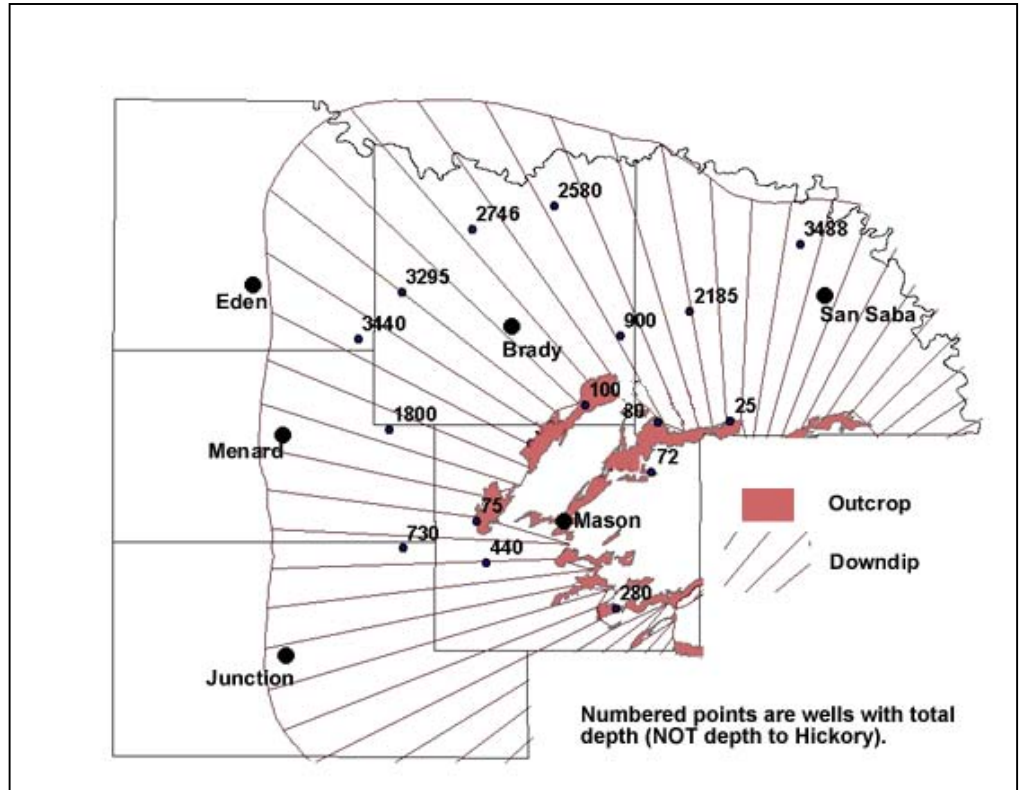


Understanding our Aquifer

The Hickory Aquifer Part 1 of a Series



The Hickory Aquifer is a minor aquifer in Texas. It actually extends across 19 counties in Texas, but we're just going to focus on the parts that fall within the District boundaries.

You've probably noticed the outcrop when you've driven through Mason County or southeastern McCulloch County. You can see the rusty red outcrop from the highway.

The aquifer consists of Hickory Sandstone. The sandstone is divided into three units. The lower unit containing rounded grains, is used in hydraulic fracturing in oil/gas wells. The middle Hickory is silty. The upper Hickory is the rusty red sandstone. The thickness of all three layers reaches a maximum of 480 feet in southwest McCulloch County.

Most of the recharge to the Hickory aquifer is from direct infiltration of precipitation in the outcrop area.

The aquifer then dips radially from that center. In other words as you move away from the outcrop, the aquifer gets deeper and deeper.

The sandstone crops out in a circular pattern around the Llano Uplift. Notice the circle created by this outcrop in Mason County.

Notice the numbered points on the map. These are random Hickory wells plotted. The number is the well depth in feet, not the depth to water. A driller will drill through the top of the aquifer.

