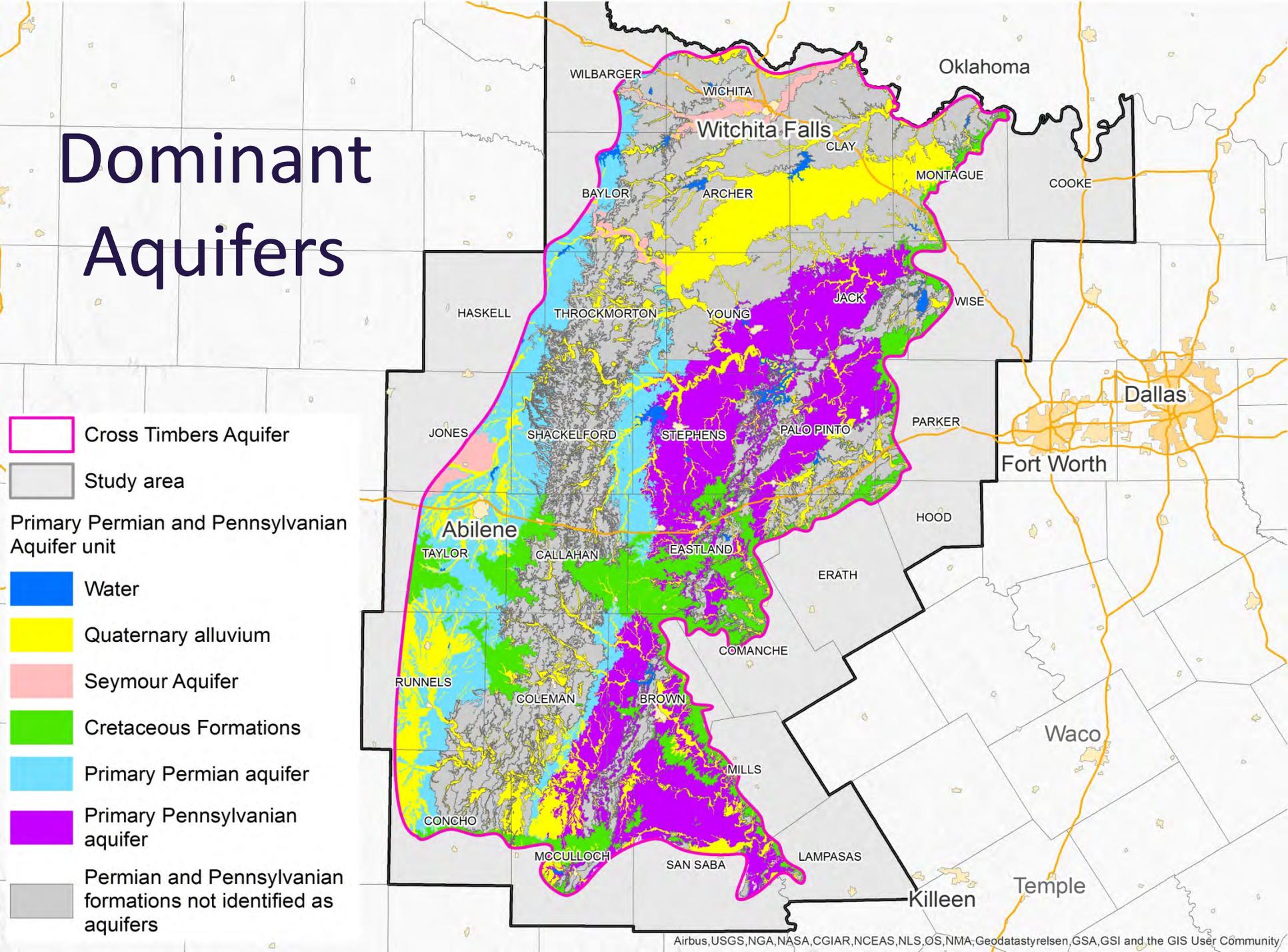


Approach: Hydrostratigraphic Framework

- Develop well database using all available data
- Collect new data well possible (in-kind support)
- Goal: 150 well control points for each county
- Determine model layer surfaces
- Correlate model surfaces across study area
- Extend net sandstone isopachs across study area
- Determine injection intervals from RRC database
- Create net sandstone isopachs for each model layer
- Incorporate all info into 3D hydrostratigraphic model (Leapfrog)



