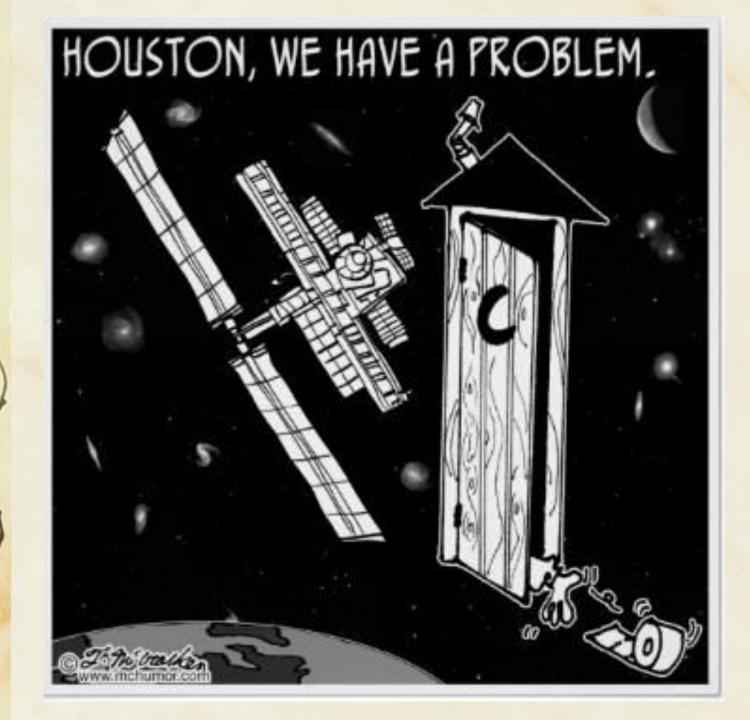


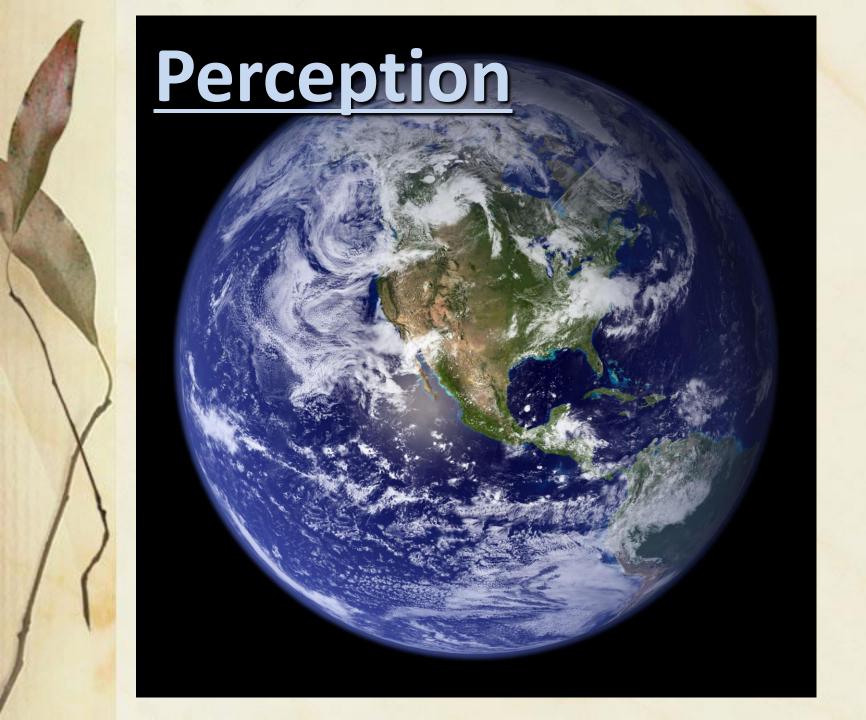
Field Stations as Ambassadors and Agents in Bridging Silos: Engagement in Watershed Protection, Research & Natural Resource Literacy



