



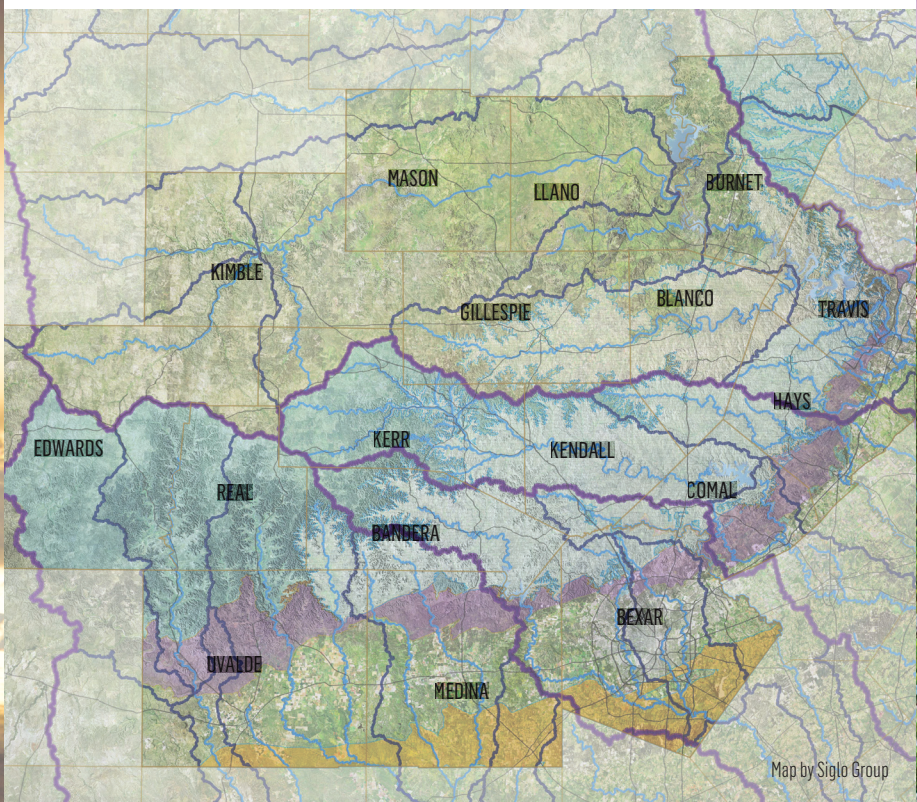
## The heart of Texas beats in the Hill Country.

The Hill Country is a region emotionally and economically connected to all other parts of the state—through summer camp experiences, hunting trips, vacations, family and friends.

The springs, creeks and rivers of the Hill Country sustain residents, businesses and ecosystems from headwaters to tidewaters. Those who call it home know all too well the ties that bind our hearts to the heart of Texas.

And yet, this is a region under immense pressure from growth and development. Without a clear vision and coordinated actions, we stand to lose all that the Hill Country gives back to Texas.

The Hill Country Alliance leads the way toward a vision for the Hill Country—working for smart growth policy through education and advocacy—convening conversations about water, land, sky and community.



## – Our Hill Country –

Since 2005, HCA has been bringing people together to address Hill Country challenges and build consensus toward a better way forward. This is how we work:

  
EDUCATION  
& OUTREACH

  
GENTLE  
ADVOCACY

  
CAPACITY  
BUILDING

  
PARTNERSHIPS  
& NETWORKS

Join the conversation.  
Subscribe to our newsletter today.  
[HillCountryAlliance.org](https://HillCountryAlliance.org)

The mission of the Hill Country Alliance is to bring together an ever-expanding alliance of groups and individuals throughout the Texas Hill Country with the long-term objective of protecting our open spaces, water supply, water quality, and unique character.

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Will clean, flowing waters be over-pumped and contaminated by development?

Will open lands and working ranches be overtaken by subdivisions?

Will bright stars be dimmed by light pollution?

Will the built environment fit in, or take over?

—  
These questions demand actions.  
*From all of us.*

Imagine  
the Hill Country  
future generations will inherit.







– Water –



– Land –



– Sky –



– Community –

**Thirteen Texas rivers begin in the Hill Country and provide water for millions of downstream neighbors.**

As populations grow, our demands on limited aquifer resources threaten to dry up wells and the springs that support the creeks and rivers of the Hill Country. Policy disconnects make it difficult to protect the region’s water supplies.

The Hill Country Alliance (HCA) works to address state-wide policy concerns about the management of surface water and groundwater. We support local groundwater management by elected district boards, and we respond to water quality threats. We promote land and water conservation and water infrastructure alternatives, like rainwater harvesting and net zero water development. We advance sound science in groundwater decision-making.

**Texas is losing heritage ranch lands faster than any other state in the country.**

As ranch lands are divided and urban development pushes further into the rural Hill Country, we are losing wildlife habitat, healthy watershed function, open spaces and scenic vistas—the very things for which the region is known and loved.

HCA combats land fragmentation and degradation by promoting both land conservation and good land stewardship. We build consensus for place-based land management practices that enhance long-term water supply. We address the threat of invasive vegetation, promote restorative agriculture and ranching, and facilitate large-scale landscape conservation. We create resources, conversations and forums for landowners, neighbors, elected officials, and all concerned citizens.

**Eight out of ten children will grow up unable to see the Milky Way due to light pollution.**

The Hill Country is on the edge of night in Texas. As development pushes westward from the urban corridor, we are losing our view of the night sky that once inspired a songwriter to croon, “The stars at night are big and bright, deep in the heart of Texas.”

HCA convenes diverse groups of stakeholders and community leaders to slow the spread of light pollution and the degradation of Hill Country night skies. We work with state parks and local communities to achieve dark sky designations and help electric cooperatives convert to night-sky-friendly lighting. We encourage local initiatives to pass resolutions and ordinances for the preservation of our starry night sky in cities and counties across the region.

**Ninety percent of Hill Country lands are in unincorporated areas where there is little authority to plan for growth.**

Unprecedented growth is diluting the heritage of our rural towns with sprawling development patterns that take away from courthouse squares and main streets. The culture center of our communities is being lost to new outward-spreading development.

HCA promotes new and better ways to grow healthy, vibrant communities both in the urban corridor and in rural areas throughout the region. We emphasize growth and transportation alternatives that accommodate population projections while minimizing our footprint. We work to bring communities together around shared values. We support technologies and policies that allow the built environment to enhance, not detract from, our region’s resilience.