

Where Does The Rainfall Go?

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

A Demonstration

What is a *watershed*?

A **watershed** is an area of land that channels rainfall downhill, above or below ground, to join with the outflow of another watershed or into a marsh, river, lake or underground aquifer.

Watershed management is an attempt to enhance the value of water in quantity and quality through proper management of soil, livestock, and vegetation. The rainfall simulator is useful in helping us to understand how management can be applied..



What is a Rainfall Simulator? A **rainfall simulator** simulates a rainfall event on a small specific area and allows water to either soak into the ground, through a porous soil layer and drain out the lower holes and into the container called :ground water”; or it runs off the top of the soil surface or impervious layer and out the top hole spilling into the container called “runoff water”.

The goals of the rainfall simulator are to encourage:(the requirements of a wildlife habitat)

- 1. increased water infiltration*
- 2. decreased sediment loss*
- 3. Enhanced livestock forage productivity*
- 4. Enhanced wildlife food, water and cover*
- 5. Protection of water from non-point pollution*
- 6. Management for sustainable watersheds*

PROBLEM:

Historians tell us there were **10,000 springs that used to flow centuries ago in Texas. Today only 60% still flow.** There are **3 main reasons for the drop in water** in our aquifers that produced those springs.

The **first reason** for the loss of springs is because of the lowering of water tables by pumping out the water for human use. As our population grows we will use more water from underground aquifers. And as more wells are drilled, and the water tables continue downward.