


# 2011 The New Drought of Record

## What did “the state” do about it?

Brenner Brown

**Texas Water**   
**Development Board**

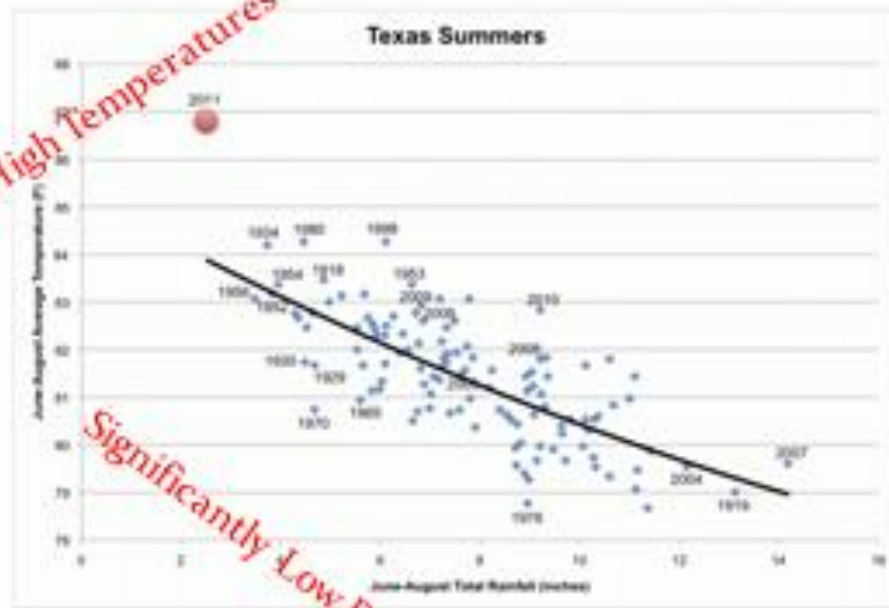
*presented at Water Forum II UT, Austin, Texas*

*October 22, 2012*

# Cascading Impact of Drought

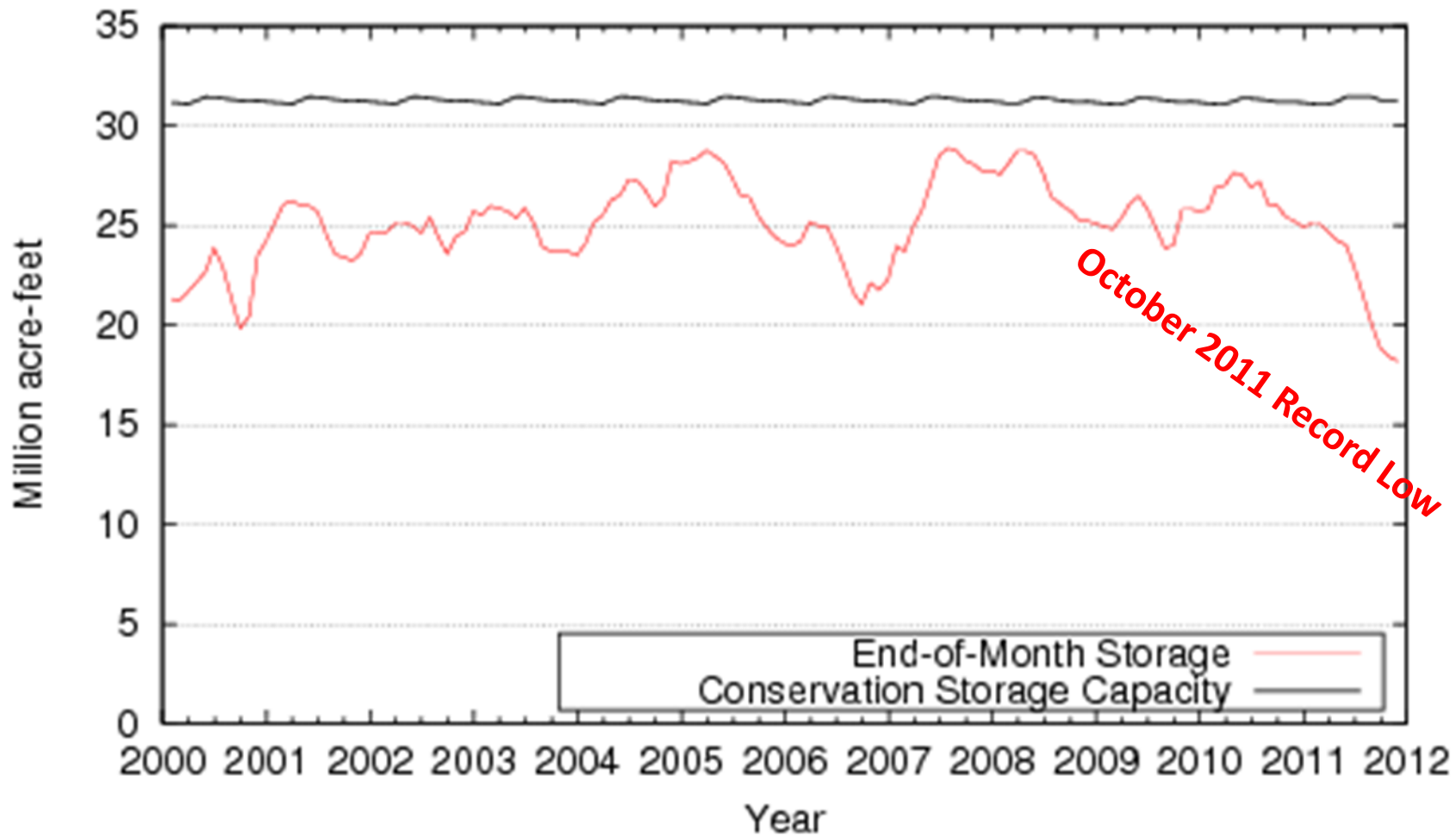
- **Agriculture Crops – most years**
- **Forest fires – some years**
- **Livestock Water Supply – some years**
- **Lower Streamflows – most years**
  - **Recreation – most years**
  - **Priority calls – rarely**
  - **Salinity issues – some years**
- **Lower Reservoir Levels**
  - **Evaporation**
  - **PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY**
- **Groundwater Availability**
  - **Soil moisture**
  - **PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY**

