

Feral Hog Impact – What are the Watershed Needs and is it Worth the Cost?



Brett Johnson
Senior Environmental Coordinator/Urban Biologist
Dallas Park and Recreation

Photo—Ben Sandifer

Today's Topics

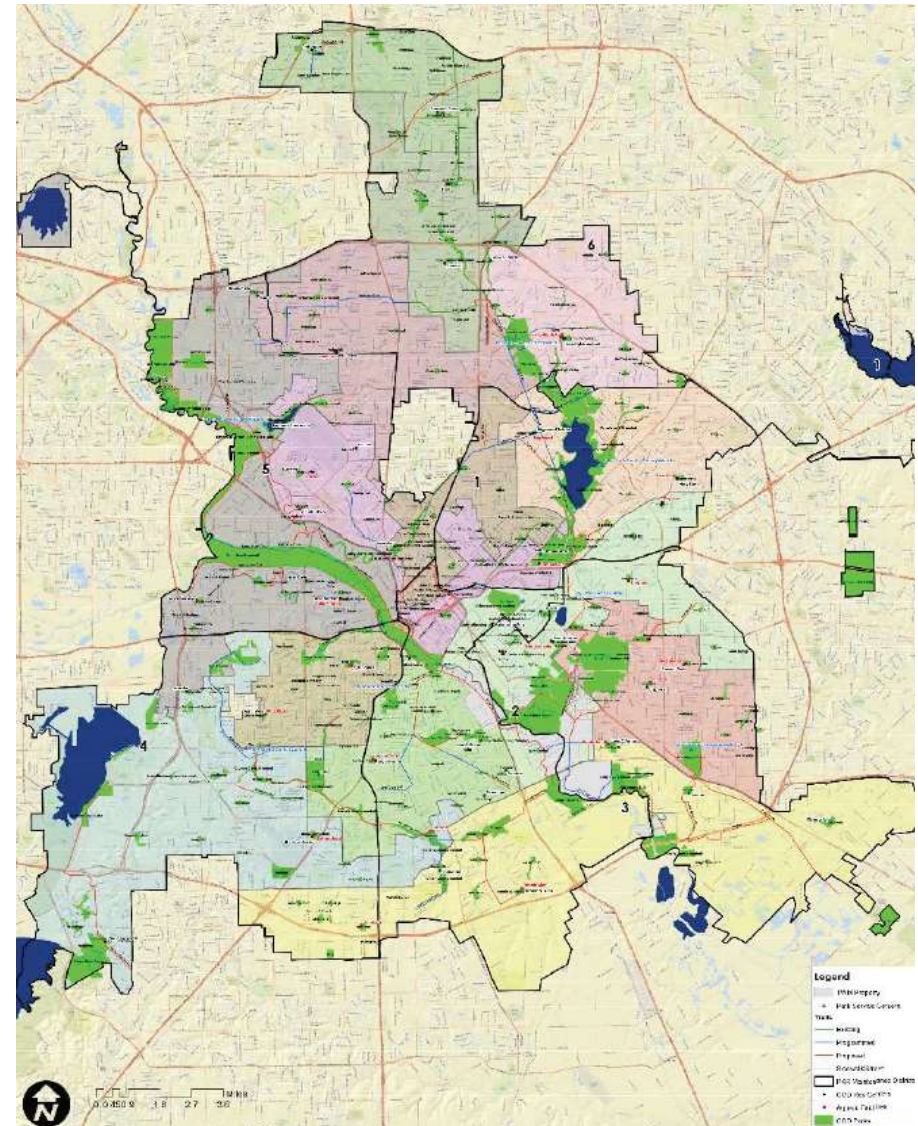
- **Dallas Hog Abatement**
- **Potential Impacts to YOUR City**
- **Watershed Take Home Messages**