Dominant Aquifers



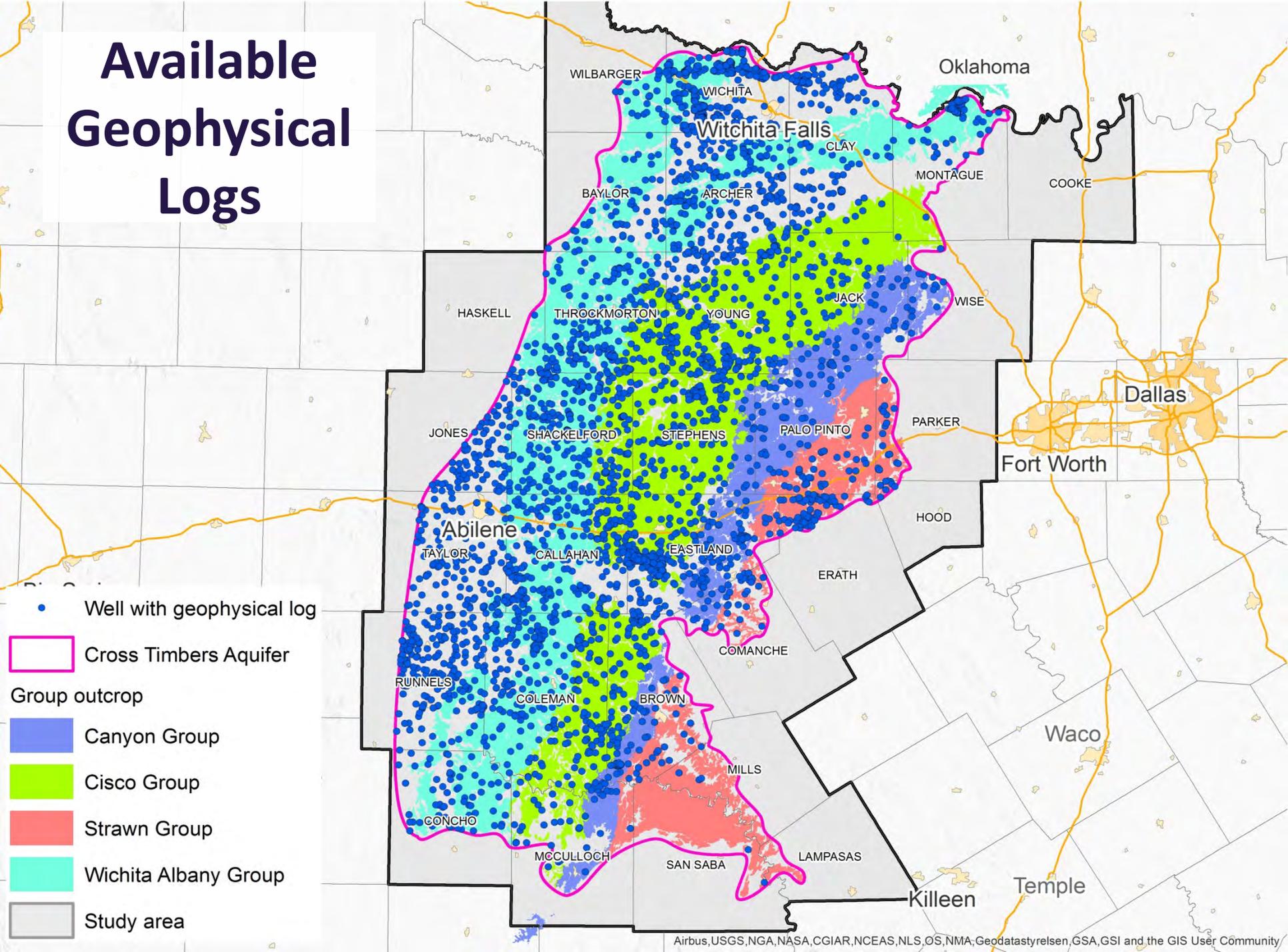
- Cross Timbers Aquifer
- Study area
- Primary Permian and Pennsylvanian Aquifer unit
- Water
- Quaternary alluvium
- Seymour Aquifer
- Cretaceous Formations
- Primary Permian aquifer
- Primary Pennsylvanian aquifer
- Permian and Pennsylvanian formations not identified as aquifers

Preliminary Stratigraphic Column and Model Layers

Era	System	Series	Group	Formation	Member	Sandstone Units	Lithology	Layer		
Cenozoic	Quaternary (1,327)			Leona (20)			Sand, Clay	1		
				Seymour (199)			Sand, Clay			
				Edwards (96)			Limestones			
Mesozoic	Cretaceous (15)			Trinity (721)	Antlers (1,437)		Sand	2		
					Travis Peak (96)		Limestone/Sandstone			
					Twin Mtn (857)		Sandstone/Shale			
					Hosston (17)		Sandstone/Shale			
Paleozoic (441)	Permian (57)	Leonard (12)	Clear Fork (159)	Chota (74)			Limestone	3		
				Vale (46)			Dolomite			
							Sandy Shale			
				Arroyo (77)	Standpipe		Limestone			
					Sprayberry		Silty Shale			
							Limestone			
			Wolf Camp (46)	Whitaker (638)	Luders (161)			Limestone	4	
					Clyde			Limestone/Shale		
					Belle Plains			Limestone		
					Admiral			Mudstone/Shale		
					Putnam			Shale/Limestone		
					Coleman Junction			Limestone		
		Moran								
		Pueblo (74)								
		Virgilian	Elco (697)	Harpersville (63)				Shale/Limestone	5	
				Thrifty (314)	Chaffin		Cook, Upper Hope	Alternating Limestone and Sandstone		
					Parks Mountain					
					Breckenridge			Limestone		
					Speck Mountain					
				Graham (302)	Ivan		Lower Hope; King; Swastika	Alternating Limestone and Sandstone		
					Wayland					
					Gun sight			Limestone		
					Bluff Creek		McMinan	Alternating Limestone and Sandstone		
					Home Creek			Limestone		
			Pennsylvanian	Missourian	Canyon (862)	Caddo Creek				6
		Strawn (208)		Strawn (208)	Mineral Wells (48)		Turkey Creek	Limestone/Sandstone	7	
						Village Bend				Limestone
						Grindstone Creek				Shale/Sandstone
						Lazy Bend				Shale/Sandstone
	Dixoniensis	Lower Strawn	Lower Strawn	Smithwick			Shale/Sandstone	8		
			Burd (Atoka Series)	Marble Falls (61)			Limestone			

Blue = TWDB aquifer # of wells
 Yellow = LS used in correlation, likely not an aquifer

