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## **Texas Water Trade and Meadows Center to Host Bringing Back Comanche Springs Event at Fort Stockton on October 29**

**AUSTIN, TEXAS – October 21, 2019** – Texas Water Trade and The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University will host an event on Tuesday, October 29 at the Large Community Hall, located in James Rooney Memorial Park near South Spring Drive and South Comanche Street, in Fort Stockton from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. to explore the science behind Comanche Springs’ recent reawakening and the efforts that could help Fort Stockton reclaim its title as the Spring City of Texas.

Once one of the five largest springs in Texas, Comanche Springs quit its flow in the 1950s due to significant groundwater pumping upstream from the springs. Over the last decade, however, the once-quiet springs have begun flowing again in the late winter months, when the aquifer has rebounded from summer irrigation pumping – leading some people to ask, “Could Comanche Springs be permanently restored?”

“Comanche Springs, once a 30 million gallon-a-day oasis on the edge of the Chihuahuan Desert, was a Texas treasure,” says Robert Mace, Interim Executive Director of The Meadows Center. “The springs provided a water supply to native populations, early settlers, and down-spring irrigators and supported a small but important desert ecosystem through the 1940s.”

Texas Water Trade and The Meadows Center will discuss their plans to conduct a feasibility assessment of a market-based restoration of Comanche Springs. With generous support from the Fort Stockton Visitors Bureau, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation the assessment will evaluate what it would take to restore perennial flows using voluntary, market-based cooperation of groundwater owners in the Comanche Springs’ contributing and recharge zones.

“By paying farmers to reduce their groundwater pumping, we hope to demonstrate that Comanche Springs could be restored to year-round flow, keeping farms in production while helping Fort Stockton to diversify its economy as a tourist destination,” says Sharlene Leurig, Chief Executive Officer of Texas Water Trade.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/2M5gtll>.

### **About Texas Water Trade**

Texas Water Trade is a nonprofit organization harnessing the power of markets and technological innovation to build a future of clean, flowing water for all Texans. Learn more at [www.texaswatertrade.org](http://www.texaswatertrade.org)

### **About The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment**

The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment was named following a generous gift from The Meadows Foundation in August 2012. The Meadows Center inspires research, innovation and leadership that ensures clean, abundant water for the environment and all humanity.