

# Water for Texas

## The Texas Natural Resources Information System

The Texas Natural Resources Information System (TNRIS) is the state clearinghouse and referral center for geographic data, aerial photographs, and natural resources, census, emergency management, and socioeconomic data for Texas. Housed within the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), TNRIS is a member of the Texas Geographic Information Council, which comprises more than 40 state agencies and other entities.

TNRIS consists of the following activity areas:

### **Texas Strategic Mapping Program**

Staff members coordinate a statewide cost-share project to produce large-scale, standardized digital base map information documenting land features, such as soils, elevation, geology, and hydrography, and manmade features, including political boundaries and roadways. The program produces authoritative data for use by state agencies and the public. These data are maintained and developed according to national and international standards for geographic content and formats.

The Texas Strategic Mapping program promotes shared data and produces all of its data for use in the public domain. Common uses of the data include hydrologic modeling, vegetation analysis, transportation routing, land use planning and management, environmental assessment and monitoring, crime analysis, homeland security evaluations, economic development assessment and planning, and business applications.

### **Research and Distribution Center**

Center staff provides direct access to the extensive map and data archive and assists agencies and the public.

Frequently requested data include U.S. Geological Survey maps in both paper and digital form, historical and current aerial photographs, county grid maps, Federal Emergency Management Agency flood insurance rate maps, National Wetlands

Inventory maps, county soil surveys, geologic atlases, census maps, and a variety of TWDB water publications. The Research and Distribution Center provides “ready reference” assistance in locating related data or information provided through other agencies. The center also provides assistance in accessing data and training for anyone interested in using TNRIS data for work or research.

### **Information Services**

Staff provides data services and Web-based geographic information tools for agencies and the public. Geographic information technology specialists organize and disseminate digital data products through network (ftp) access, Web services, and Internet mapping tools.

### **Texas/Mexico Borderlands Information Center**

Center staff provides assistance in locating data and information focused on 60 miles on either side of the Texas-Mexico border. Products currently available for Texas include maps, aerial photographs, weather and water data, census data, and geographic information system files. Mexico data include topographic, geologic, soil, and other maps. Staff can acquire data for Texas and Mexico, in addition to providing contacts with Mexican data providers.

### **Floodplain Mapping**

The floodplain mapping group provides technical support for data and mapping of floodplains. This effort includes collecting high-resolution elevation data, as well as identifying low water crossings and high water marks and other features that affect floods. Staff members also provide guidance and assistance for the review of floodplain studies

and models used in the Federal Emergency Management Agency floodplain maps.

**High-Priority Imagery and Datasets (Statewide contract for acquisition of geographic data)**

This contract provides the state with a group of qualified commercial data providers who supply digital geographic data. The contract is available to state agencies and any other governmental entity in Texas. The High-Priority Imagery and Datasets contract has streamlined traditional state purchasing. The contract requires state agency coordination for large-scale data purchases, resulting in the pooling of funds for volume purchasing to avoid duplication.

For more information, contact:

Texas Natural Resources Information System

(512) 463-8337

Fax (512) 463-7274

<http://www.tnris.texas.gov>.