Available Geophysical Logs

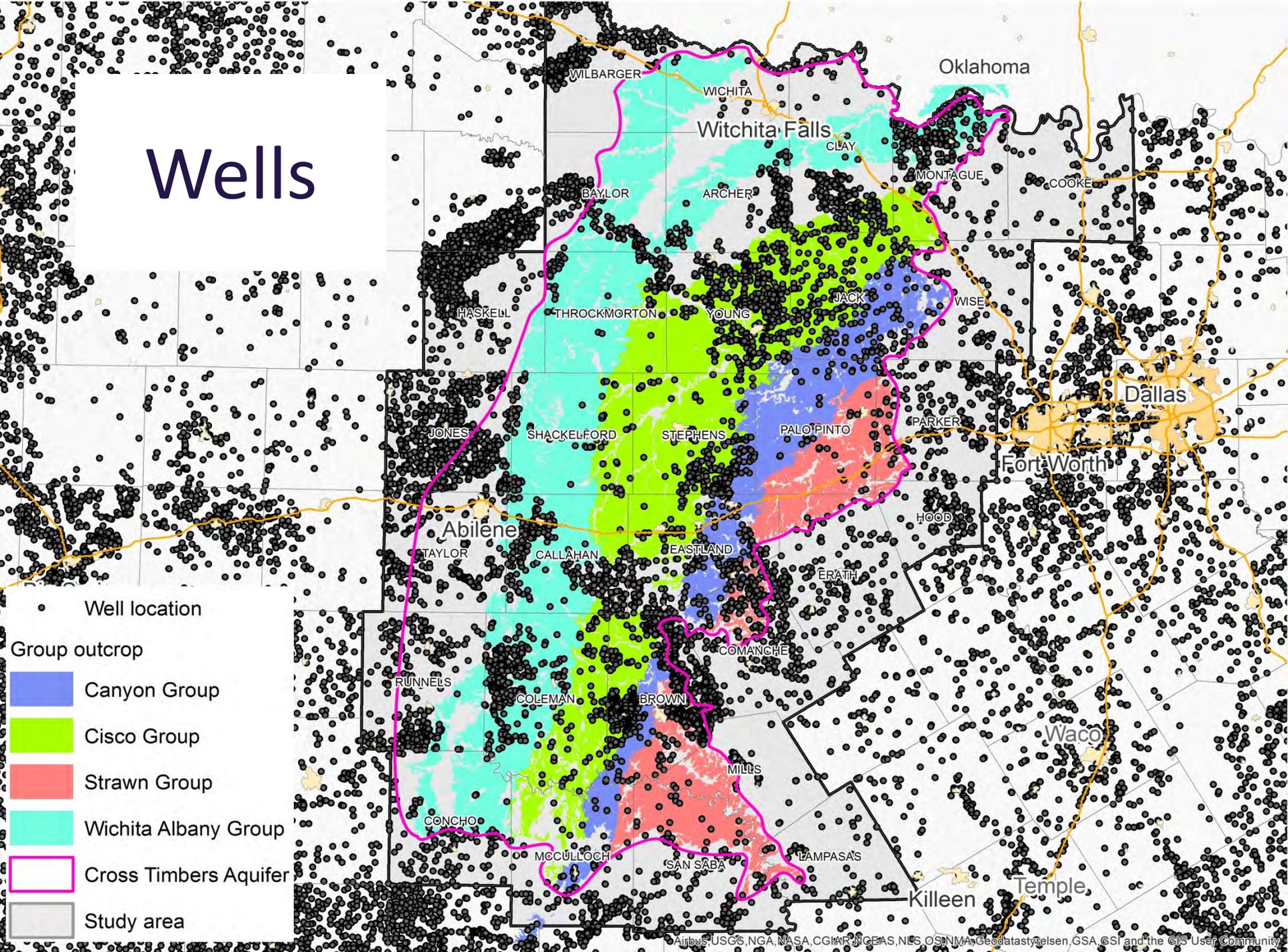


Approach: Water Levels and Regional Flow

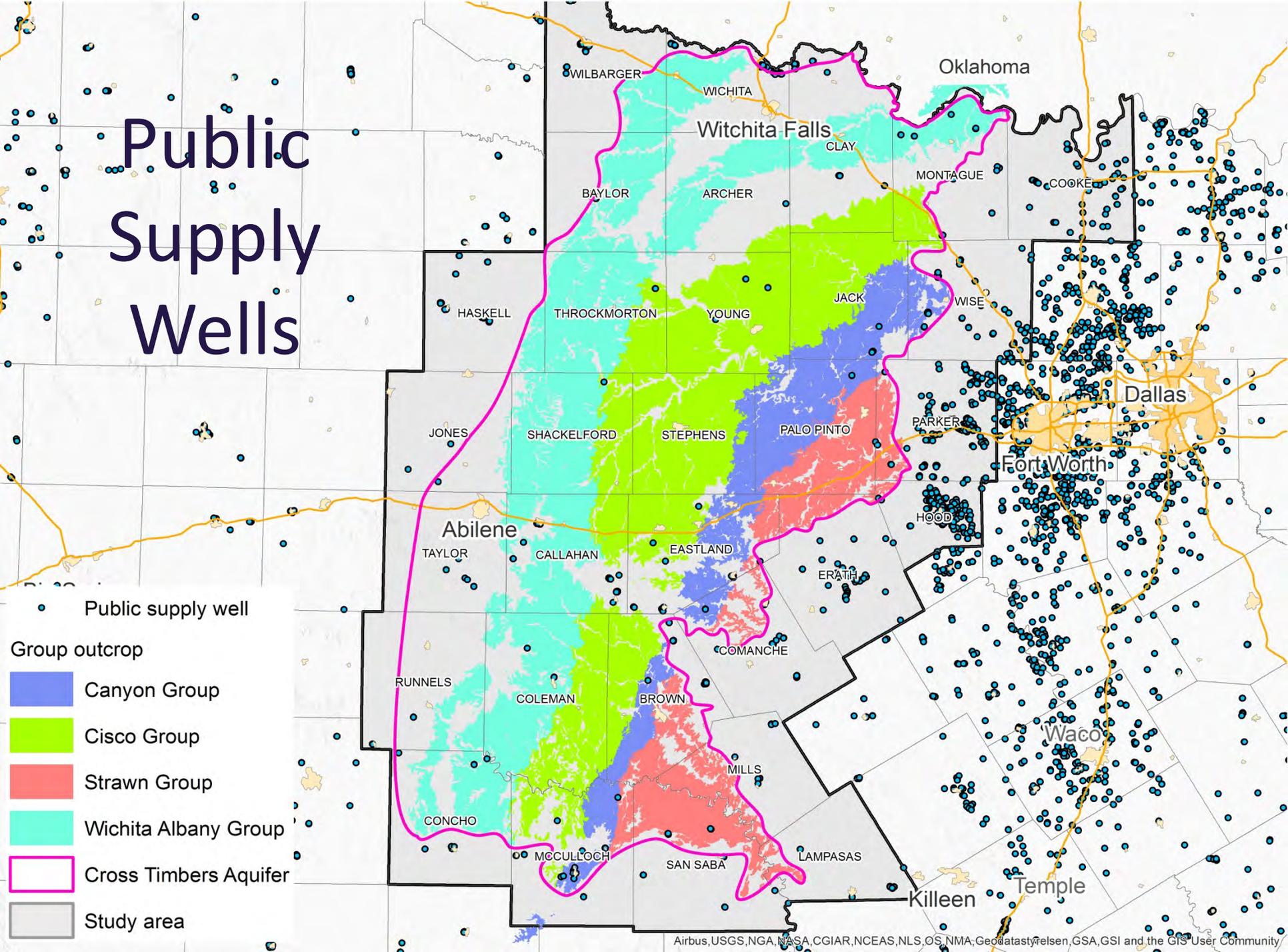
- Compile, analyze, summarize all available data
 - 1950s to present
- Evaluate cross formation flow between
 - overlying aquifers, the Trinity and Seymour
 - underlying Llano Uplift in southern area
 - between Paleozoic units that comprise the aquifer



