KEEPING RIVERS FLOWING: INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES TO PROTECT AND RESTORE RIVERS

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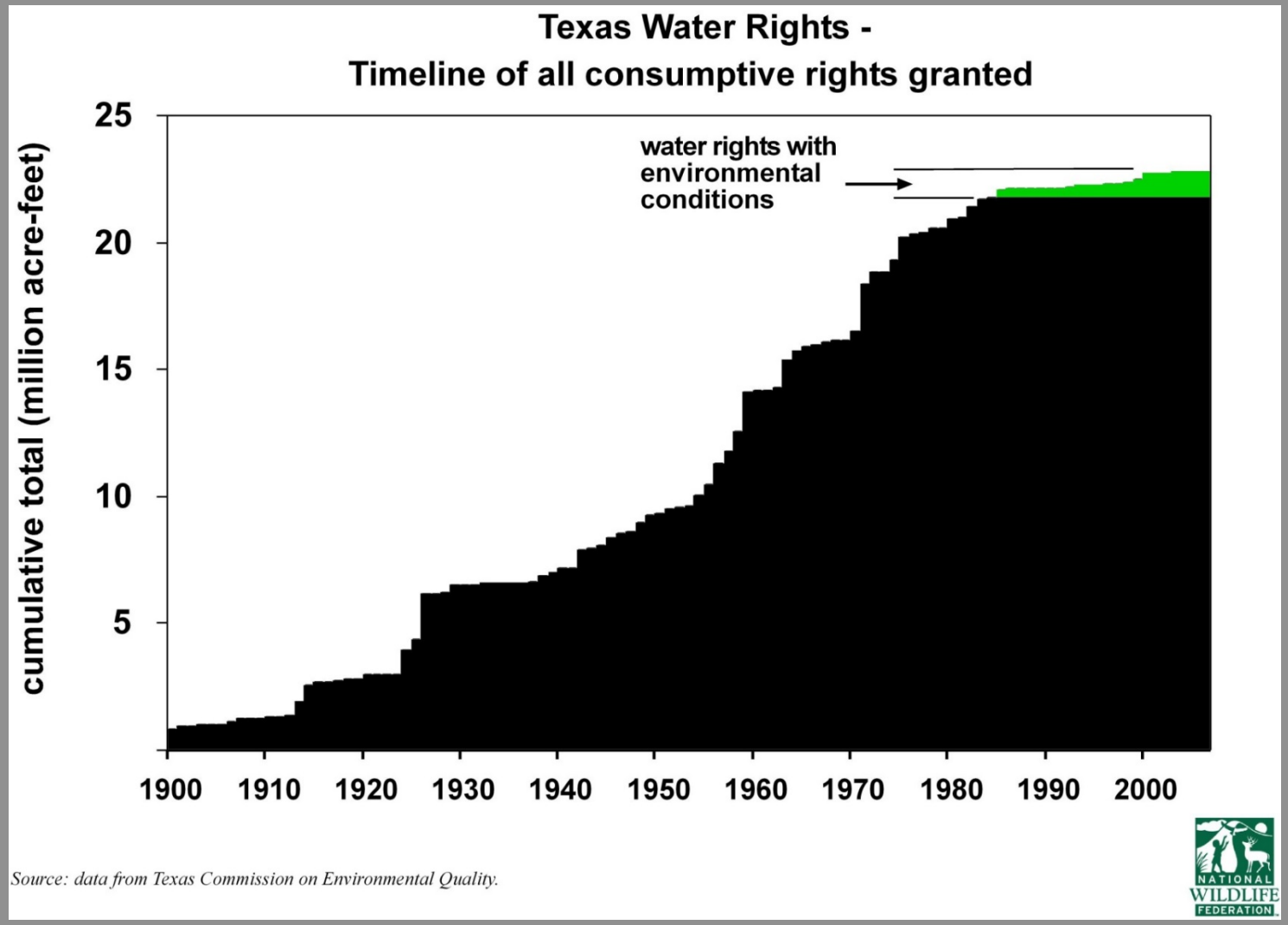

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- So what can we do about it?
- Regulatory approaches might be an option
  - More comprehensive conditions on new permits
  - Adjudicate existing rights
  - Partial dedications on new transactions
  - Endangered species protections

- Most regulatory approaches are highly controversial
- What about options for voluntary approaches?

