

SUMMARY

Statements of Interest

Participants in the Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program are interested in the following aspects, activities, and outcomes associated with the RIP process:

- Gaining an increased understanding regarding the needs of the federally listed species dependant on flows from the aquifer through scientific research and analysis.
- Contributing to the protection and recovery of the listed species and their associated habitats, with a focus on delisting these species in the future.
- Addressing and understanding how aquifer flows affect downstream users to support people, recreation, and economies.
- Understanding how aquifer flows affect the downstream bays and estuaries.
- Developing a cultural framework that moves beyond the separation of groundwater and surface water management, as well as political boundaries in favor of considering the function of whole ecosystems.
- Maintaining springflow from the aquifer and insuring high quality water enters the aquifer to benefit all who depend on water from the aquifer, including the threatened and endangered species, downstream river systems and the coastal bays and estuaries.
- Contributing information to ongoing planning and water development processes related to the Edwards Aquifer.
- Protecting existing water rights and private property rights.
- Ensuring an adequate water supply for water users and the listed species during times of drought.
- Exploring all of the options available for providing water for communities, farmers, industry, and the listed species.
- Promote the development of water supplies from sources other than the Edwards Aquifer to meet the needs of the regional water users
- Creating regulatory certainty and consistency regarding water availability for water right holders and municipal users.
- Determining minimum yields for Edwards Aquifer withdrawal permits holders during Demand Management and Critical Period Management Periods.
- Achieving a balance between the interests of those who rely on aquifer wells and the interests of those who rely on aquifer springflows.
- Providing scientific and technical expertise related to the hydrology, water quality, water availability and the species associated with the aquifer.
- Providing for the recovery of the species while sustaining a healthy economic climate for all of the South Central Texas region.
- Continued sustainable use of water by the communities located within the Edwards Aquifer.
- Continued sustainable use of water by communities downstream of the Edwards Aquifer.