

If you aren't reading Dave Owen's blog posts over at Environmental Law Prof Blog, you should be. His [most recent post](#) is about a recent Endangered Species Act (ESA) case in Texas: Environmental plaintiffs sued, arguing that the state of Texas had allowed too many water withdrawals upstream from the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, a critical breeding site for the endangered whooping crane. The plaintiffs won in the district court, but Dave does a great job of pointing out what that victory took: lots and lots of data collection by the plaintiffs, and a judge who cared.

There's a bigger lesson from this case. Doing environmental law well usually requires lots of information. But as I've noted [elsewhere](#), there are lots of reasons why that data might not be collected or used well. The Aransas case is a great example of that point.