TexasView recognizes the impact on outreach and education through the Earth as Art exhibitions hosted by StateViews in recent years. TexasView has developed exhibition materials for Texas as Art, with the intent of displaying the exhibition in cooperation with TexasView partner institutions over the next several years. The exhibit is focused on 10 ecoregions of Texas defined by Texas’ Department of Parks and Wildlife (TPWD), whose online resources support the exhibit.

The exhibit highlights the applications of satellite imagery across a broad range of challenges that affect Texas’ ecoregions, including wildfire burn severity assessment. Focusing on Texas State parks “brings the challenges home” and makes the exhibit relevant for diverse venues and audiences. New artwork is developed for each new host institution, in partnership with local stakeholders. Local artists co-exhibit to add context and scale.

Texas as Art has been disseminated through public and conference presentations (seven); exhibits at two partner institutions (Texas Tech University and University of Texas at El Paso); four public exhibits; one conference exhibit; two outreach events, and one workshop. An exhibit proposal has been accepted and scheduled for one partner institution in GY23 (Midwestern State University) and planning has commenced for an exhibition at University of Texas at San Antonio.

Development of materials for educational outreach continues. Engaging students with recognizing different types of landcover and landforms is the focus of an art activity in which students create their own artwork, choosing colors to represent different landcover and landform types. They are learning how to make a map while being artistically creative.

Landcover/landform key for art activity.

Origin of the Rock House Fire

Fire Scar from the April 2011 Rock House Fire in the Davis Mountains (Trans-Pecos Ecoregion), which burned over 300,000 acres.
Texas as Art is focused on connecting viewers to the ecoregions and landscapes of Texas. By choosing state-managed lands as the “anchor” for each scene, the artwork directs viewers’ attention to the geographic features and human infrastructure around the state parks, wildlife management areas, natural areas, and historic sites that are managed, protected, and restored by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). Using the NASA Landsat Collage activity as a model, TexasView substituted Texas as Art imagery and offered the activity to over 50 children and their parents during the Sibley Nature Center Spring Festival in Midland, Texas.

Children could choose among colorful artwork images that linked to State Parks including Big Bend Ranch, Davis Mountains, Palo Duro Canyon, and Monahans Sandhill state Parks, as well as Fort Lancaster State Historic Site, the Elephant Mountain Wildlife Management Area, and the Chinati Mountains State Natural Area. Posters offered information about the ecoregions in which all of these areas are found (Trans-Pecos, Rolling Plains, High Plains). Co-exhibiting adjacent to the TexasView activity area were uniformed staff from TPWD’s Monahans Sandhills State Park. Their booth area offered diverse information about State Parks and other State-Managed lands, and we directed families to their booth for more information.

TexasView Principal Investigator:
Rebecca L. Dodge, Ph.D.
Midwestern State University
404-784-8615
rebecca.dodge@msutexas.edu

Established in 2002, the TexasView Remote Sensing Consortium consists of thirteen university partners distributed across the state. Members include universities large and small, public and private. TexasView members work closely with state, regional and local agencies to promote remote sensing at all levels.

TexasView is founded on the concept of free and public exchange among its members of data, information and knowledge concerning the Earth and its processes, as observed by remote sensing and GIS technologies, for education, research, and local government applications.