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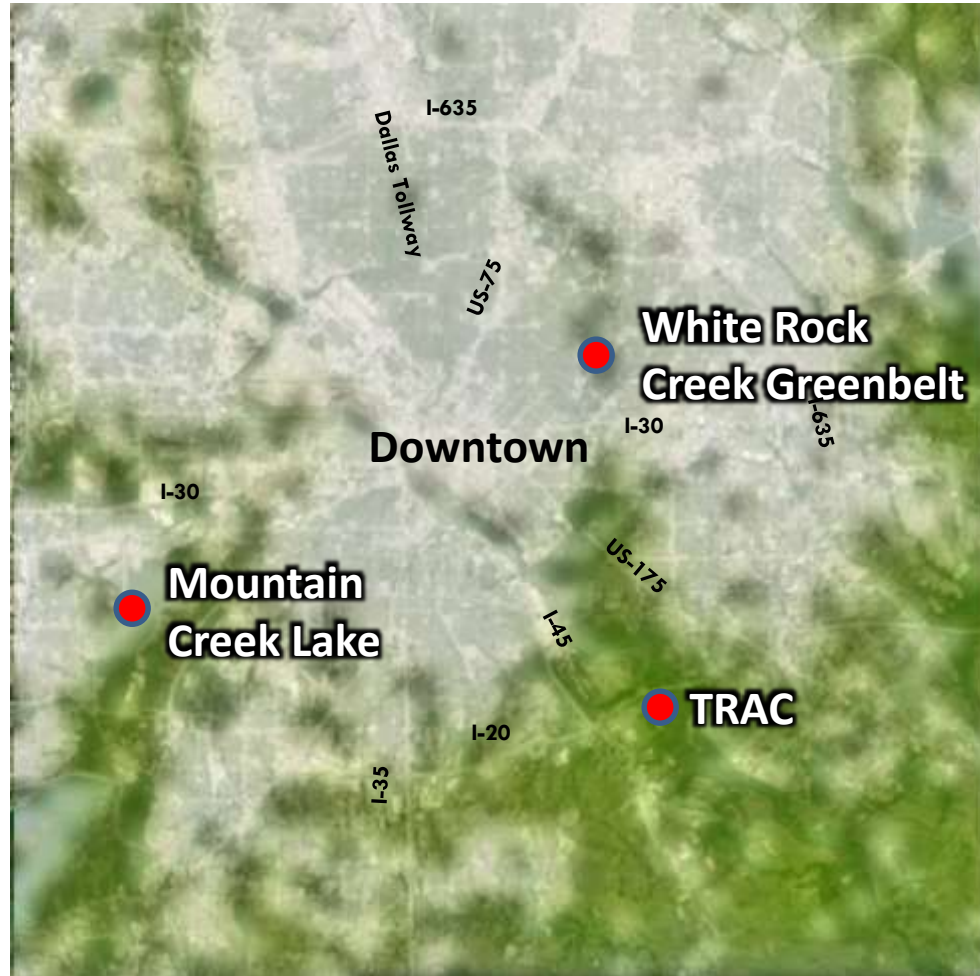
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Feral Hogs in Dallas

- Initial sightings:
1993-1998
- Well established:
2004
- Reported in Kiest Park:
2010
- City-wide abatement
attempt:
2013
- Park and Recreation
Dept. pilot study