Wells



Public Supply Wells



Public supply well

Group outcrop

Canyon Group

Cisco Group

Strawn Group

Wichita Albany Group

Cross Timbers Aquifer

Study area

Approach: Recharge

- Compile, analyze, summarize all available data
- Use PRMS-IV (Markstrom and others, 2015) to estimate spatial and temporal distribution of recharge
 - Soil water-balance, distributed parameter model
 - Site-specific climate, topography, geology, soils and vegetation data
 - Daily time step, aggregate into annual values and long term averages
 - Time period depends on data availability

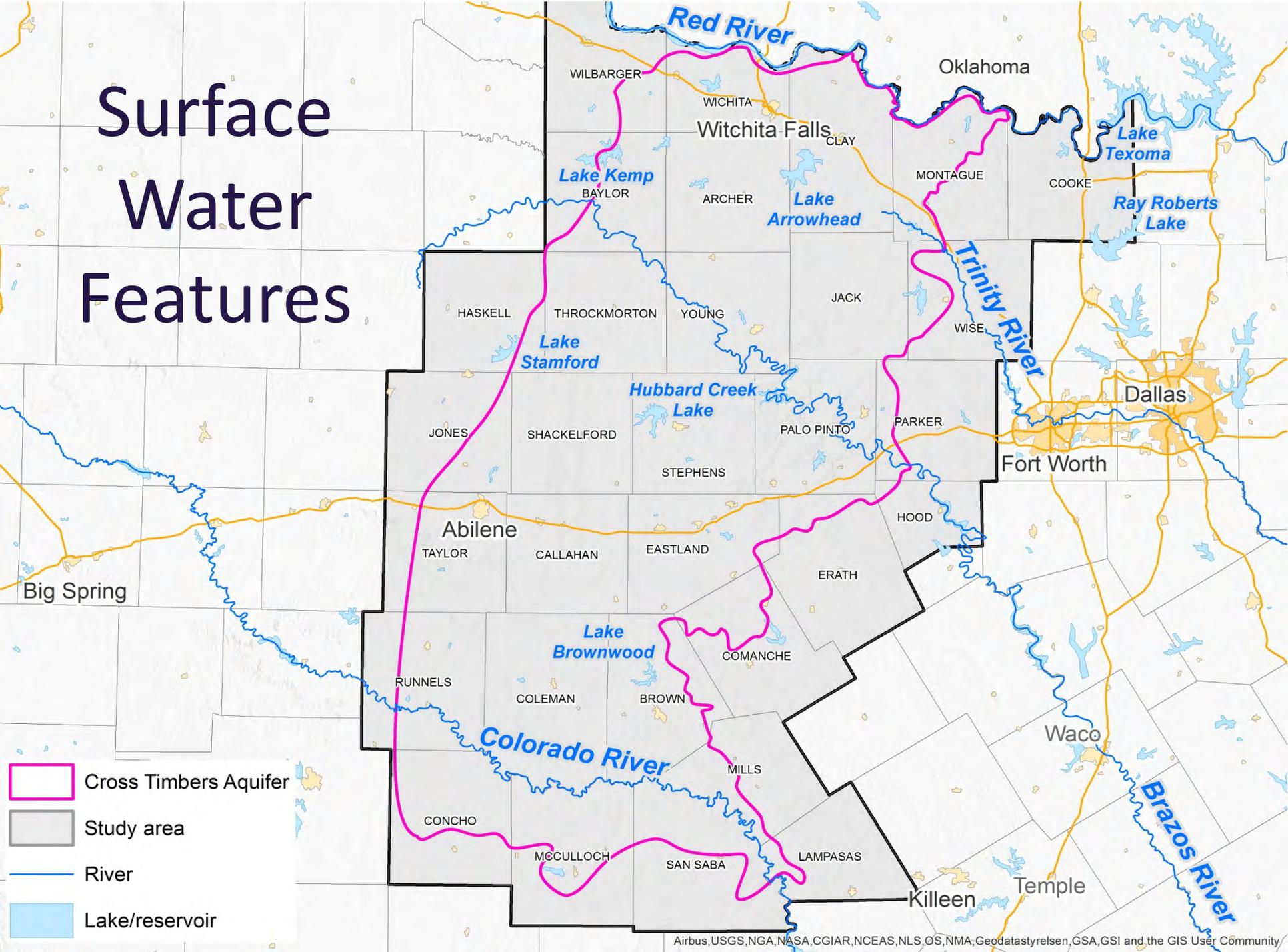


Approach: Rivers, streams, reservoirs, springs and other surface water features

- Compile, analyze, summarize all available data
- Estimate base flow
- Identify gaining and losing stream reaches
- Correlate gaining and losing reaches with aquifer outcrops



Surface Water Features



Approach: Hydraulic Properties

- Compile, analyze, summarize all available data
- Estimate aquifer transmissivity using the Walton (1971) method
 - Need specific capacity tests with pumping rate, duration and drawdown
- Estimate storage coefficients as data allows
 - Need specific capacity tests with monitoring well observations



Approach: Subsidence

- Compile, analyze, summarize all available data
- Likely not issue for Cross Timbers



