LOWER RED-SULPHUR-CYPRESS FLOOD PLANNING REGION

The Lower Red-Sulphur-Cypress River Basin (Flood Planning Region #2) flows along the Texas-Oklahoma border, into Arkansas before confluencing with the Mississippi River in Louisiana. Three major streams make up this basin: the Red River, Sulphur River, and Cypress Creek. This region is named and known by its red-colored soil, which gives the Red River its unique color during high flooding events. High precipitation and low evaporation rates allow this region to retain a significant amount of water, which is apportioned between Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas through the Red River Compact. Smaller streams within the region include the Wichita and Little Wichita Rivers, North, Middle, and South Sulphur Rivers, Big Cypress, Black Cypress, and Little Cypress Creeks. Major water bodies of consideration are Truscott Brine Lake, Pat Mayse Lake, Jim Chapman Lake, Wright Patman Lake, Lake Bob Sandlin, Caddo Lake, and Lake O' The Pines.

This region has an estimated population of 531,083. Major population centers include the Cities of Sherman and Texarkana in Northeast Texas with a combined population of approximately 80,000. A total of 20 counties or portions of counties are included within the Lower Red-Sulphur-Cypress Region. The Lower Red-Sulphur-Cypress Region also boasts several stakeholders like Basin/River/Watershed Authorities and Water Supply and Utility Districts. A projected 81% increase in population for the region is expected by 2050. Therefore, the probability is high that populated areas will expand, and rural land will be developed. This could expose more development and population to major flooding events.

The Lower Red-Sulphur-Cypress Region lies experiences several storm events annually. The Region is directly exposed to hurricane events and tropical storms, depressions, or related events (hail, high winds, etc.). Intense, localized thunderstorms and frontal-type storms in spring and summer cause most of the flooding in this region.

The Regional Flood Plan for the Lower Red-Sulphur-Cypress Region is the first of an overall plan to achieve mitigation actions for reducing flood risks. The Regional Flood Planning Group will work closely with communities and regional stakeholders to better understand local flood risk, mitigation efforts, and other topics for region-wide discussions about increasing resilience to flooding.

20
Counties, or a portion of each, are included in this basin

~15%
of the basin is within the 1% annual chance flood event

>9,200
Sq. miles
Total Basin Area

FLOOD-RELATED PRESIDENTIAL DISASTER DECLARATIONS (1953 – MAR 2020)

32
Major Disaster Declarations

4
Emergency Declarations

Over 25% of Disaster Declarations and 50% of Emergency Declarations have occurred within the region since 2008

FLOOD EVENTS (1996-2019)

Over 60+ major flood events have occurred in the last 20 years with significant losses to life and property.

FEMA FLOOD CLAIMS (1984 – JAN 2021)

102
Flood Claims

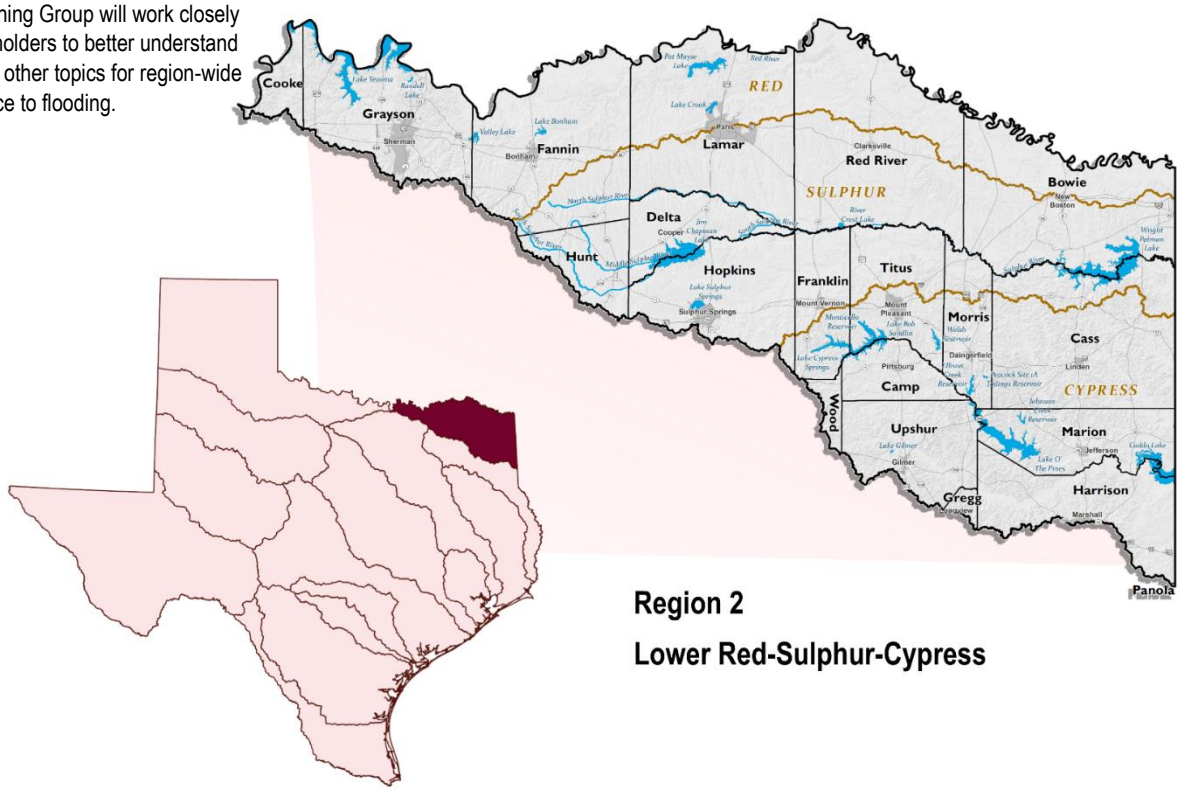
$35.2 M
Flood Claims Paid

ANTICIPATED POPULATION GROWTH

24%
forecasted increase in population between 2020 and 2050

AGRICULTURAL FLOOD LOSSES

Significant historical flood losses, most recently 2015 and 2016



Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency, Texas Water Development Board, Texas Natural Resources Information System.