Potential Feral Hog Habitat in Dallas



2011 Texas A&M University GIS Analysis of Feral Hog Habitat

Feral Hog Damage



Feral Hog Damage



Feral Hog Damage



Feral Hog Damage

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Feral Hog Damage

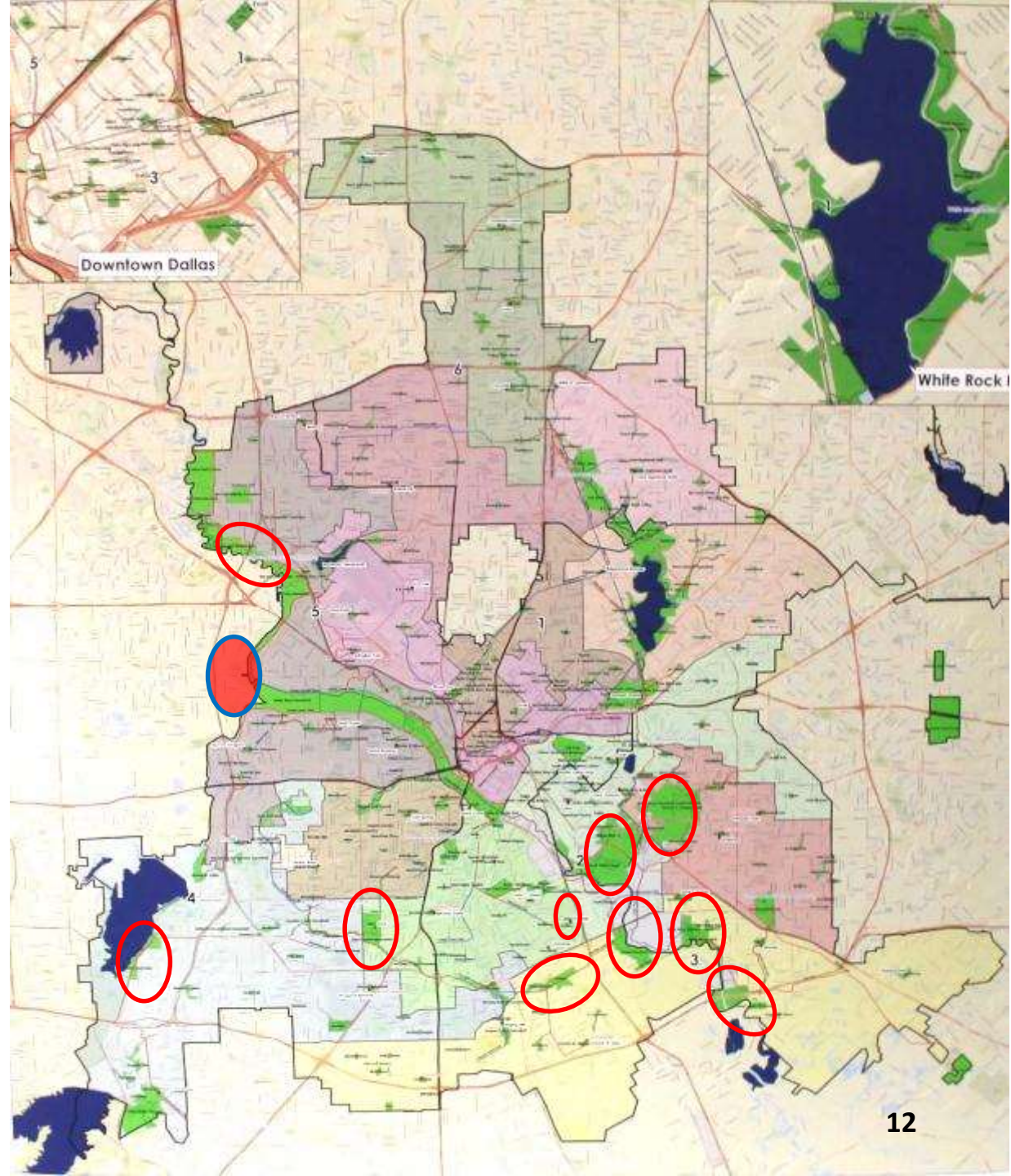


Feral Hog Damage



Impacted Parks

 Impacted park properties



Action Plan--2016

- Private trapper
- 12 month contract
- Limited scope area
- Expressed expectations on professionalism and humane treatment
- Park and Recreation Department Biologist oversight
- **Public outreach***



Trapping Areas

- Access to areas
- High hog numbers or extensive damage
- Limited scope of area
 - Grover C. Keeton Golf Course
 - Joppa Preserve
 - Great Trinity Forest Trails



Trapping Methodology

- 20' baited corral trap
- Real time trap surveillance
 - Maximize efficiency
 - Reduce non-targets
 - Minimize trap time
- Remove entire sounder
- Trailer removal
- Humane considerations



Photo—Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Compliance and Oversight

- Pre-bid tour with stated expectations
- Biologist receives photos when baiting is active
- Biologist receives photos when trap becomes active
- Biologist receives photos of ALL pigs captured
- City provided with receipts of all pigs delivered to holding and/or processing facility
- Random spot checks of trapping locations by biologist



Photo—Ben Sandifer

Results

- ~100 pigs removed from select sites*
- Reduced turf and trail shoulder damage
- Reduced citizen complaints
- Reduced standing water puddles