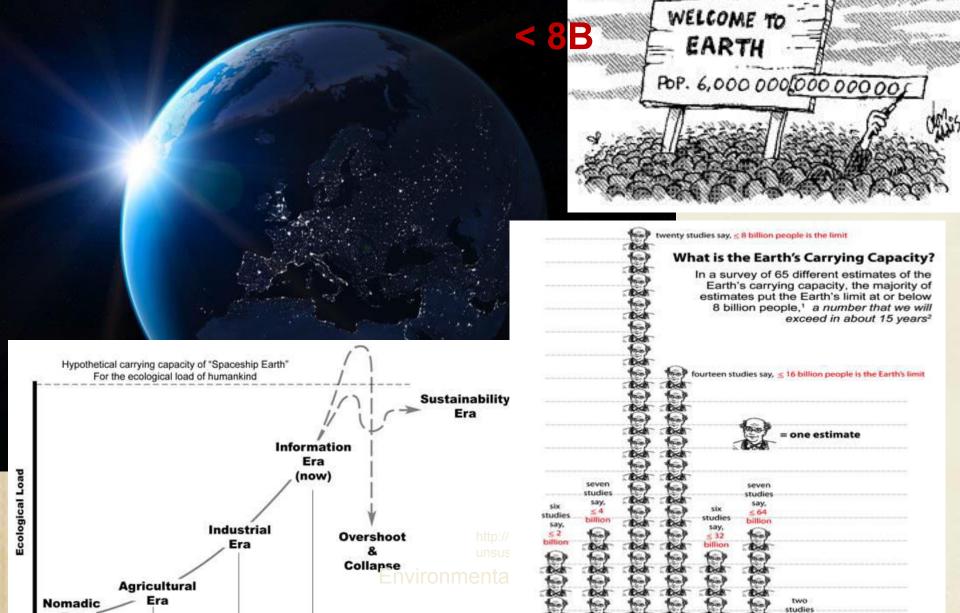
Liano River Field Station
Texas Tech University











First Wave

Millennia

Second Wave

Centuries-

Third Wave

→ Decades →

Time (not to scale)

Fourth Wave

study

says,

≤ 256

one

study

says,

≤512

≤1,024

say.

≤128

billion

# Challenges for the South Central Region

- Ecosystem restoration under increased climate variability.
- Fish and wildlife response to climate change?
- Invasive species and fires
- Protection of trust species
- Wildlife diseases
- Climate impacts on agriculture
- > Renewable resources water



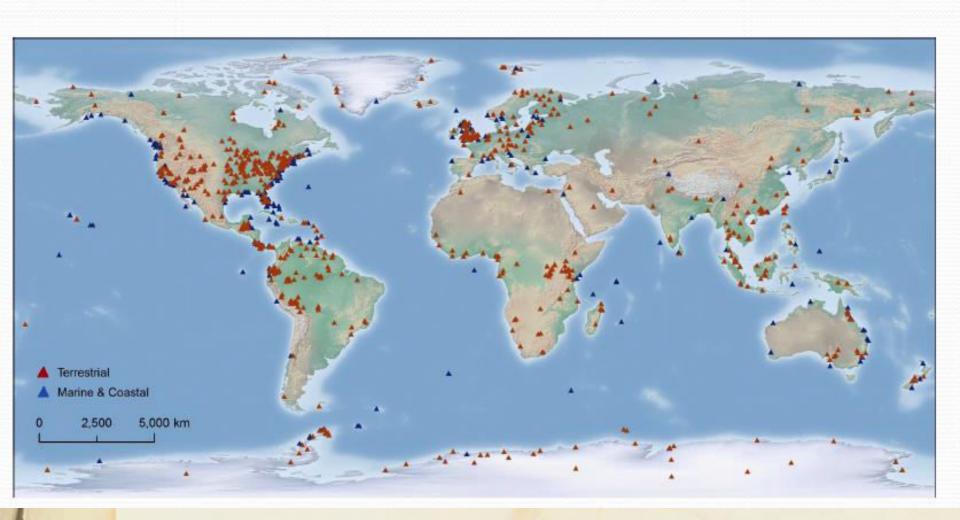
# National Research Council – National Academy of Sciences

Field Stations and Marine Laboratories
in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
Public Report Briefing
July 23, 2014
Jerry Schubel, Committee Chair