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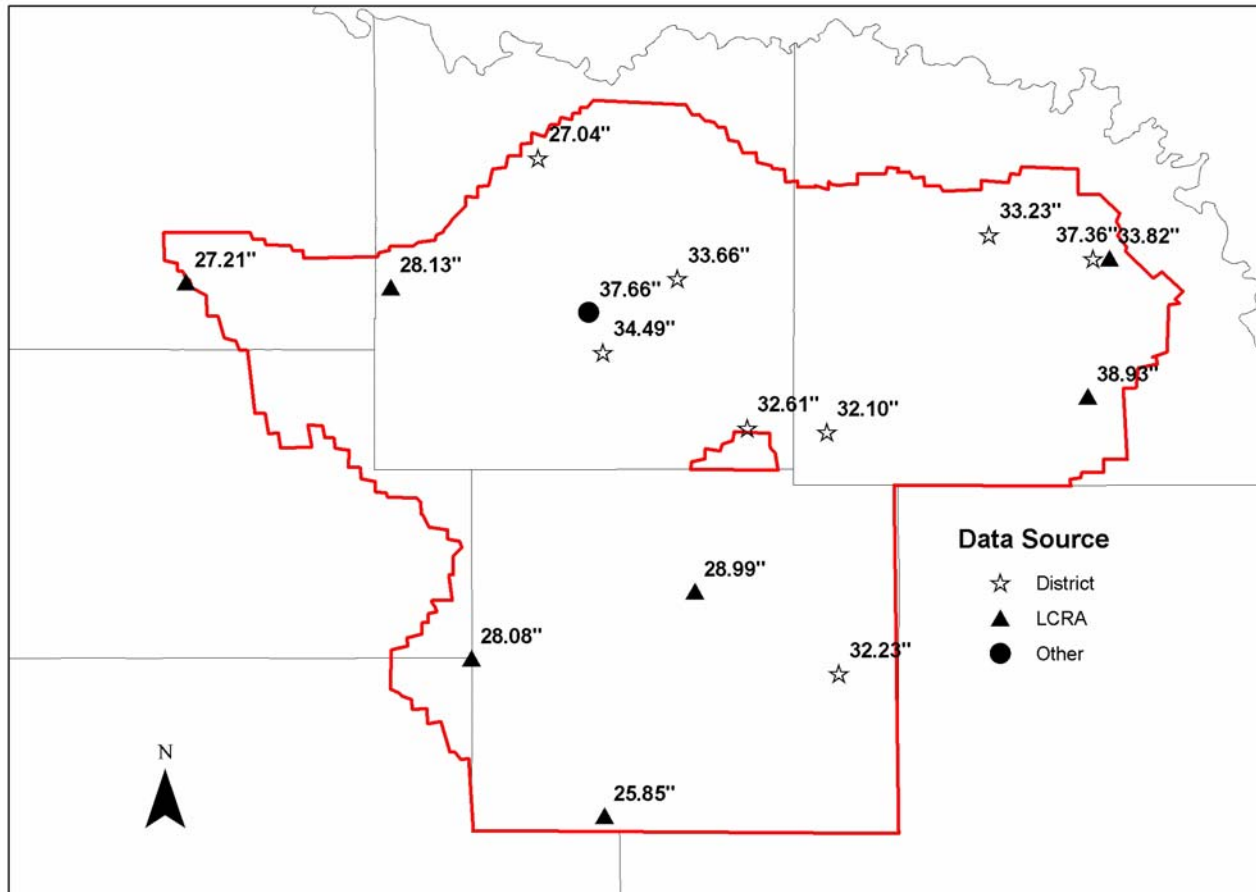
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*All the water that will
ever be is, right now.*

National Geographic, October 1993

Water Use Reports

Don't forget...if you have a permitted well (a well that is used for irrigation, commercial, industrial, or municipal use) you need to complete your water use reports and return them to our office before March 15, 2010. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call or email.



Rainfall 2010
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