



Brazos Water Snake Contract

***Presented by
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Environmental and Compliance Manager***



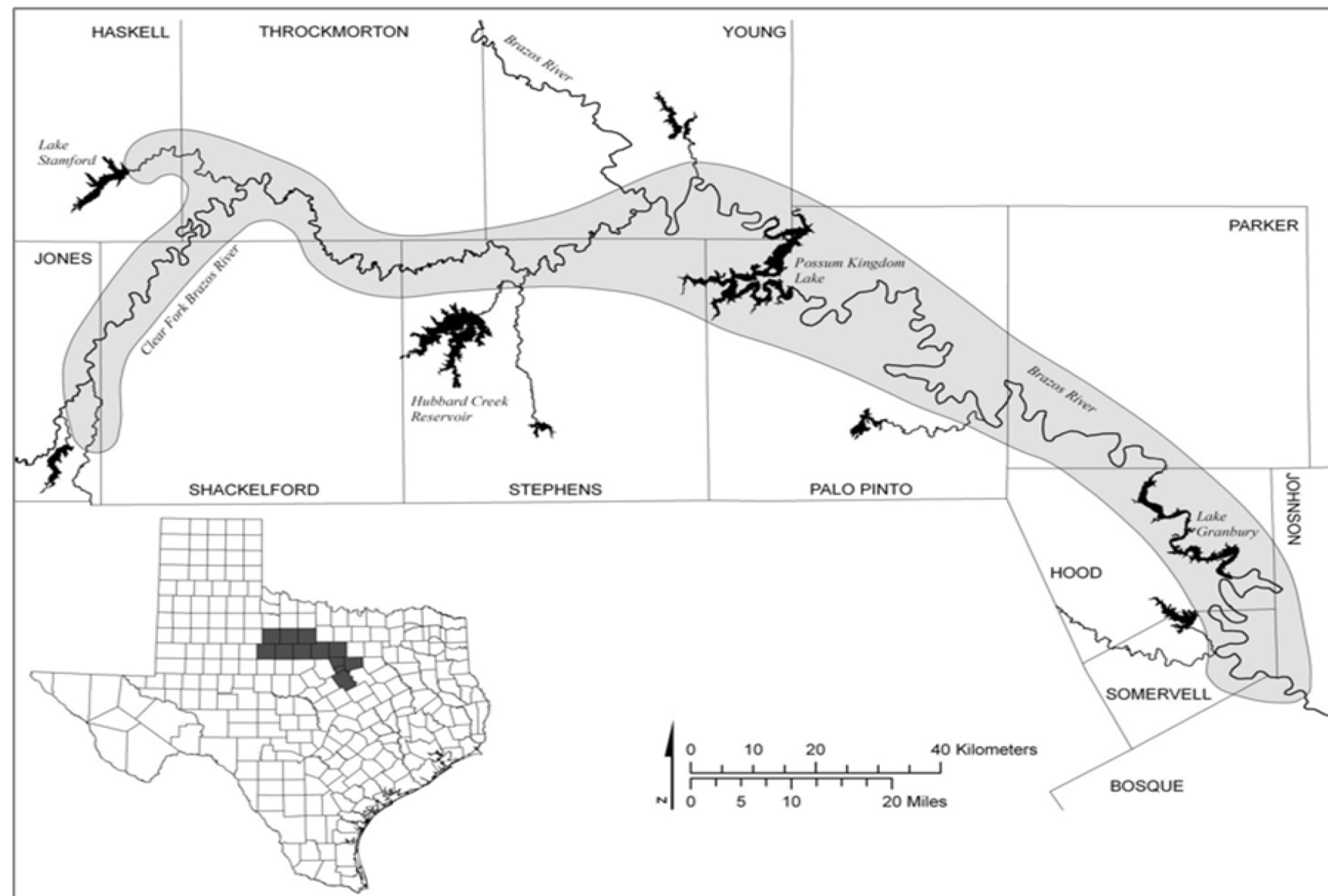
Brazos Water Snake



- **Scientific Name: *Nerodia harteri harteri***
- **Endemic to the Brazos Basin**
- **Non-venomous**
- **Mostly aquatic, stream and reservoir beds and banks**
- **Feeds on small fish, salamanders, frogs, and crayfish**
- **Lack of life history knowledge**



Known Range



State Threatened

- **Listed in 1986 - no conservation actions to date**
- **Population in decline**
- **Threats**
 - **Dams**
 - **Siltation**
 - **Hydrologic change**
 - **Salt Cedar**



TPWD Conservation Plan Development

- **Goal of Plan**
 - **Identify beneficial conservation measures**
 - **Avert need for intervention by the federal government**
- **Asked BRA to partner**
- **Held planning meeting in February 2021**
- **Relying on best available data**





Proposed Study

- **Supports Strategic Plan Goal 3(b)**
- **Anticipated 3-years duration**
- **Topics**
 - **Species distribution**
 - **Occupancy, abundance, and habitat associations**
 - **Age structure and habitat**
 - **Movement**
 - **Reproductive ecology**
- **Statistically valid data**



Contract

- **3-year term**
- **Not to exceed \$750,000**
- **RFP – one response from Bio West, Inc.**
 - **In business since 1976**
 - **Specializes in species related issues and permitting**
 - **Extensive experience with aquatic species and reptiles, and specifically with the Brazos Water Snake**





“BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Brazos River Authority hereby authorizes the General Manager/CEO to enter into a contract with Bio West, Inc. to conduct applied research on the Brazos Water Snake in an amount not to exceed \$750,000.”



Brazos

RIVER AUTHORITY