Twitter: #fieldstations



## Field Stations: A Critical Asset



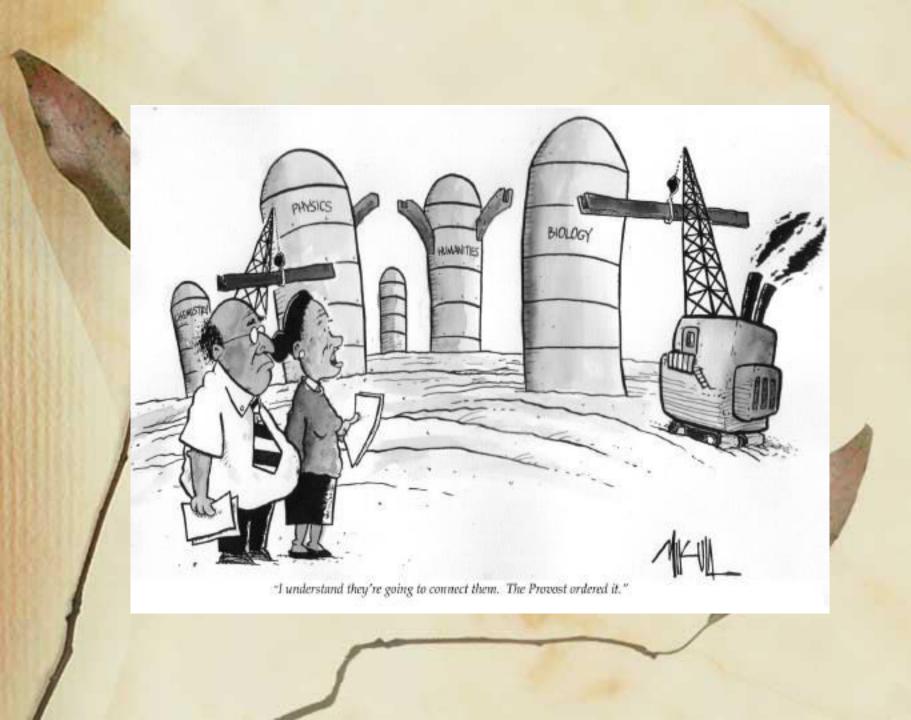
## Our Mission

To encourage, educate, engage, conduct and coordinate basic and applied research projects dealing with:

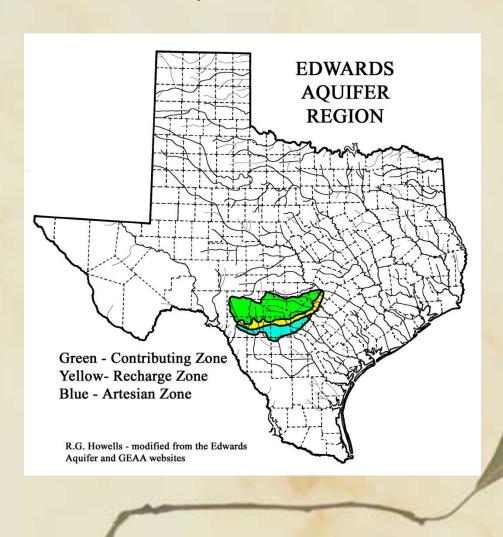
- Water /watersheds
- Exotic species
- Range management
- Natural resources
- Ecological restoration
- Environmental education

