

Studies on Flooding Issues

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1. Introduction

The Texas General Land Office (GLO) is the state's agent for US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grants for both Disaster Recovery and Disaster Mitigation. As part of these grants, we are allowed funds for conducting studies directed toward disaster recovery or mitigation. In the past the grants were smaller, and the studies focused on single, small-scale projects and the results, with the collected data, were often placed in a binder to gather dust on a shelf once the decision on whether or not to proceed on the project had been made. Since the Hurricane Harvey Disaster Recovery and 2015 floods, 2016 floods and Hurricane Harvey Mitigation grants provide a sufficient amount of funds, we can break this paradigm and conduct studies that have the potential for a game changing effect, both in Planning Tools, and Disaster Recovery.

2. Objectives

The Leon River and Cowhouse Creek Drainage study and integrated, multi-funding source flooding resilience project is being undertaken with Coryell County as the executive recipient and benefiting six counties to understand the complex flooding problems on these two streams, develop flood mitigation and water management systems and provide early warning to reduce or eliminate flooding deaths. Coryell county alone averages 1.8 deaths a year with 3 so far this year from flooding. This project involves several federal, state, and local agencies, builds on previous work, and may serve as a pilot for other areas of the state.