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Dallas City-wide Plan

- February 2017—City Council approved contract
- City-wide steering committee—meet quarterly
- City-wide feral hog abatement plan departments
 - Dallas Water Utility
 - Sanitation
 - Trinity Watershed Management
 - Park and Recreation
 - Aviation
- Same trapping protocol
- Currenty ~370 pigs since Mid-April
- Generally 15-18 traps at a given time



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Rural Damage is Well Documented

- Agricultural Crop Damage
 - Row Crops
 - Pasture
 - Timber
- Livestock Depredation
 - Lambs, Kids & Calves
- Diseases



Rural Damage is Well Documented

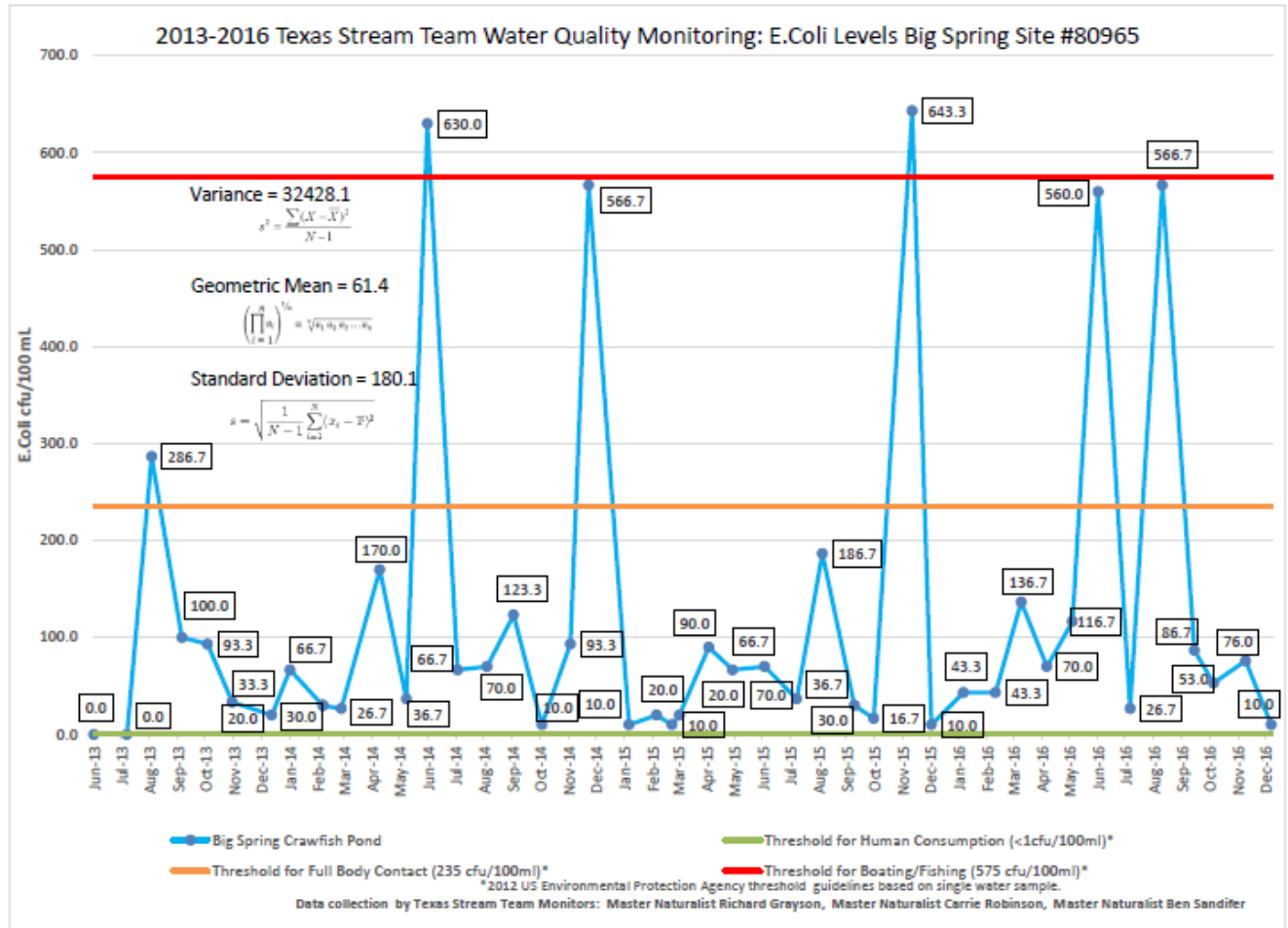
- Property Damage (Infrastructure)
 - Tractors & Other Equipment
 - Fences
 - Roads
 - Dikes
 - Etc.