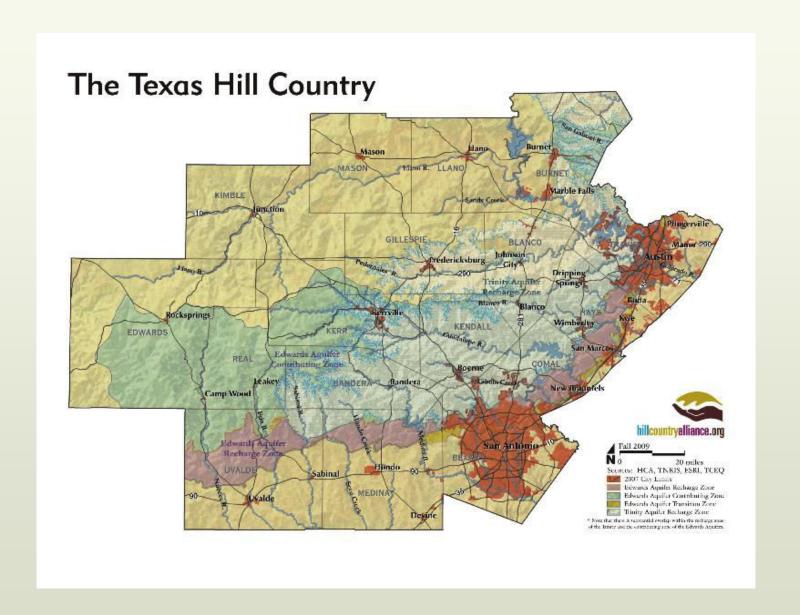


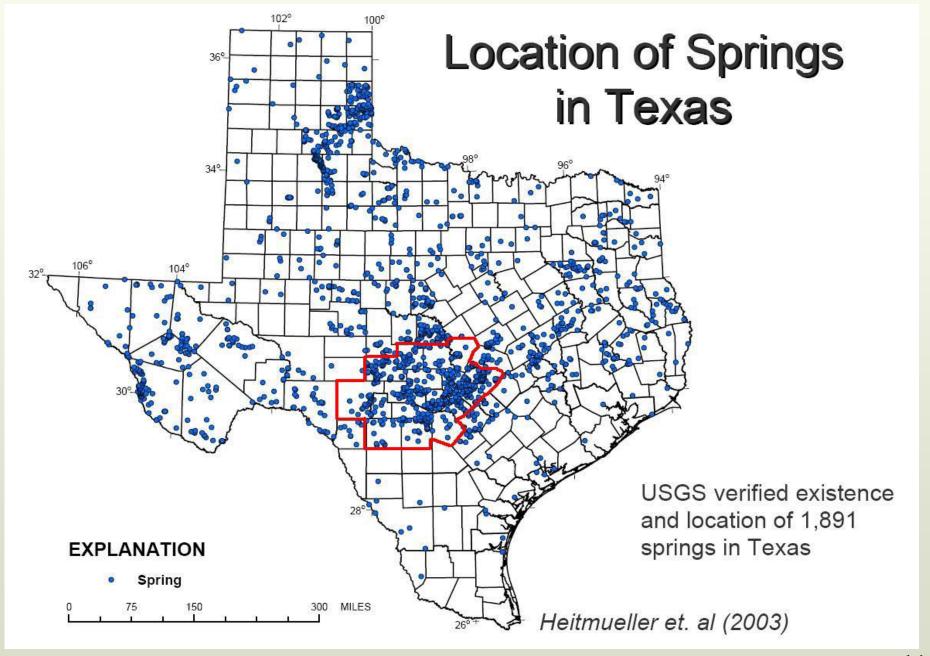




#### **EDWARDS AQUIFER REGION**









# Community-Engaged Teaching, Research, & Service: What Does It Mean/Does It Matter?

- Federal Agencies
- State Agencies
- Municipal
- Professional
- ONGOs
- University/Community Colleges
- Landowners

#### Llano River Field Station Development Strategies

- Professional scientific/educational conferences
- Organizing national research/educational symposia to provide exposure to LRFS programs
- Developing innovative partnerships, community engagement workshops, water/watershed educational & research efforts
- Serving on scientific, educational, NGO professional organizations scientific & advisory committees
- Increased funding, visibility & stature of LRFS Outdoor School
- Local, state and national grants

# TTU Llano River Field Station Organizations/Meetings/Workshops

#### Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

- Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation Board
- National Park Service
- South Llano River Watershed Alliance
- Watershed Protection Plan Meetings
- Texas Forest Service
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- National Science Foundation
- Angelo State University
- CISER Center for the Integration of STEM Education and Research

