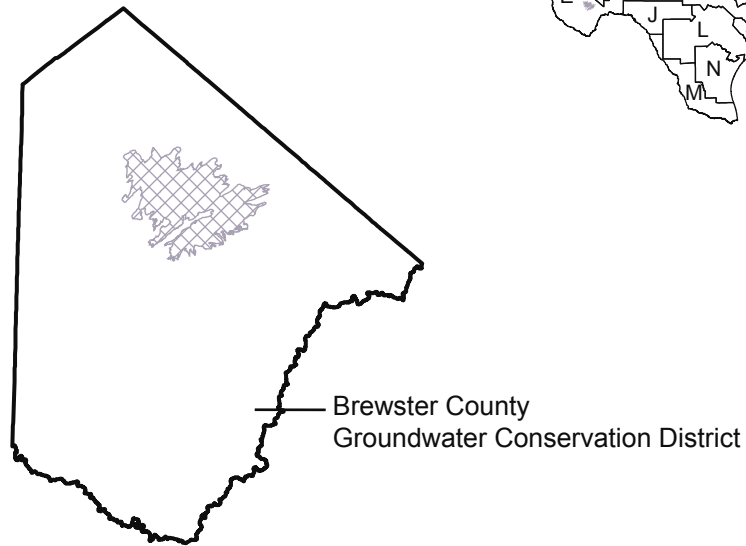
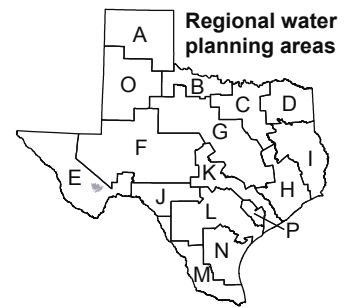
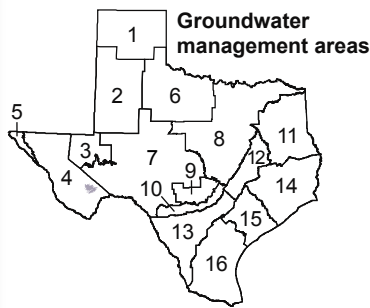


Marathon Aquifer



The Marathon Aquifer, a minor aquifer, occurs entirely within north-central Brewster County. The aquifer consists of tightly folded and faulted rocks of the Gaptank Formation, the Dimple Limestone, the Tesnus Formation, the Caballos Novaculite, the Maravillas Chert, the Fort Pena Formation, and the Marathon Limestone. Maximum thickness of the aquifer is about 900 feet, although well depths are commonly less than 250 feet. Water in the aquifer is under unconfined conditions in fractures, joints, and cavities. Artesian conditions are also common in areas where the aquifer rocks are buried beneath younger formations. The Marathon Limestone is at or near land surface and is the most productive part of the aquifer. Many of the shallow wells in the region actually produce water from alluvial deposits that cover parts of the rock formations. Total dissolved solids range from 500 to 1,000 milligrams per liter. Water from the aquifer is very hard but otherwise generally suitable for most uses. Groundwater is used primarily for municipal water supply by the city of Marathon and for domestic and livestock purposes. The Far West Texas Regional Water Planning Group did not recommend any water management strategies using the Marathon Aquifer.

Aquifer characteristics

- Area of aquifer: 390 square miles
- Availability: 200 acre-feet per year (2010 to 2060)
- Well yield: ranges from 10 to 300 gallons per minute
- Proportion of aquifer with groundwater conservation districts: 100 percent
- Number of counties containing the aquifer: 1

Groundwater supplies with implementation of water management strategies