Ecological Damage is Well Documented

- Native Plant Communities
- Native Wildlife Species
- Soil Erosion*
- Water Quality*

Big Spring, Dallas



Urban Damage is Not Well Documented

But is **MAGNIFIED**



Property Damage Impacts

- Sprinkler Systems
- Lawns
- Gardens
- Ornamental Landscaping
- Fences



Damage to Infrastructure

- Undermining
 - Roads
 - Levees
 - Flood Control Gates



Cultural & Recreational Damages

- Athletic Fields
- Golf Courses
- Cemeteries
- Archeological/
Historical Sites



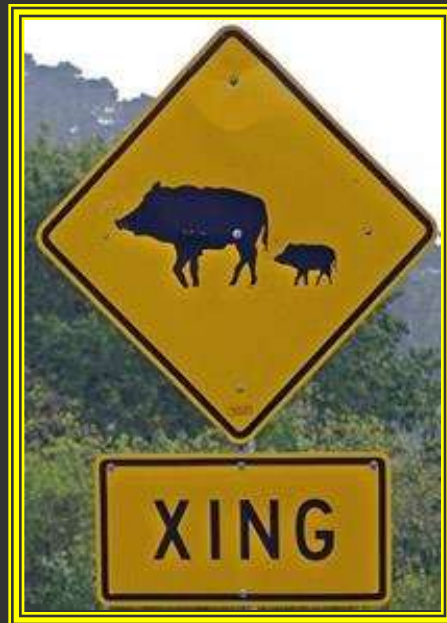
Water Quality Impacts****

- Sedimentation
- Bacteria Levels



Transportation Related Costs

- Automobile Collisions
- Train Collisions
- Airplane Collisions





Human Safety

- Attacks
- Zoonotic Diseases



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Public Perception Costs

- Fear Factor
- Proactive vs. Reactive Control Program*