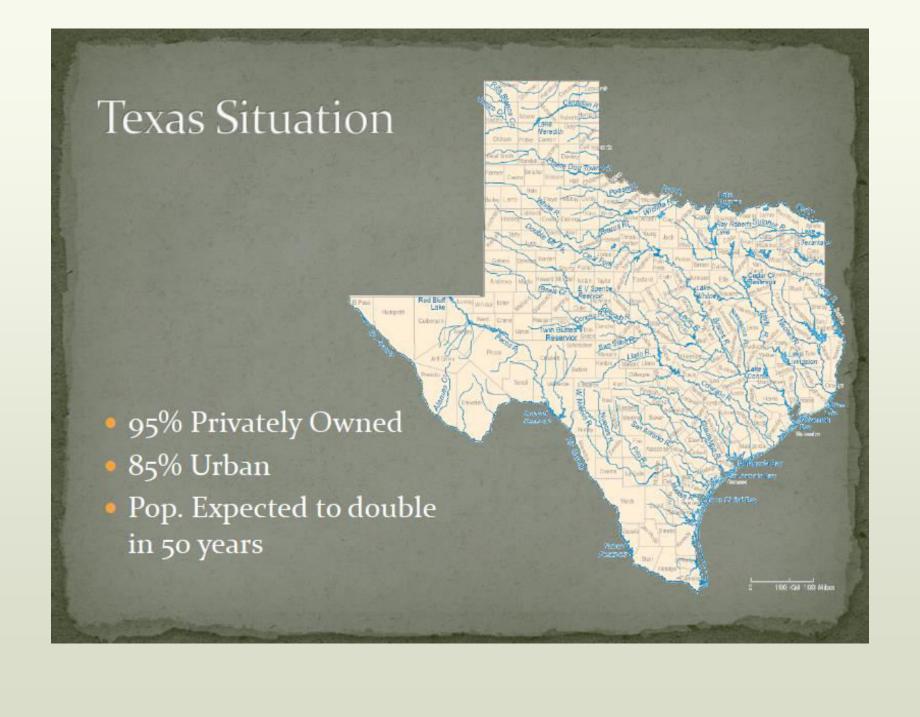


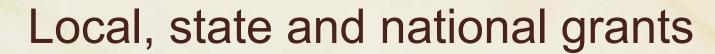
Over 5000 visitors in FY2014

# TTU Llano River Field Station Organizations/Meetings/Workshops

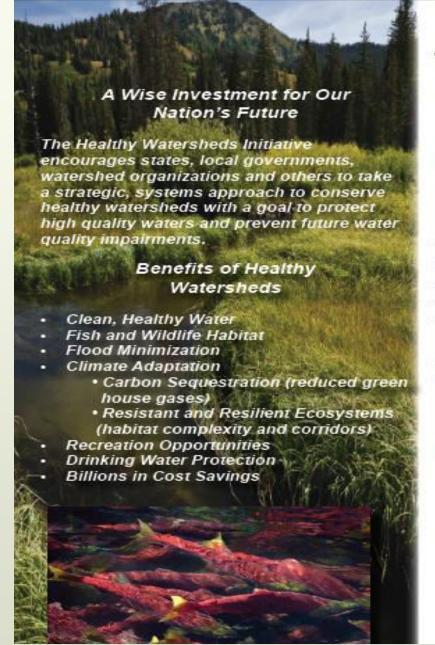
Texas Academy of Science **Southwest Association of Naturalists** Organization of Biological Field **Stations** Texas Society of Mammalogists Texas State Comptroller Mussel **Identification Workshop** Society of Ecological Restoration **Texas** Riparian Association Texas Ornithology Society







- Junction Economic Development Council
- Communities Foundation of Texas
- U.S. Department of Education
- National Science Foundation
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Environmental Protection Agency
- State Energy Conservation Office (Texas Comptroller)
- Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and others – with over \$7M in funding, not including the South Central Climate Science Center



#### EPA's Healthy Watersheds Initiative

espite billions of dollars spent in the last three decades to address impairments to water resources, aquatic ecosystems are still in decline. A recent EPA survey of the nation's wadeable streams found 42 percent in poor biological condition and 25 percent in fair condition. Nearly 40 percent of North America's freshwater fish, 700 species in total, are imperiled. We face a serious conservation crisis

The solution demands a more integrated approach that looks broadly to maintain water quality and ecological integrity on a geographic – or watershed basis. Thanks to today's highly advanced assessment, planning and data analysis tools, we now can achieve the vision for holistic water resource management embraced by EPA and others in the early 1990's. Under the new Healthy Watersheds Initiative, EPA is proposing:

- A Strategic Framework that outlines a systemsbased approach to integrated watershed assessment, protection and conservation programs.
- A New Policy Direction that focuses on maintaining healthy waters and meeting Clean Water Act (CWA) goals of fishable and swimmable.
- A Collaborative Approach that integrates CWA programs and other aquatic resource programs across agencies and the private sector.
- Technical Assistance and Funding to states and watershed organizations to support healthy watershed assessment and conservation.

## Empowering stakeholders

- Landowners benefit because they are part of the process and their desires are incorporated into the WPP
- Partnerships
  - South Llano Watershed Alliance, TTU, and TWRI
- Voluntary community stakeholder meetings

### Working Group Membership

- Invasive species ■ Fred Gregg Andrew Murr/Billy Braswell) ■ Brady Richardson/Daryl Stanley Riparian protection and management ■ Melissa Parker/Gary Garrett □ Znobia Wootan ■ Art Mudge Water quality and conservation ■ Marty Graham ☐ Jerry Kirby ■ Marvin Ivy/Raymond McDonald
- ☐Water supply enhancement
  - Marty Graham
  - Tom Vandivier
  - ☐ Souli Shanklin
  - Brady Richardson/Daryl Stanley
  - Ward Whitworth
- □Upland management
  - Dandy Kothmann
  - Souli Shanklin
  - Sam Silvers/Marvin Ensor