Approach: Discharge

- Compile, analyze, summarize all available data
- Discharge to springs and evapotranspiration
- Groundwater withdrawals (pumping)
 - USGS and TWDB water use data
 - GCDs
 - Railroad Commission for mining use



Approach: Water Quality

- Compile, analyze, summarize all available data
- About 2,000 wells with basic water quality data
- About 300 wells with metals, radionuclides, or isotopes
- Important for analysis of cross formational movement



Water Quality

Groundwater TDS (mg/L)

- 1 - 1,000
- 1,000 - 3,000
- > 3,000

□ Cross Timbers Aquifer

□ Study area

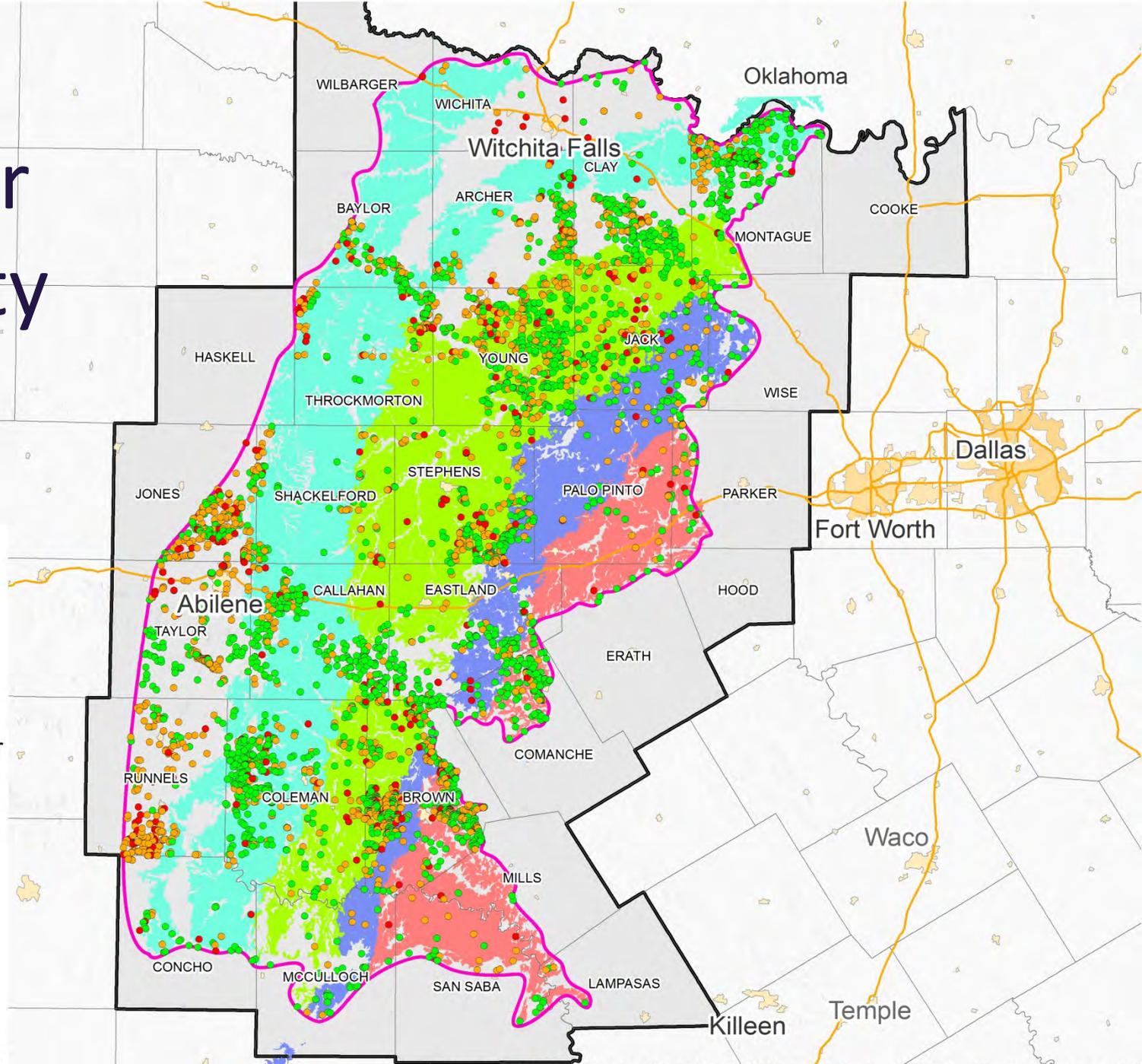
Group outcrop

■ Canyon Group

■ Cisco Group

■ Strawn Group

■ Wichita Albany Group



Expectations

- Build a model
- Compile and analyze all available data
- Document and organize data according to TWDB GAM standards
- On time and on budget



Current Project Schedule

- June 1, 2019 - Start date
- August 6, 2019 - SAF1
- June 1, 2020 - Interim Deliverable
- July 2020 - SAF2*
- March 31, 2021 - Study Completion Date
- April 2021 - SAF3*

**tentative dates*



Data Requests

- Well locations and construction information
- Geophysical logs
- Water level data
- Production data (water use information)
- Aquifer test data
- Deadline: October 2019



Contact Info

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

Robert Bradley, P.G.

TWDB

robert.bradley@twdb.texas.gov

512-936-0870

Cindy Ridgeway, P.G.

TWDB

cindy.ridgeway@twdb.texas.gov

512-936-2386

Neil Blandford, P.G.

DBS&A

nblandford@geo-logic.com

505-822-9400

Stephanie J. Moore, P.G.

DBS&A

smoore@geo-logic.com

512-651-6013

Allan Standen, P.G.

Allan R. Standen, LLC

astanden@att.net

512-731-6242

Velma Danielson

Blanton & Associates

velma.danielson@blantonassociates.com

210-854-9374





Thank you!

Cross Timbers Aquifer Conceptual Model
Stakeholder Advisory Forum #1
August 6, 2019



DBS&A
Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc.
a Geo-Logic Company



Blanton & Associates, Inc.
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING • PLANNING • PROJECT MANAGEMENT



Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc.

