

Zebra Mussels in North Texas

Situation Report



David Briton, PhD
Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator
Southwest Region, USFWS



History



- April 2009 – first zebra mussel found in Lake Texoma
- July 2009 – North Texas Municipal Water District stopped pumping water through an interbasin pipeline
 - Source: Red River Basin (Lake Texoma)
 - Destination: Trinity River Basin (Lake Lavon via Sister Grove Creek)
- August 2009 – Two zebra mussels found in Sister Grove Creek (USGS)

History

- May - August 2010 – Additional zebra mussels found in Sister Grove Creek



History

- October 2010 – Texas Parks & Wildlife Department treated Sister Grove Creek with Potassium Chloride
 - USFWS contributed a small portion to the cost



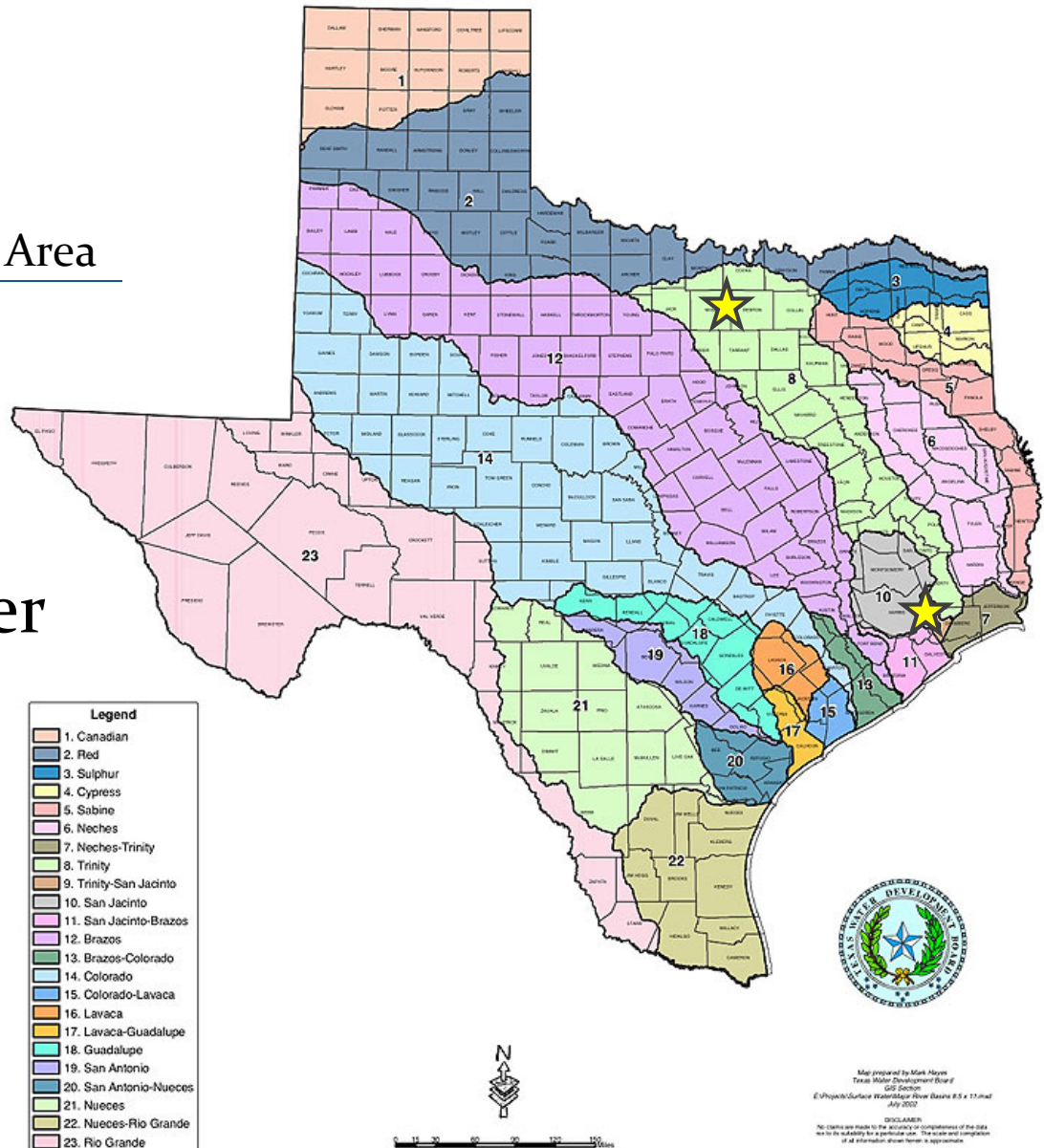
Population

6,371,773 – DFW Metroplex

5,946,800 – Houston Metro Area

12,318,573

12.3 million is a larger
population than
44 of our states.