- Reduces costs to communities by minimizing vulnerability to floods, fires, and other natural disasters
- Reduces or eliminates costs of water treatment for drinking water by protecting aquifer recharge zones and surface water
- Ecosystems store carbon which can help offset carbon emissions
- Minimizes ecological impacts of future land use
- Facilitates ecological restoration downstream
- Helps target and prioritize ecological restoration opportunities
- Reduces vulnerability to invasive species
- Sustains future generations proach

July 10, 2009

# Survey Shows Gap Between Scientists and the Public

Scientists must find new ways to engage with the public. One cannot just exhort 'we all agree you should agree with us.' It's a much more interactive process that's involved. It's time consuming and can be tedious. But it's very important."

Alan I. Leshner

#### Drought and Oasis Fire Landowner Workshop

# OASIS PIPELINE WILDFIRE RECOVERY & RECLAMATION WORKSHOP







SLOPE SEEDING DEMOS

WILDFIRE OVERVIEW

Exosion Protection

#### NOV. 12, 2011 TTU JUNCTION CAMPUS

Landowners affected by recent wildfires will gain knowledge and resources towards reducing the devastating long-term impacts to their land.





# TEXAS VVatershed Steward



The Texas Watershed Steward program is a free, one-day educational workshop designed to help watershed residents improve and protect their water resources by getting involved in local watershed protection and management activities.

## August 30, 2012: 8:00 am - 4 pm

Llano River Field Station

Texas Tech Center at Junction 254 Red Raider Lane Junction, TX 76849

The workshop will provide an overview of water quality and watershed management in Texas. It will primarily focus on water quality issues in the Llano River as well as efforts by the South Llano Watershed Alliance, Texas Water Resources Institute, Texas Tech University, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, and area residents to help improve water resources and the health of the surrounding watersheds in the area. For information visit: http://southllano.org/

Pre-register for the workshop by going to: http://tws.tamu.edu/workshops/online-registration or call 979.862.8070





MENARD

REAL











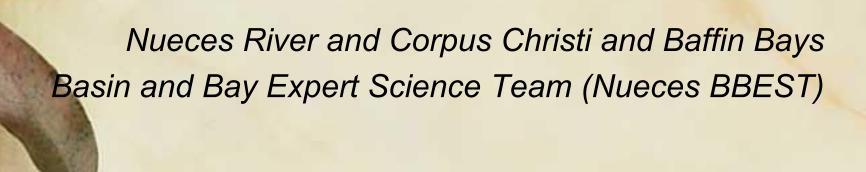
## LANDOWNER WORKSHOPS: Llano River Field Station.

- O Riparian Essentials in Practice Workshop. March 12 14, 2010. Texas Riparian Association. 45 registrants.
- Edwards Plateau Ecoregion Workshop. April 19-20, 2010.
   Multiagency Stakeholder Meeting to develop Texas
   Conservation Action Plan. 35 registrants.
- Texas Watershed Steward Workshop. 2010. 40 registrants.
- Riparian Workshop. May 3, 2010. Sponsored by South Llano Watershed Alliance, Nueces River Authority and Llano River Field Station. 35 registrants.
- Hill Country Land Stewardship Workshop: Plans and Practices for Maximizing the Value and Resources of Your Land. 2009. Organized by WEPTMN, TTU Llano River Field Station, and Texas AgriLife Extension Service. 95 registrants.
- Oconservation Across Boundaries Texas Workshop, Teacher Natural Resource Education Workshop. 22 teachers.
- Rainwater Harvesting Workshop, August 16-20 Texas AgriLife Extension Education.



# Service on scientific & advisory committees

- Board of Directors-Texas Academy of Science
- Executive Committee-Organization of Biological Field Stations
- Advisory Board-Hill Country Alliance
- Advisory Committee-Multiagency Texas Invasive Species Coordination Committee
- TTU Water Leadership Council
- Appointed-Senate Bill 3 Nueces River/Corpus Christi Bay Expert Science Team
- Chair-Executive Committee, Society for Freshwater Science
- Appointed-Science Committee, Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan
- Elected Chair: Task Force for Implementation Texas Natural Resource/Environmental Literacy Plan



# Environmental Flows Recommendations Report



July 10, 2009

# Survey Shows Gap Between Scientists and the Public

Scientists must find new ways to engage with the public. One cannot just exhort 'we all agree you should agree with us.' It's a much more interactive process that's involved. It's time consuming and can be tedious. But it's very important."