Attachment 3

Handouts



Groundwater



Groundwater Availability Modeling

Groundwater, along with surface water, is important for maintaining the viability of the state's natural resources, health, and economic development. The projected 70 percent increase of the state's population by the year 2070, coupled with the constant threat of drought, makes it imperative that Texas develop effective plans to meet future water needs. Effective planning, however, requires accurate assessments of the availability of water, and accessing the availability of groundwater is often much more difficult than assessing that of surface water. Surface water is easily observed at the land surface, and the response of rivers and lakes to rainfall can be repeatedly measured over time. Groundwater is more difficult to observe and measure because it resides below the land surface and responds to rainfall much more slowly than rivers and lakes do. Aquifer systems are complex due to flows into and out of the aquifer, the interaction between surface water and groundwater, and the uncertainty of aquifer properties.

Because of this complexity, computer models are excellent tools for assessing the effect of groundwater use on groundwater availability. Groundwater availability modeling is the process of developing and using computer programs to estimate future trends in the amount of water available in an aquifer and is based on hydrogeologic principles, actual aquifer measurements, and guidance from persons with interest in the models and the program.

What is the goal of the program?

Recognizing the importance of accurate groundwater availability estimates, the 76th Texas Legislature approved initial funding for the Groundwater Availability Modeling Program in 1999. The program's goal is to provide useful and timely information for determining groundwater availability for the citizens of Texas. The Groundwater Availability Modeling Program produces standardized, thoroughly documented, and publicly available groundwater models. These models are important tools for groundwater conservation districts and regional water planning groups in evaluating water management strategies and assessing present and future groundwater availability trends under normal and drought conditions.

Are other groups involved in the program?

Stakeholder involvement is critical to the success of the program. The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) relies on stakeholders

participating in stakeholder advisory forums to voice concerns and provide information. Stakeholder input ensures the models address the important water resource issues for each aquifer represented in the models. The forums typically consist of representatives from groundwater conservation districts, regional water planning groups, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Texas Department of Agriculture, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, industry, water utilities, higher education, agriculture, and private landowners.

What information does a groundwater availability model include?

Groundwater availability models include comprehensive information on each aquifer, such as recharge (amount of water entering the aquifer); geology and how that conveys into the framework of the model; rivers, lakes, and springs; water levels; aquifer properties; and pumping. Each model is calibrated to ensure that the models can reasonably reproduce past water levels and groundwater flows.

How many models have been developed for the major aquifers?

The nine major aquifers in Texas currently require 16 different models to provide full coverage. The TWDB developed four of the models: (1) the Hill Country segment of the Trinity Aquifer, (2) the northern segment of the Edwards Aquifer, (3) the southern part of the Gulf Coast Aquifer, and (4) the Edwards-Trinity (Plateau) and Pecos Valley aquifers. TWDB contractors have developed six of the current models: (5) the High Plains Aquifer System (originally two models: the northern and southern parts of the Ogallala Aquifer); the (6) northern, (7) central, and (8) southern parts of the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer; (9) the Seymour Aquifer; and (10) the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer. Groundwater conservation districts in Groundwater Management 8 funded the update of (11) the northern segment of the Trinity Aquifer (originally developed by a TWDB-contractor team). The TWDB and a contractor developed a model of (12) the central Gulf Coast Aquifer. The Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District and the Harris-Galveston and Fort Bend Subsidence Districts funded a project for the U.S. Geological Survey to update the original model of (13) the northern part of the Gulf Coast Aquifer. The U.S. Geological Survey in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Defense and the Edwards

Aquifer Authority developed a model for (14) the San Antonio segment of the Edwards Aquifer. El Paso Water Utilities and the U.S. Geological Survey supported the development of models for the (15) Mesilla and (16) Hueco Bolsons aquifers.

How are the models being used?

Completed models have already proven valuable to water planning. Statute requires groundwater conservation districts and regional water planning groups to use values of total pumping and modeled available groundwater, based on the desired future conditions of relevant aquifers located within 16 groundwater management areas, in their management and regional water plans. Groundwater availability models have been and will continue to be used to estimate the modeled available groundwater for each aquifer for each groundwater conservation district, as appropriate and applicable.

Will the models be updated?

The success of the Groundwater Availability Modeling Program depends on the continued interest and support of stakeholders and the Texas Legislature. Ongoing interest is vital to ensure that the most up-to-date model information will be available to address groundwater resource issues for each aquifer. Continued

funding is required to update existing models and develop models for the minor aquifers. The original models for the major aquifers, representing 95 percent of groundwater used in Texas, were completed by October 1, 2004. Nearly all of these models have undergone updates as new data and improved modeling techniques have been made available.

Information and reports on the existing models are available to the public on the TWDB's website, and the currently completed models are available upon request via a download from Amazon Drive.

Where may I get more information?

Please contact Larry French at (512) 463-5067 or Cindy Ridgeway at (512) 936-2386 or visit www.twdb.com/groundwater/availability for more information about the Groundwater Availability Modeling Program.



The Role of Modeled Available Groundwater in Regional Water Planning

What is modeled available groundwater?

Groundwater is regulated locally by groundwater conservation districts except in locations that do not have a district. Districts may issue permits that regulate pumping of groundwater and spacing of wells within their jurisdictions. Multiple districts within a single groundwater management area determine the desired future conditions of relevant aquifers within that area. (Desired future conditions are the desired, quantified conditions of groundwater resources, such as water levels, water quality, spring flows, or volumes, at a specified time or times in the future or in perpetuity.) TWDB staff then translate those desired future conditions into modeled available groundwater values using the groundwater availability models (or other approaches if a groundwater availability model is not applicable). A modeled available groundwater value is the amount of groundwater production, on an average annual basis, that will achieve a desired future condition. The desired future condition in a specific location may not be achieved if pumping quantities exceed the modeled available groundwater volume over a long term.

How are modeled available groundwater volumes used in the regional water plans?

