



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ORDER MODIFYING NEW WORLD SCREWWORM INFESTED ZONE IN PECOS COUNTY FOLLOWING EPIDEMIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

On July 14, 2026, New World Screwworm (NWS) was detected in a sheep in Pecos County. In response, on July 15, 2026, the Executive Director issued the *Executive Director Order Declaring Animal Movement Restrictions Due to New World Screwworm in Pecos County*, establishing Infested Zone 15 and imposing animal movement restrictions within the affected area.

Since issuance of the July 15, 2026 order, Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) have worked collaboratively with animal owners, veterinarians, livestock markets, industry organizations, local governments, and other state and federal partners to implement a comprehensive NWS eradication strategy within Infested Zone 15.

Sterile NWS flies were released by USDA in and around the affected area to suppress and eliminate any wild NWS population. These sterile fly releases, together with animal inspections, treatment protocols, movement controls, and continued surveillance efforts, have substantially reduced the risk of ongoing NWS infestations.

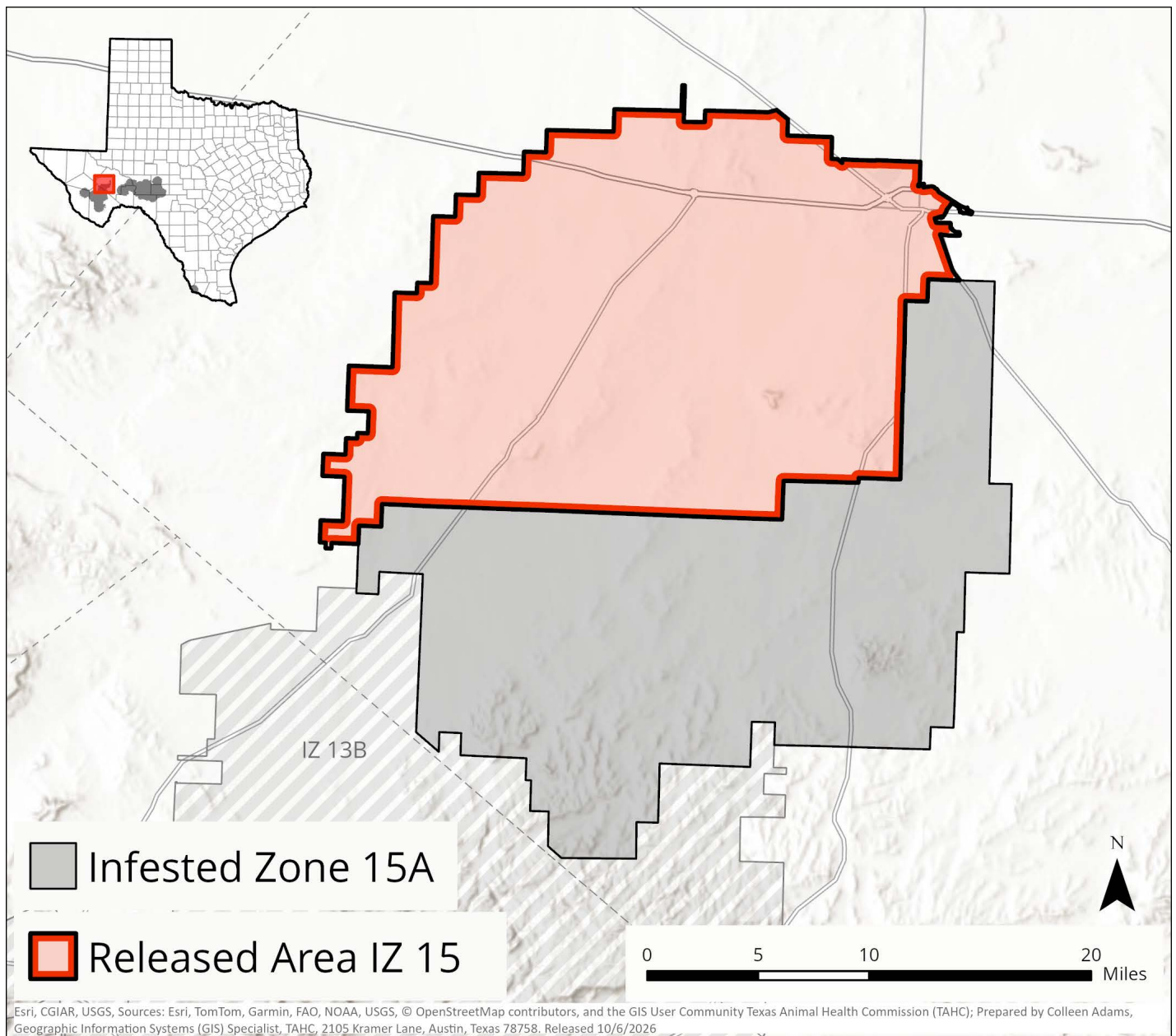
While response and eradication efforts progressed within Infested Zone 15, additional NWS detections in neighboring Brewster County necessitated the creation and modification of infested zones in Brewster County, including Infested Zones 13 and 18. The detection of a fertile wild NWS fly by the USDA in Brewster County on September 27, 2026, necessitated modifications to the existing zone boundaries and the implementation of Infested Zone 13.B across portions of Brewster and Pecos counties.