# Summer of 2011 The Outlier

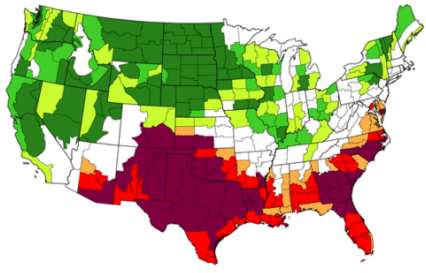


Record High Temperatures

Significantly Low Rainfall







# Records

- **Worst one-year drought on record**
- **Driest period on record**
- **Hottest period on record**
- **Statewide reservoir storage lowest since 1978 at <60%**
- **Ag losses at \$5.2 billion**
  - 50% cotton crop lost in West Texas
  - Ranchers selling herds
- **~ 4 million acres burned by wildfires**
- **Rivers with first-time calls on water rights**

# Texas Division of Emergency Management

- **Drought Preparedness Council**
  - Rewrite Drought Plan
  - Rewrite Annex A
  - Drought Severity Matrix – **County Based Water Availability/Drought Severity Map In Development**
- **Emergency Drinking Water Task Force**
- **Joint Information Center**
- **Statewide preparation/outreach**
- **Federal Partners**

# **Texas Commission on Environmental Quality**

- **Weekly Drought Meetings**
  - Increase communication
  - Opportunity for inter agency cooperation
- **Emergency Drinking Water Task Force**
  - High Priority 180 Day List
  - Success List
  - Solving new problems
  - Regional solutions
- **TCEQ Outreach Workshops**



# Texas Department of Agriculture

- **Provided over 5 million in emergency funding for public water supply**
  - **Counties need populations lower than 200,000**
  - **Cities less than 50,000**
  - **DCP must be in effect at one of its two highest levels**
  - **180 days or less remaining**

# Funding applications received by the Texas Department of Agriculture

- Sabine County
- City of Lawn
- City of Falls City
- City of Leakey
- Real County
- Concho County
- City of Kemp
- City of Huxley
- City of Llano
- City of Dickens
- City of Florence
- Burnet County
- Baylor County
- City of Crosbyton
- Dickens County
- Garza County
- Crosby County
- City of Spur
- City of Seymour
- City of Weinert

# **Texas Water Development Board**

- **Expedited loan process**
- **Increased drought response information and analysis in regional water planning guidelines**
- **TNRIS – developing county based map**
- **Provide groundwater reports for struggling entities**
- **Develop surface water maps**

# **Drought Technology Steering Committee**

- **Texas Water Forum**
- **Collaboration Agencies and Academia**
- **DTSC Webinars**
- **Assisting development of county based map**
- **Real-time modeling, data and water management**

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**Texas Water**

**Development Board**