Regional water plans consider the volume of groundwater that is anticipated to be actually pumped during a drought in any planning decade. Texas Water Code requires that regional water plans be "consistent with the desired future conditions..." (Texas Water Code Section 16.053(e)(2-a)). Water planning rules require that regional water planning groups "shall use Modeled Available Groundwater volumes for groundwater availability" unless there is no modeled available groundwater volume (Title 31 Texas Administrative Code Section 357.32(d)).

Regional water planning requirements do mean that

- the regional water planning process focuses on anticipated pumping volumes in each planning decade rather than on permit volumes;
- the total anticipated pumping volume in any planning decade may not exceed the modeled available groundwater volume in any county-aquifer location (total pumping volume includes the quantities both from existing water supplies and from any recommended water management strategies);
- planning groups may not recommend water management strategy supply volumes that result in exceeding (e.g., "overdrafting") the modeled available groundwater volumes; and
- in the absence of specific information about how groundwater will be managed to meet desired future conditions in a particular location, planning groups may have to develop their own planning basis for allocating the modeled available groundwater volume to complete their regional water plans. The allocation of groundwater may impact the identified water needs and/or the strategy options available to meet needs.

Regional water planning requirements do not mean that

- planning groups may modify groundwater permits that districts have already issued or limit future permits that districts may issue;
- districts must consider whether a project is in an adopted regional water plan when determining whether to issue a groundwater permit; or
- planning groups may modify the desired future conditions (or modeled available groundwater volume) within their planning area through the regional water planning process¹.

Only districts in groundwater management areas can modify desired future conditions.

¹ Per Rule 357.32, if no groundwater conservation district exists within a region, for example the northeast Texas region, then the region may determine the availability of groundwater for planning purposes if it is physically compatible with the desired future condition. If there is a groundwater conservation district in the region, then the region can request a modeled available groundwater (MAG) peak factor (greater than 100 percent of the MAG) in any aquifer-region-county-basin split if it does not prevent the groundwater conservation district from achieving the associated desired future condition.

**SUMMARY: DEVELOPING A CONCEPTUAL MODEL FOR
THE CROSS TIMBERS AQUIFER**

OVERVIEW

The team of Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc. (DBS&A), Allan R. Standen LLC, and Blanton & Associates, Inc. (the DBS&A Team) was retained by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to develop a conceptual model for the Cross Timbers Aquifer (the Project). The conceptual model will be used at a later date to develop a groundwater availability model (GAM) of this aquifer.

PROJECT SUMMARY

By statute, the TWDB is required to develop numerical groundwater flow models of the major and minor aquifers in Texas. The Cross Timbers Aquifer was designated as a new minor aquifer in December 2017. The aquifer consists of four Paleozoic-age water-bearing formations including, from oldest to youngest, the Strawn, Canyon, Cisco, and Wichita groups. The aquifer is primarily composed of limestones, shales, and sandstones.

As a precursor to developing the GAM, the DBS&A Team will develop the conceptual model for the Cross Timbers Aquifer to describe the best understanding of how groundwater moves through the aquifer system. To develop this conceptual model, the DBS&A Team will compile and analyze data related to physiography and climate, geology and aquifer extent, hydrostratigraphy, hydrostratigraphic framework, water levels and regional groundwater flow, recharge, rivers, streams, reservoirs, springs and other surface water features, hydraulic properties, discharge, and water quality in the study area. The DBS&A Team will also collect, analyze, and interpret available data related to the Cross Timbers Aquifer including possible flows between the overlying Trinity and Seymour aquifers and underlying geologic units, and flows between the Paleozoic units that comprise the aquifer. The DBS&A Team will also investigate and recommend an appropriate boundary for the future GAM.

The Project study area extends from the eastern edge of the Blaine Aquifer to the Ouachita Fold Belt and from southern Oklahoma to the Llano Uplift area in Central Texas (See **Figure 1**). Data analysis will include predevelopment to at least 2015 or more recent times.

Stakeholder Participation

As part of the process to develop the conceptual model, the DBS&A Team will request input and information from the public and private sector including regional water planning groups, groundwater conservation districts, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Department of Agriculture, water utilities, educational groups, agricultural interests, environmental interests, private landowners, industry, and groundwater consultants.

