



PANHANDLE GROUNDWATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PANHANDLE WATER NEWS

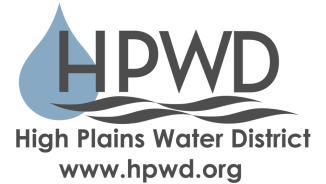
"Conserving Water For Future Generations"

OCTOBER 2025

8TH BIENNIAL TEXAS PANHANDLE WATER CONSERVATION SYMPOSIUM

The Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District, along with its sponsors, invites you to save the date for our 8th Biennial Texas Panhandle Water Conservation Symposium! The event will take place in the Heritage Ballroom at the Amarillo Civic Center Complex, Wednesday, February 11, 2026. The District is excited to announce Texas State Representative Caroline Fairly as the keynote luncheon speaker. Other notable speakers include Mr. Ben Weinheimer, President & CEO of Texas Cattle Feeders Association and Chairman of Region A Water Planning Group, and Dr. Robert Mace, Executive Director and Chief Water Policy Officer for The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment - Texas State University. The symposium features topics from Rainwater Harvesting to Water Well Basics - there will be something for every water user. The complete agenda will be published in the District's January 2026 Newsletter.

Thank you to our sponsors thus far!



Parkhill

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Precipitation Enhancement Update
- District Statement on Water Usage
- Important Water Matters on the November 4th Ballot
- Annual Winter Water Level Measurements Begin
- 2025-2026 School Year Education Kickoff
- PGCD 2025-2025 Adopted Tax Rate



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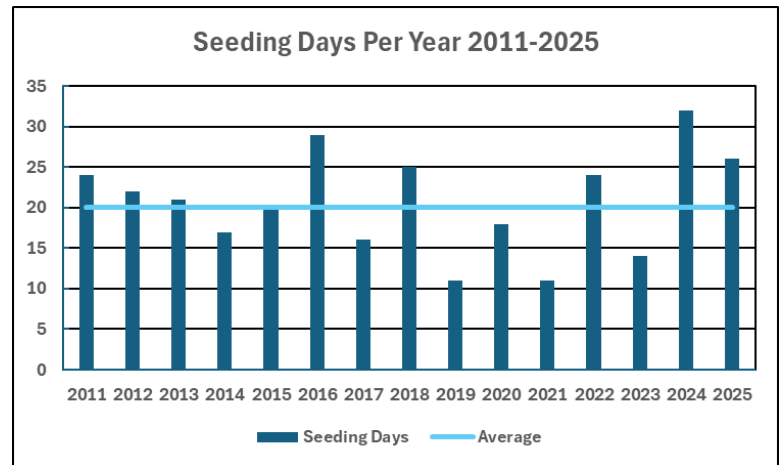
www.pgcd.us

PRECIPITATION ENHANCEMENT UPDATE

The 2025 Precipitation Enhancement Program season started off calm with April seeing a rollercoaster of temperatures. Highs on the first reached a balmy 84°F in Amarillo with a cool 59°F just two days later. Readings then further cooled into the middle 40s a day later. These cooler temperatures also brought in stratiform showers and even a few snowflakes in spots to our northwest as lows plummeted to the middle 20s. As in typical Texas fashion, temperatures then soared into the lower 90s by the middle of the month. This rollercoaster ride then continued through the end of the month.

As spring tried to make its presence known, a series of storm systems impacted the area the last few days of the month with seeding taking place over three consecutive days from 22nd-24th and another mission on the 30th, making it the busiest April since 2015. As we entered May, wet weather persisted with eight out of the first nine days recording rainfall in Amarillo. Unfortunately, this all occurred when temperatures were very cool, limiting the convective potential and allowing for mostly stratiform precipitation. However, one recon flight was conducted on the 9th as highs warmed into the lower 70s, but activity proved to be short-lived. The rest of May saw rather benign

conditions with only one seeding mission occurring on the 26th. June started off like May with no seeding until the end of the month. Once the monsoon was in full swing, convection ramped up with 6 missions from the 22nd through the end of the month. Unfortunately, extreme flooding in South Central Texas prompted a suspension of all flights from July 5th-30th. Once operations began again, 16 seeding missions over 12 days were conducted through September 20th. As the monsoon retreated, chances of convection decreased with no operations the last 10 days of the season.



Compared to previous years, 2025 had the third most seeding days in the last 15 years with 26, well above the average of 20. Upwards of 37 days would have been possible if it were not for the suspension in July. Total flight hours for the year added up to 74 with 46 flights (33 seeding) being conducted. For the season, 515 glaciogenic flares and 39 hygroscopic flares were used. All monthly reports and flight tracks can be found on our website at www.pgcd.us/flight-tracks.

DISTRICT STATEMENT ON WATER USAGE

The Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District (District) has recently received numerous questions regarding the planned artificial intelligence and data centers within the District boundaries.

