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## Ecosystem Services: *How We Can Help Preserve and Protect Our Natural Assets*

The Texas Water Symposium provides perspectives from landowners, policy makers, scientists, water resource experts and regional leaders.

Join us as we explore the complex issues and challenges in providing water for Texans in this century.

Each session is free and open to the public. The hour-long program begins at 7:00 pm, followed by discussion time with Q&A. The events are recorded and aired on Texas Public Radio one week later.

Learn more:

[www.texaswatersymposium.com](http://www.texaswatersymposium.com)

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*Water, essential for life, is our most precious and valuable natural resource. But water supply and quality are under increasing pressure from a growing population. How will we protect this resource and plan for a sustainable future? There is a great need for a water-literate public; decisions being made today have far reaching and long lasting effects for our children and future generations.*

**Thursday, May 10, 2018**

**Texas Tech University Llano River Field Station - Junction**  
**254 Red Raider Ln. Junction, TX 76849**  
**Doors open at 6:30 pm, Program 7:00 – 8:30 pm**

### Panelists:

**State Representative Andy Murr:** Texas House District 53

**Hughes Simpson:** Program Leader - Texas A&M Forest Service

**Tom Arsuffi:** Director of the Llano River Field Station at Texas Tech University

**Moderator: Katherine Romans:** Executive Director, Hill Country Alliance

Ecosystem Services are the benefits that are provided -- for free -- by the natural environment. Healthy rivers, uplands, and aquifers provide safe drinking and irrigation water. Plants act as filters that generate oxygen and clean our air. Healthy soils retain moisture and capture carbon. Natural systems help regulate temperatures, maintain nutrient cycles, and provide a wide range of other necessary services that would otherwise require mechanical solutions and cost taxpayer dollars.

What would it cost to replace the ecosystem services we currently receive for free? As a society, we tend to overlook, take for granted, or even neglect and abuse the things that come to us at no cost. To help inform decision-makers, many of these ecosystem services are being assigned economic values. Join us as we explore the ecosystem services provided by our Hill Country natural resources and how we can help preserve and protect our natural capital.

*Thank you for helping Texas Water Symposium celebrate 10 years of water exploration!*