Based on the epidemiological assessment of Infested Zone 15 and surrounding areas, including fly trapping and monitoring data, evaluation of sterile fly dispersal, visual inspection of susceptible animals for myiasis, and the absence of NWS detections within the area during the surveillance period, the Executive Director finds that sufficient evidence exists to demonstrate that certain areas of Infested Zone 15 satisfy the criteria for release from quarantine and movement restrictions. At the same time, the Executive Director finds that the proximity of recent NWS detections in Brewster County warrants maintaining quarantine and movement restrictions



within a portion of Infested Zone 15 to support ongoing NWS control and eradication efforts.

Therefore, the Executive Director releases the portions of Pecos County previously included within Infested Zone 15 from quarantine and movement restrictions. The Executive Director further modifies Infested Zone 15 to release portions of Pecos County and redesignates the remaining affected portions of Pecos County as Infested Zone 15A, as indicated below:





To protect the health of animals in this state, reduce the spread of NWS to non-infested animals, and prevent NWS from establishing in new areas, a quarantine remains imposed on Infested Zone 15.A. Infested Zone 15.A is subject to the following animal movement restrictions:

Warm-blooded animals located within Infested Zone 15.A may not be moved outside of the zone without prior authorization from the Commission. Any person in possession or control of such animals must obtain permission and comply with all conditions set by the Commission before transporting the animals beyond the quarantine boundaries.

To move warm-blooded animals outside of Infested Zone 15.A, the animal must be inspected and treated as required by the Commission and issued a permit or certificate for movement by a Commission representative.

Hides, carcasses, and parts of any animal capable of serving as a host for NWS must be inspected and undergo any treatment deemed necessary by a Commission representative prior to removal from the Infested Zone 15.A.

Unauthorized movement is prohibited and subject to administrative penalties and/or criminal prosecution.

Although quarantine and movement restrictions have been released from areas previously within the infested zone, continued vigilance remains essential to prevent the reintroduction or reestablishment of NWS in previously impacted areas. Animal owners and caretakers should continue to monitor animals for wounds and clinical signs consistent with NWS infestation and promptly report any suspected cases to TAHC. Continued surveillance, awareness, and timely reporting are critical to preventing new infestations and protecting animal health in Texas.

This order is issued pursuant to Texas Agriculture Code, Chapters 161-168, and applicable regulations found in Title 4 of the Texas Administrative Code, Part 2, Chapters 31-60, and is effective immediately.



TEXAS ANIMAL HEALTH COMMISSION
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This order will remain in effect until the quarantine is released by the Commission.

Signed October 6, 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lewis R. Dinges DVM".

Lewis R. Dinges, D.V.M.
Executive Director
Texas Animal Health Commission