Alan I. Leshner



Developing innovative partnerships, community engagement workshops, water/watershed educational and research

- Texas Water Symposium with Texas Public
- Regional land and watershed stewardship

- South Llano River Watershed Alliance
- Industry: Aquifer Group/WEN Alliance



Educating the public on complex water issues to improve water literacy using expert panels, rotating venues, diverse partnerships and Texas Public Radio

> Tom Arsuff –TTU-Llano River Field Station Christy Muse -Hill Country Alliance Ernie Villareal -Texas Public Radio

MUSIC

ABOUT



The Manager Hann

**NEWS** 

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

SUPPORT

The Newsmaker Hour

listen now

on the air



Classical Music



The Newsmaker Hour is a program featuring speakers addressing local and national organizations on a variety of topics and current events produced by Texas Public Radio's Ernie Villarreal. Local organizations regularly featured are the World Affairs Council of San Antonio, the Free Trade Alliance San Antonio and the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce. Speakers invited to address the public and students at St. Mary's University, UTSA, San Antonio College and St. Philip's College are also featured. National organizations include the City Club of Cleveland and the National Press Club. Audio CDs of the locally produced programs are available for purchase by contacting producer Ernie Villarreal at ernie@tpr.org.



Photo by Laurie/Flickr

#### Program Archive:

"Forging Partnership: Addressing Complex Water Issues in Texas" Download MP3

March 20, 2009 · This program is the last in a series of panel discussions of the Texas Water Symposium; a joint project of Schreiner University, Texas Tech University, the Hill Country Alliance and Texas Public Radio.

Moderating the discussion is Robert Potts, President of the Dixon Water Foundation. On the panel are: Bill Ross, Schreiner University Wilson Fellow; A. L. "Curg" Starkey III, rancher and the great-grandson of a founding father of Kerr County and David K. Langford, Vice-President emeritus of the Texas Wildlife Association.

**PROGRAMS** 

(1) Q&A Session

(1) John Quiñones, ABC News correspondent and San Antonio native

March 13, 2009 · Texas Public Radio's Ernie Villarreal spoke with ABC News correspondent and San Antonio

July 10, 2009

# Survey Shows Gap Between Scientists and the Public

Scientists must find new ways to engage with the public. One cannot just exhort 'we all agree you should agree with us.' It's a much more interactive process that's involved. It's time consuming and can be tedious. But it's very important."

Alan I. Leshner

#### 11. Llano River Biodiversity Trail

Project Partner: Texas Tech

University's Llano River Field Station

RTCA Contact: Marta Newkirk

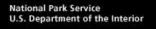
Location: Junction

Congressional District: TX - 11

#### **Project Goal**

Develop 3.2 miles of land trails which connect with a newly designated 4.4 mile paddle trail along the Llano River. Development of six demonstration areas of Best Management Practices for native plant gardens, rainwater harvesting systems, mesquite brush control, wildlife guzzlers with game cameras, invasive species management, and instream fish habitat improvement structures.

#### **National Park Service**



Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program



Who We Are **Projects By State** 

What We Do

Contact Us

Apply for Assistance

News & Events

**Helpful Tools** 

Search NPS

**Nationwide Rivers** Inventory

Rivers & Trails Home

Subscribe to our

#### WHAT IS THE RIVERS & TRAILS PROGRAM?

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. RTCA supports community-led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation projects.

RTCA staff provide technical assistance to communities so they can conserve rivers, preserve open space, and develop trails and greenways.



Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program Intermountain Region

National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior



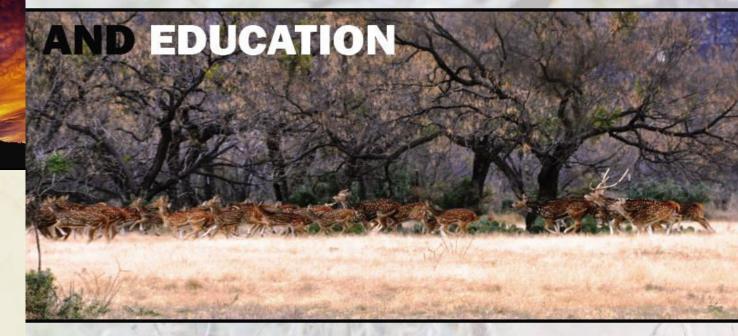


# DISCOVERY POINT

TRAILS AND OBSERVATION TOWER

Texas Tech University Llano River Field Station

# A DESTINATION FOR RESEARCH, ECOTOURISM,



THE LLANO RIVER FIELD STATION IS ONE OF THE GREAT HIDDEN JEWELS IN THE STATE'S EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYSTEM. THERE IS NO BETTER OR MORE PICTURESQUE SETTING ...TO COME LEARN ABOUT THE HILL COUNTRY'S UNIQUE LANDS, WATERS, AND HERITAGE.