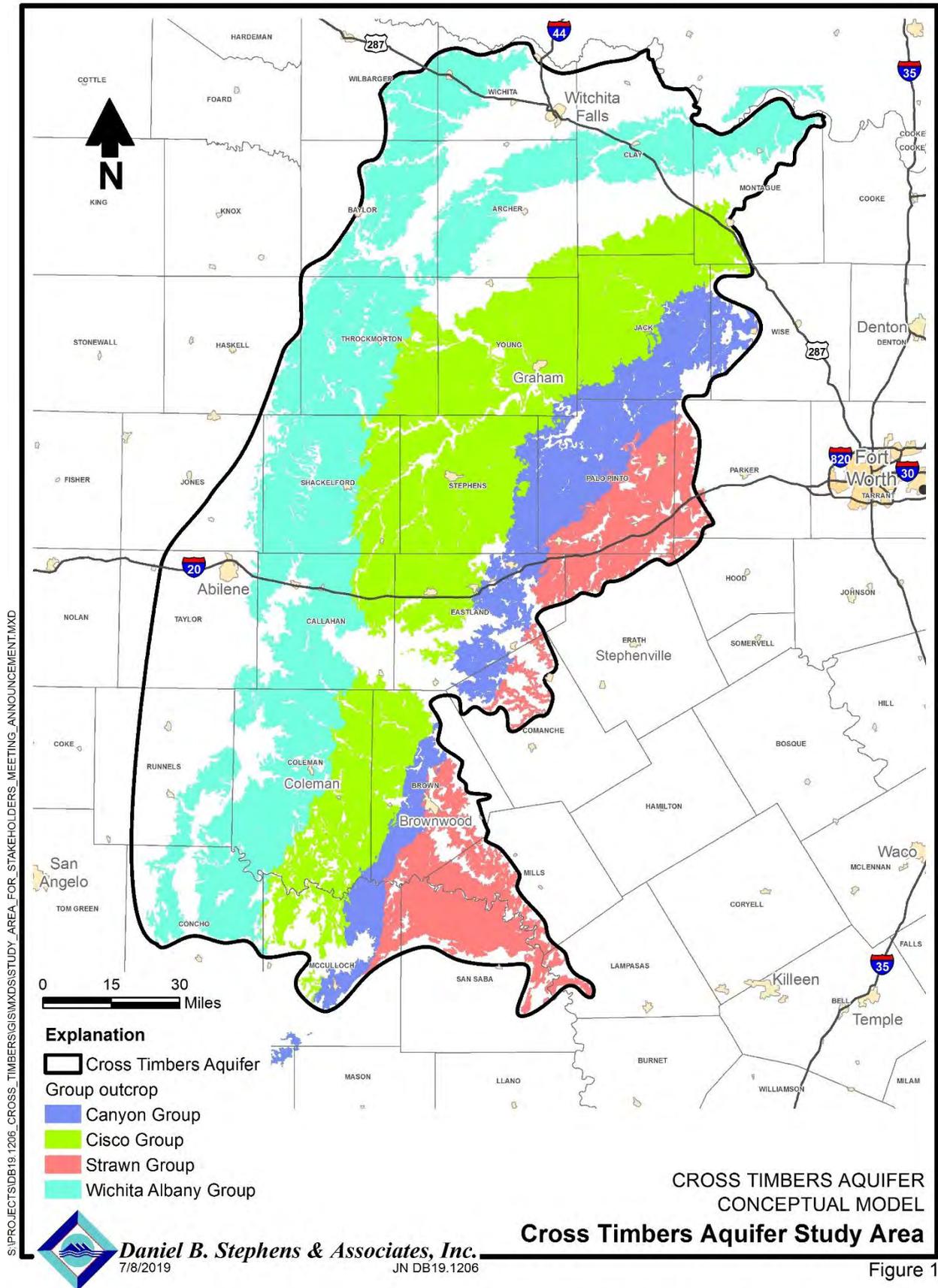


Figure 1

Three stakeholder advisory forums are planned for the Project:

- The first one will be held when the Project is initiated (August 2019);
- The second one will be held approximately mid-way through the project (summer 2020);
- The third one will be held after the DBS&A Team submits its final draft deliverables to the TWDB (March 2021).

All three forums are open to the public.

PROJECT PERIOD

The DBS&A Team began work on the Project in June 2019, and are scheduled to complete work by March 2021, when the team submits its final report to the TWDB.

PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions about this project should be directed to the following team members:

- DBS&A Team Project Manager, Mr. Neil Blandford, Principal Hydrologist/Senior Vice President, DBS&A, at nblandford@geo-logic.com or at (505) 822-9400
- Ms. Stephanie J. Moore, Senior Hydrologist, DBS&A, at smoore@geo-logic.com or (512) 651-6013
- Ms. Velma R. Danielson, Senior Project Manager, Blanton & Associates., Inc. at velma.danielson@blantonassociates.com or at (210) 854-9374.

More information is also available from the TWDB's project's primary contact, Mr. Robert Bradley, at robert.bradley@twdb.texas.gov or (512) 936-0870.

Era	System	Series	Group	Formation	Member	Sandstone Units	Lithology	Layer		
Cenozoic	Quaternary (1,327)						Sand, Clay	1		
				Leona (20)			Sand, Clay			
				Seymour (199)			Sand, Clay			
Mesozoic	Cretaceous (15)			Edwards (56)			Limestones	2		
				Trinity (721)	Antlers (1,437)				Sand	
					Travis Peak (96)				Limestone/Sandstone	
					Twin Mtn (857)				Sandstone/Shale	
			Hosston (17)			Sandstone/Shale				
Paleozoic (141)	Permian (57)	Leonard (12)	Clear Fork (159)	Choza (74)			Limestone	3		
				Vale (46)	Bullwagon		Dolomite			
				Arroyo (77)	Standpipe		Limestone			
					Sprayberry		Silty Shale			
							Limestone			
				Wolf Camp (46)	Wichita (619)	Leuders (161)				Limestone
		Clyde	Dean				Limestone/Shale			
		Belle Plains					Limestone			
		Admiral					Mudstone/Shale			
		Putnam					Shale/Limestone			
		Coleman Junction				Sedwick; Dothan; Camp Colorado; Stockwether; L. Stockwether; Saddle Creek; Flippen		Limestone		
		Moran					Moutray; Upper Frye; Lower Frye; Tannehill; Bluff Creek	Alternating Limestone and Sandstone		
		Pueblo (74)								
		Pennsylvanian	Virgilian	Cisco (697)	Harpersville (63)			Shale/Limestone	5	
					Thrifty (314)	Chaffin		Cook; Upper Hope		Alternating Limestone and Sandstone
						Parks Mountain				
	Breckenridge						Limestone			
	Graham (302)				Speck Mountain		Lower Hope; King; Swastika	Alternating Limestone and Sandstone		
					Ivan					
					Wayland					
					Gunsight		Limestone			
					Bluff Creek		McMinan	Alternating Limestone and Sandstone		
	Missourian				Canyon (262)	Caddo Creek	Home Creek			Limestone
			Brad	Colony Creek (189)			Shale			
				*Ranger			Limestone			
				Placid (60)			Shale			
			Winchell	Wolf Mountain			Sandstone/Shale			
				Grafford		Cedarton		Shale		
						Adams Branch		Limestone		
			Brownwood				Shale			
			Palo Pinto (62)	Wiles, Wynn			Limestone/Shale			
			Desmoinesian	Strawn (208)		Mineral Wells (48)	Dog Bend	Turkey Creek	Limestone/Sandstone	8
Village Bend					Limestone					
Millsap Lake	Grindstone Creek				Shale/Sandstone					
	Lazy Bend				Shale/Sandstone					
Bend (Atoka Series)	Smithwick		Shale/Sandstone							
	Marble Falls (61)		Limestone							

Blue = TWDB aquifer # of wells
 Yellow = LS used in correlation, likely not an aquifer