Water Transfers in North Texas

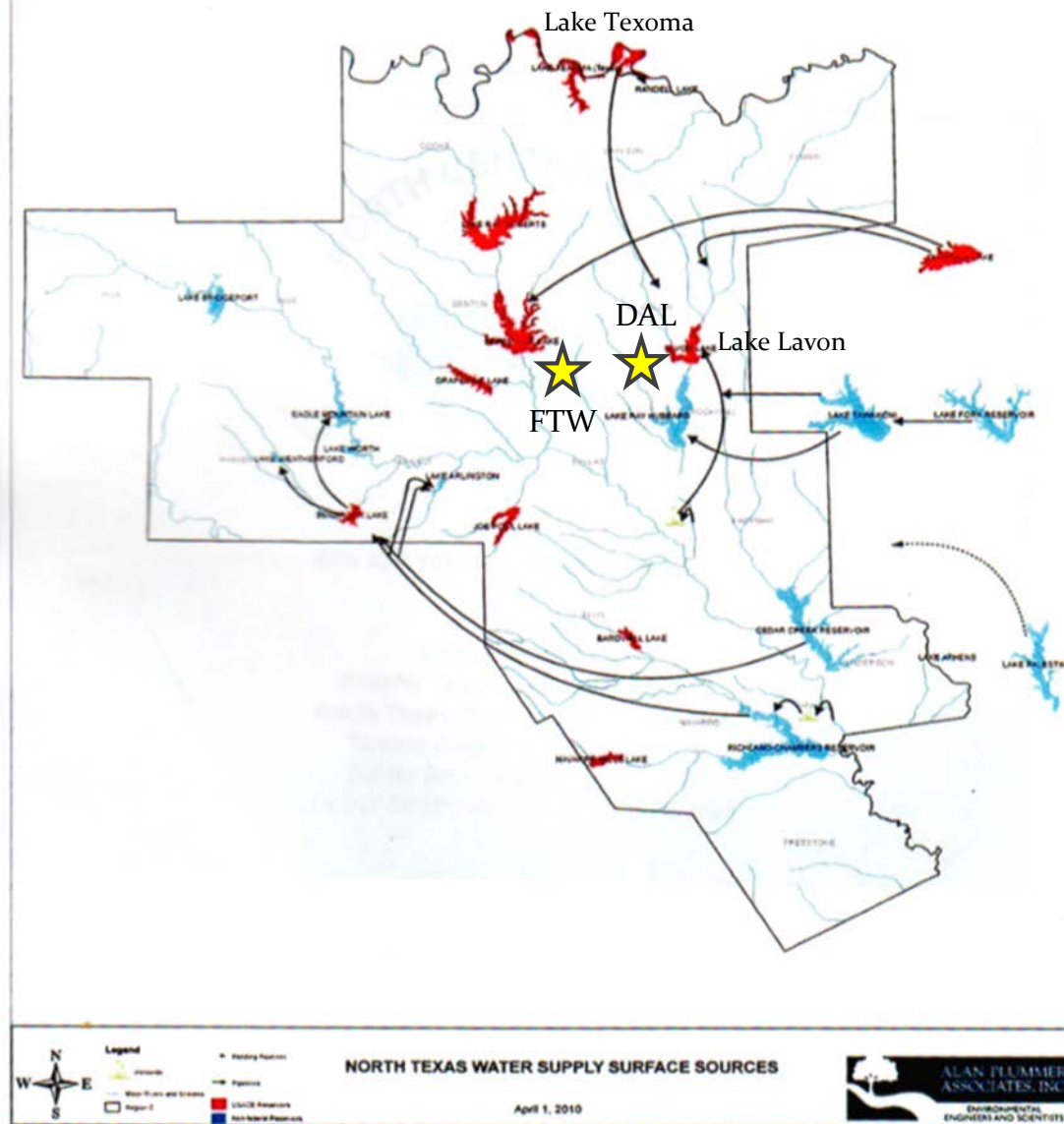
Oklahoma

Lake Texoma

DAL

Lake Lavon

FTW



Current Status

- February 2011 – US Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District, suspended the DA permit to transfer water from Lake Texoma into the Trinity Basin
- August 2011 – NTMWD submitted a proposal to USACE to resume pumping water into the Trinity River Basin
 - Pipeline would be cleaned first
 - Pumping would only occur when larvae are least likely to be present
- October 2011 – Pipeline remains closed, awaiting USACE Authorization

Considerations

- Executive Order 13112
 - “Each Federal agency whose actions may affect the status of invasive species shall... not authorize, fund, or carry out actions that it believes are likely to cause or promote the introduction or spread of invasive species in the United States or elsewhere unless, pursuant to guidelines that it has prescribed, the agency has determined and made public its determination that the benefits of such actions clearly outweigh the potential harm caused by invasive species; and that all feasible and prudent measures to minimize risk of harm will be taken in conjunction with the actions.”