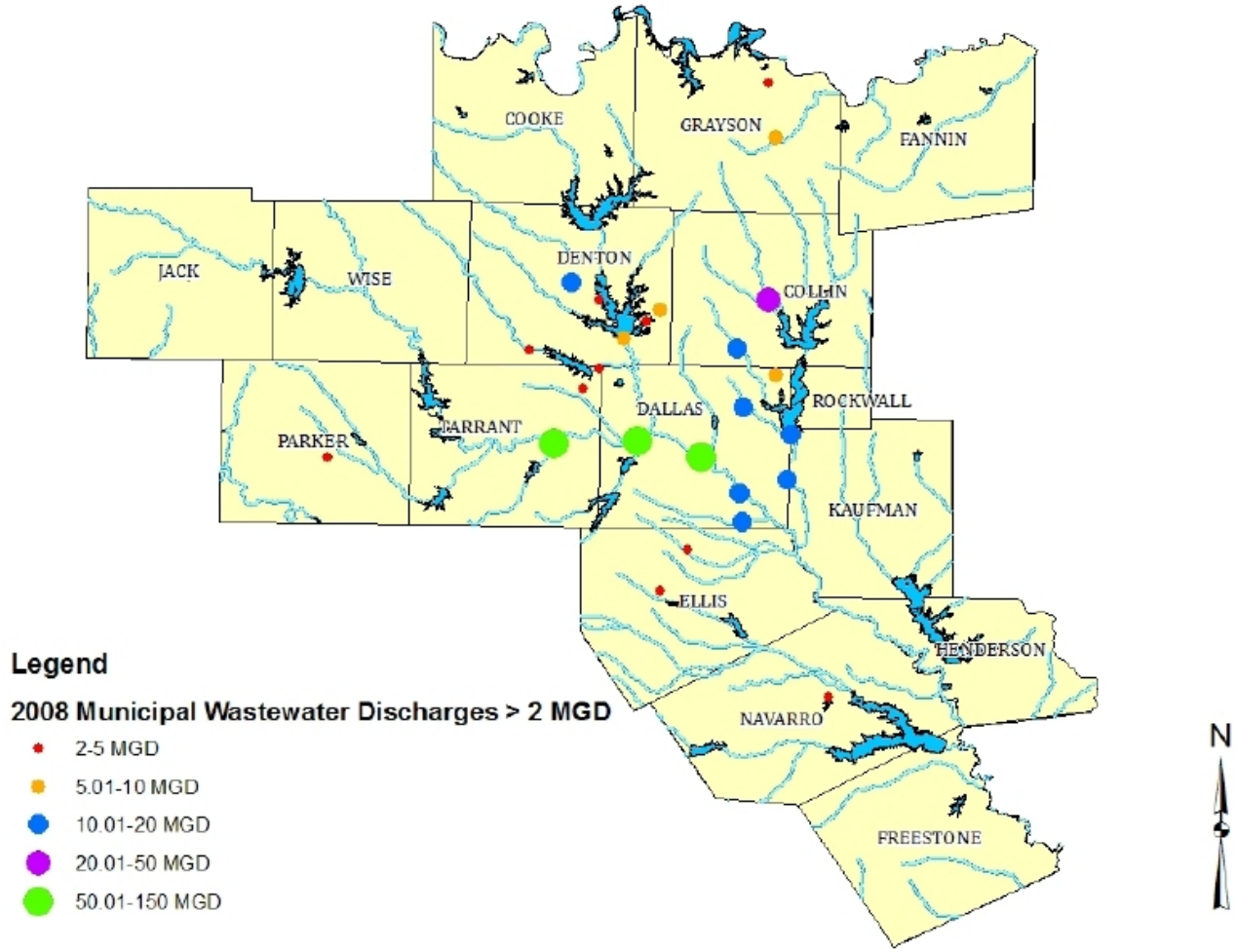
Outright purchase and conversion

Dry-year option

Voluntary dedications of portion of return flows

Houston agreement for Galveston Bay inflows

Figure 1.18
Wastewater Discharge Points in Region C



Help fund water conservation with some, or all, conserved water dedicated for environmental flow protection

