The goal of training programs coordinated by the Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI) and the Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources (IRNR) is helping land, water and wildlife professionals learn how to manage natural resources. TWRI and IRNR work with Texas A&M University’s Spatial Sciences Laboratory and Zachry Department of Civil Engineering, the Texas AgriLife Blackland Research and Extension Center at Temple, and the Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Dallas to market and administer training courses on water-related geographic information systems, remote sensing technology, and computer simulation models.

Training course topics include:

- Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT)
- Agricultural Policy/Environmental eXtender (APEX)
- Water Rights Analysis Package (WRAP)
- Spatially Explicit Load Enrichment Calculation Tool (SELECT)
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Floodplain Delineation with HEC-RAS and GIS

In other training programs, the training program staff work with Texas AgriLife Research, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, state and federal agencies, and various universities to conduct training programs in watershed protection planning.

The training staff support participating faculty by developing curriculum materials, handling logistics and administering continuing education credits to course participants. Instructors can focus on course development and training as the institutes staff assume a greater role in administering these courses.
Objective

• Develop and provide training courses that offer intensive hands-on instruction, walk users through model fundamentals and answer questions

Accomplishments

• Updated and maintained Natural Resources Training Program website
• Conducted two training courses in FY08 to more than 50 participants
• Conducted 28 training courses in FY09 to more than 950 participants
• Conducted 24 training courses in FY10 to more than 425 participants
• Conducted 16 training courses in FY11 to more than 500 participants
• Scheduled 21 training courses for FY12

Collaborators

• Texas Water Resources Institute
• Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources
• Texas AgriLife Extension Service
• Texas AgriLife Research
• Texas A&M University Spatial Sciences Laboratory
• Texas A&M University Zachry Department of Civil Engineering