



**Title:** Southern Region Water Quality Information System

**Name:** Diane Boellstorff

**Email:** dboellstorff@taexgw.tamu.edu

**Organization:** Texas Cooperative Extension

**State:** Multi-State      **Region:** Southern

**Year of Funding:** 2000

**Theme:** Watershed Management

**Situation:** A core function of the Southern Region Water Quality Coordination Project is the establishment of a watershed-based, central database management system that serves as the repository for regional water quality information and resources, provides direct linkages to other regional databases, and which can be used to conduct coordinated needs and impacts assessments regarding regional issues and programs.

**Objectives:** The objectives of establishing a Regional Coordination website are to provide a powerful medium through which to link and communicate water quality programs at the watershed and regional levels, and to promote regional awareness and coordination in the development and delivery of water resource management programs. Specific emphasis has been placed on creating linkages within and among land grant university research, education and extension programs throughout the region.

**Methods:** Integrated Research, education and extension resources at the regional level are featured through background pages on the themes that showcase comprehensive, integrated resources and programs provided by Land Grant Universities and partner agencies and organizations in the Southern Region. The website features a search engine for Extension water quality publications from the entire southern region. The Information System also has mapping capabilities through GIS.

**Partnerships:** Significant effort is directed toward enhancing coordination with resource management agencies such as USEPA, USGS, and USDA agencies including ARS, NRCS and CSREES, US Army Corps of Engineers, local governments, and citizen watershed organizations.

**Research:** From the website homepage, selecting a theme at the regional level provides the user with a brief background on the theme and showcases major Research, Education, and Extension resources and programs provided by Land Grant Universities and partner agencies and organizations in the Southern Region. Integrated Research, education and extension resources at the state level also are available from state pages, which provide access to comprehensive state-based information and resources.

**Resources:** Additional support provided by and through faculty and staff time, EPA 319 funds, USDA Special Initiative funding (Rio Grande Basin Initiative), state agencies, and local watershed organizations.

**Results:** The regional coordination website serves as a hub for information sharing and technology transfer within the Southern Region. Summaries of integrated resources and programs and a search publications feature for all states are readily available. State water quality coordinators update upcoming water quality events and hot topics across the region. The website serves as the repository for all reports funded by other components of the NWQP and regional resources developed by the Project.



*The mission of CSREES is to advance knowledge for agriculture, the Environment, human health and well being, and communities.*

