

### *Runnels County*

The total population of the county is approximately 11,089.<sup>1</sup> The largest city in Runnels county is Ballinger (also the County Seat) with a population of approximately 4,243 people. This town is not a part of the District. Other communities with larger populations not in the District are: Winters with approximately 2,880 people, Miles with approximately 850 people, and Rowena with approximately 380. Other small communities in the District include: Olfen, Norton, Hatchel, Crews, and Wingate. The total estimated population within the District in Runnels county is 2,770.

The majority of the land use in the county is for agricultural purposes with a total of 581,139 acres of which 293,074 acres is crop or farm land and the balance of 288,065 acres is range land.<sup>2</sup> The crop land is located primarily in the west central and southwestern portion of the county over the Lipan aquifer while the range land is located on the north and east portions of the county. Irrigation covers approximately 2,403 acres of the county's crop land. The principle methods of irrigation are furrow irrigation, pivot irrigation, and drip irrigation.

The total estimated population of these three counties is 118,085.<sup>3</sup> However, since the District covers the area generally outside the cities and towns, the total estimated population in the District is 8,436.

Overall land use in the District is for agricultural purposes of which approximately 634,226 acres are crop or farm land and 1,249,505 acres are range land. The crop land is located primarily in the central portion of the District over the Lipan aquifer while the range land is located along the boundaries of the District over the Edwards-Trinity and Hickory aquifers. Irrigation covers approximately 50,673 acres of the District's crop land.<sup>4</sup> The principle method of irrigation has been furrow irrigation. However, within the last 4 to 5 years there has been a large scale change to more highly efficient pivot and drip irrigation. There are an estimated 200 + pivot systems currently operating within the District with new systems being installed.

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2001- Population Estimate.

<sup>2</sup> USDA, 1997 Census of Agriculture.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2001- Population Estimate.

<sup>4</sup> USDA, 1997 Census of Agriculture.