Texoma Area Boundary Agreement
July 28, 2000

Texas

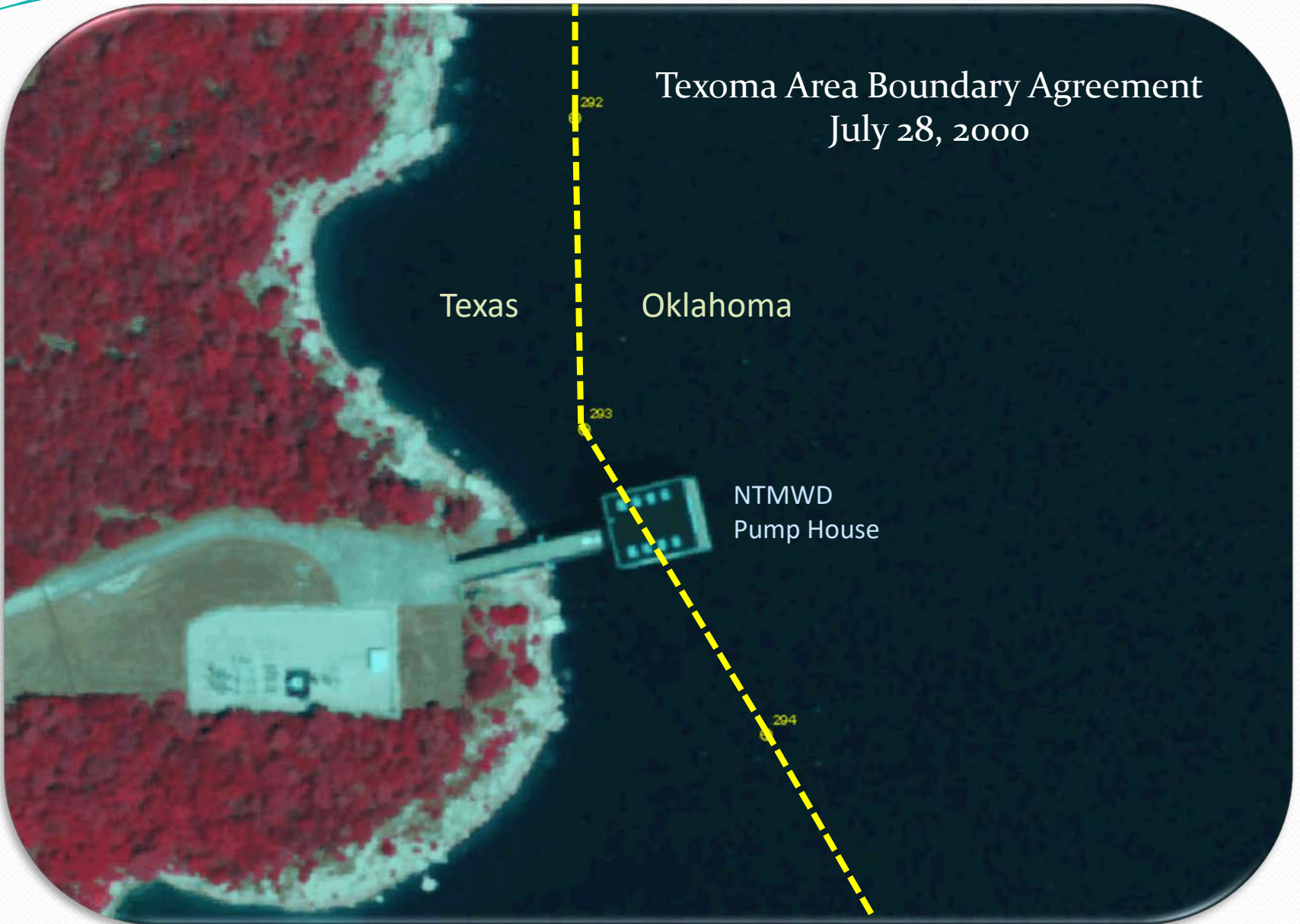
Oklahoma

NTMWD
Pump House

292

293

294



Considerations

- Injurious Wildlife Provisions of the Lacey Act
(50 CFR 16)
 - “...importation into or the transportation of live wildlife or eggs thereof between the continental United States, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or any territory or possession of the United States by any means whatsoever, is prohibited except for certain purposes and under certain conditions ...”

Lake Lavon



53% of Usable Capacity

NTMWD begins
Stage III
Drought Restrictions
on Nov. 1, 2011