Nonlethal Hog Control Costs

- Exclusion
- Harassment
- Contraception



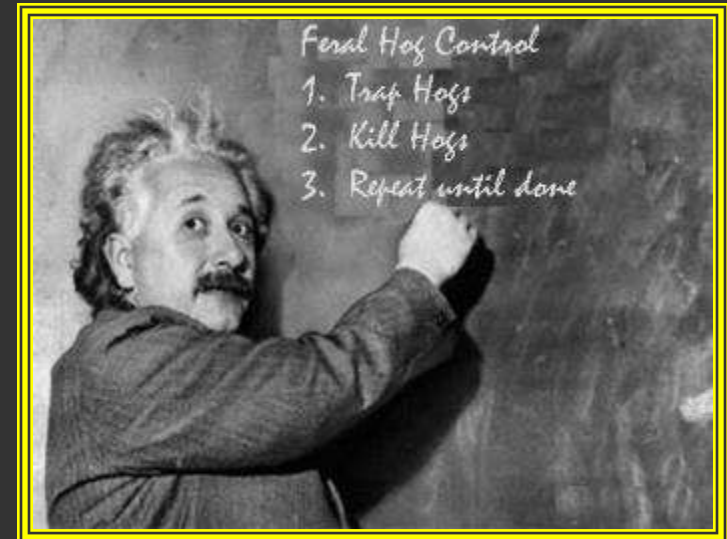
**Still Doing
Damage*****



Lethal Hog Control Costs

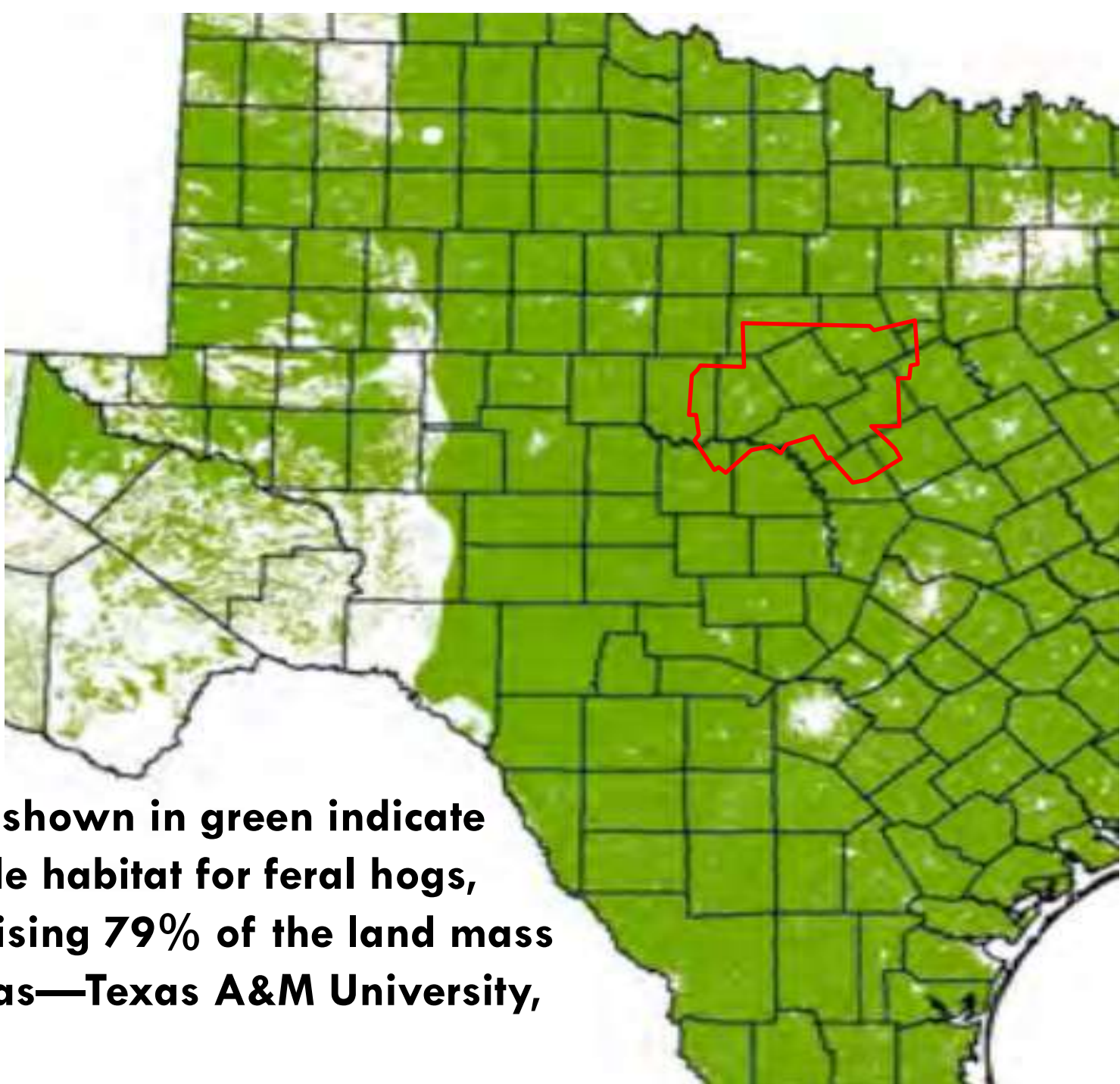
- Labor
- Trapping Costs
- Euthanasia Costs
- Disposal Costs

**Public
Relations**



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Areas shown in green indicate suitable habitat for feral hogs, comprising 79% of the land mass in Texas—Texas A&M University, 2011

Collaboration



Information and Resources

BE PROACTIVE-----START A PLAN OF ACTION



Educate

The Media



Ben Sandifer @Ben_Sandifer · Apr 23
Dallas Parks and Recreation Urban Biologist Brett Johnson 4/23/17 talking about feral hog trapping program specifics at #EDTx17

General Public



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City Leadership



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