The District operates under Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code and is governed by a nine-member board of directors. The board has adopted rules and regulations designed to protect the District's aquifers. While applicants are asked to state the proposed use during the permitting process, approval of permits is not based solely on the intended use of the water, as the District is required to evaluate several factors prior to granting or denying a permit.

For wells that produce more than 17.5 gallons per minute, the maximum annual production limit is set at 1 acre-foot per contiguous acre owned or leased. This limit applies uniformly to all wells, whether they serve agricultural, municipal, industrial, or other purposes. Any permittee or landowner found in violation of this rule is subject to all enforcement remedies available to the District, including and not limited to civil penalties.

The District is committed to making decisions based on the best available science. To that end, it continuously monitors water levels, water quality, and meter data from required wells. The Board will continue to review and evaluate data across the District to ensure sound management of the aquifers.

Ultimately, the District's approach is intended to safeguard groundwater resources while also respecting the private property rights of all landowners. For more information, please contact the District at 806-883-2501.

IMPORTANT WATER MATTERS ON THE NOVEMBER 4TH BALLOT

Texans will have the opportunity to vote on an important matter relating to water on the November 4, 2025, ballot. Proposition 4 is constitutional amendment that, if passed by voters, would dedicate a portion of revenue derived from state sales and use taxes to the Texas Water Fund. It's important to note that Proposition 4 does not impose any new taxes or fees; it simply dedicates existing, surplus revenue sources to support water projects.

In 2023, Texas voters approved to create the Texas Water Fund, and the legislature authorized the appropriation of \$1.0 Billion from state's general revenue. If Proposition 4 passes, it would create a dedicated revenue stream for the Fund.

The Texas Water Fund is administered by the Texas Water Development Board, and the money can be used for a variety of water projects throughout Texas. For more information regarding Proposition 4, please visit: <https://www.twdb.texas.gov/financial/programs/twf/index.asp>.

ANNUAL WINTER WATER LEVEL MEASUREMENTS BEGIN

Each year the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District conducts water level measurements on over 750 wells throughout the District to determine changes in aquifer water levels. These measurements are taken during this time frame as demands for groundwater use are lower. This helps the District obtain a static water level measurement. However, it is important to note this is not always possible due to various reasons, including wells pumping nearby, timing with weather delays, etc.

The measurements taken are used to determine the current water level in the aquifer, quantify the volume of groundwater remaining, monitor long-term trends in water levels, and provide the information needed to determine IRS depletion allowances in addition to evaluating the status of the District's adopted desired future conditions.

The readings obtained will be published in the July 2026 Newsletter. For more information, please contact Ashley Ausbrooks, PG at 806-883-2501 or ara@pgcd.us

2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR EDUCATION KICKOFF

Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District (PGCD) has had an exciting start to the 2025-2026 school year! Our team partnered with Region 16 and North Plains Groundwater Conservation District to host a Water Conservation Student Seminar for gifted and talented students from across the Texas Panhandle.

The event, held at Region 16 in Amarillo, welcomed nearly 500 students who explored topics such as the water cycle, aquifer properties, pollution impacts, and practical water conservation strategies. Students left with a deeper understanding of how water connects to their everyday lives and how they can make a difference in conserving it.

PGCD also collaborated with Ogallala Commons to host Playa Festivals for fifth-grade students in Carson and Wheeler counties. Each festival featured four interactive presentations focused on the environment, how playa lakes function, and their vital role in recharging the Ogallala Aquifer. After the morning sessions, students had the opportunity to apply their learning outdoors, experiencing firsthand the importance of these unique ecosystems.

Through these educational programs, PGCD continues its commitment to promoting water conservation awareness and inspiring the next generation of environmental stewards across the Panhandle. To schedule an education program, contact Korri Packard at 806-883-2501 or kpackard@pgcd.us.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- PGCD Board Meeting:
November 13, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.
- Amarillo Farm and Ranch Show:
December 2-4, 2025.
- 8th Biennial Texas Panhandle Water
Conservation Symposium:
Wednesday, February 11, 2026.

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PGCD 2025-2026 ADOPTED TAX RATE

During the September Board of Directors meeting, Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District (PGCD) Directors adopted the 2025-2026 tax rate. There was no written or in-person public comment. The Directors adopted the no-new-revenue tax rate of \$0.008041 per \$100 valuation. The no-new-revenue tax rate means the District is projecting to take in the same amount of tax revenue as the 2024-2025 tax year based on property values.

PGCD's overall revenue is 75 percent ad valorem taxes and the remaining 25 percent from export fees, enforcement fees, and interest earnings. Published copies of adopted budgets and tax rate calculation worksheets can be found on our website at www.pgcd.us. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Britney Britten at 806-883-2501.

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