Photo: Courtesy Texas Water Development Board

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Re-manage dams

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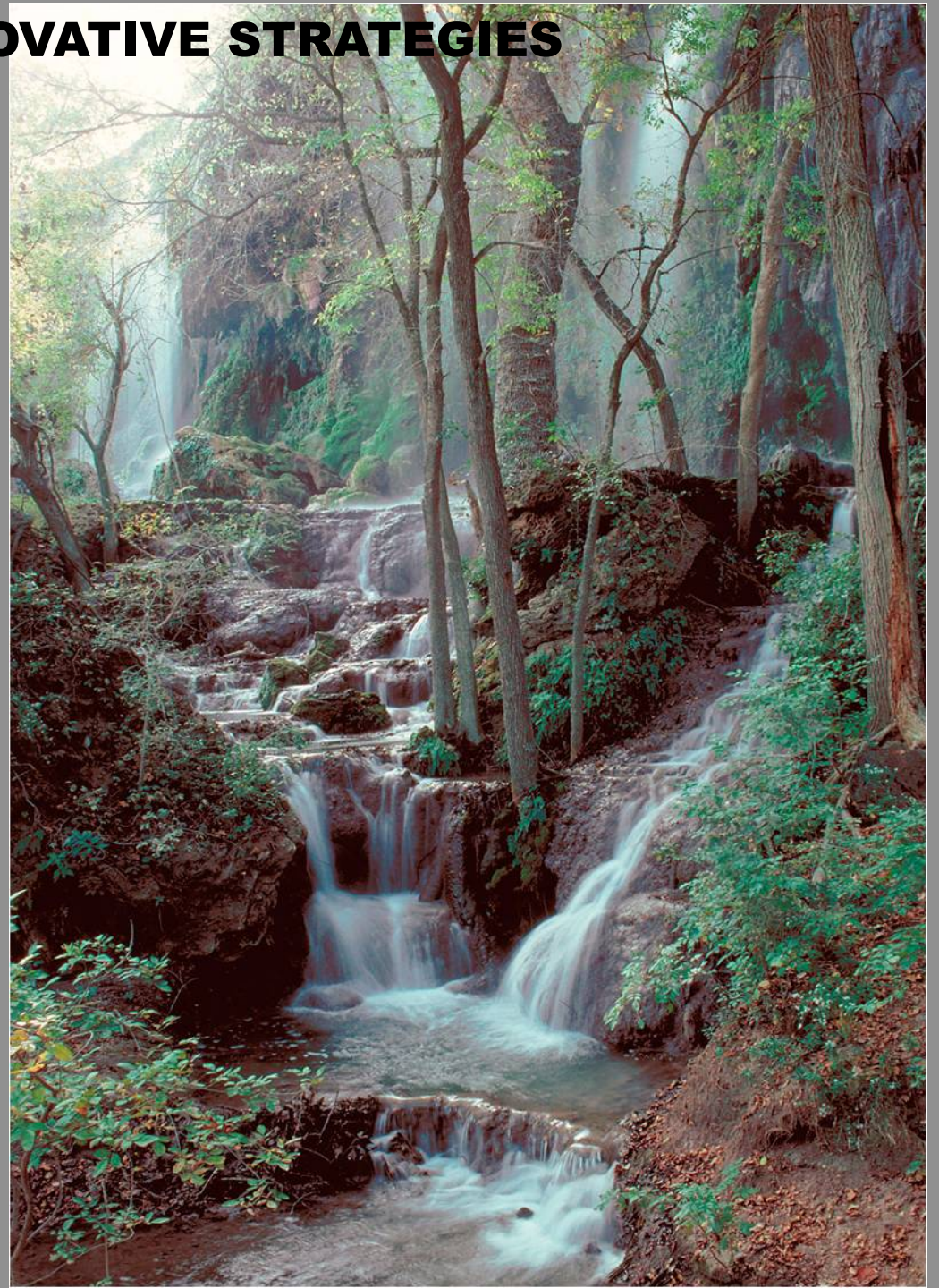
Support improved land stewardship



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Importance of Water Use

Q11: On a scale from 0 to 10, with 0 indicating Not at All Important and 10 indicating Extremely Important, rate how important each of the following water uses is to you.

Uses	*Mean*
Water for drinking	9.10
Water for household use (e.g., showers, laundry, and toilets)	8.36
Water for agriculture (e.g., crops and livestock)	8.26
Water for the natural environment such as fish and wildlife habitat	8.08
Water for industrial use (e.g., manufacturing, mining and energy generation)	6.67
Water for landscaping homes and businesses	5.62
Water for recreation (e.g., pools and boating)	5.46
Water for municipal landscaping (e.g., parks and golf courses)	4.74

Sea Grant Texas AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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We know what can happen if we don’t take action

Photo: Courtesy Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

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Photo courtesy Michael A. Murphy/TxDOT