- Carter Smith, Executive Director, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

# SECO Renewable Energy Grant

- OS Renewable Energy Unit on Wind & Sun
- Energy/WaterNexus Demo
- Discovery PointTrail Experience





# Llano River Field Station Texas Tech University Center at Junction



## Recreational Effort and Economic Impact of Angling for Guadalupe Bass in Central Texas Streams

Zack Thomas, Tom Arsuffi
Texas Tech University
Department of Biological Sciences
Llano River Field Station

Stephan Magnelia



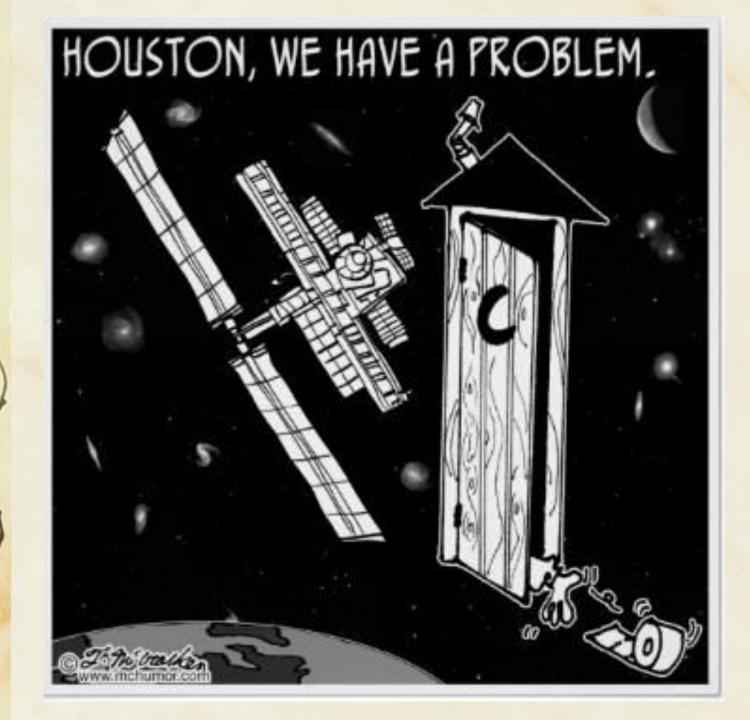
Texas Parks and Wildlife
Department
River Studies Program



# Guadalupe Bass \$\$\$ Impacts

- Direct Angler Expenditures
  - >\$74.2M
  - Indirect Angler Expenditures
    - >\$71.6M
- JOBS
  - >776





WINT DO WEIGHT ADOUT LE IN

#### TEXAS?

#### **VERY LITTLE**

- National studies assessed comprehensive state-level environmental education (EE) programs. Sixteen criteria: program, structure, and funding components.
  - 1995 Texas met 7 out of 16 criteria (Kirk & Wilke 1997)
  - 1998 Texas met 6 out of 16 criteria (Ruskey et al. 2001)
  - Today Texas meets 9 out of 16 criteria
- Very little is known about EE in Texas!
  - Based on these studies, Texas has only developed about half of the criteria needed for a well established state-level EE program. Due to a lack of infrastructure, relatively little is known about EE programs across the state.
- This study aimed to identify basic descriptive themes & characteristics of EE programs in Texas.

We think environmental education is important,

95% of Americans and 96% of parents think environmental education should be taught in schools,

We think we know a lot but .....

70% of Americans rate themselves as fairly knowledgeable about environmental issues,

but only ~10% receive a passing grade on a multiple choice quiz of basic knowledge.

# 45 Million Americans think the Ocean is a Source of Freshwater



# How Widespread Is Belief in Pseudoscience??

41% of the public believe astrology is scientific

>>50% public believes in haunted houses and ghosts, faith healing, communication with the dead and lucky numbers

## Nature Deficit Disorder

"Describes an environmental dissatisfaction or dejection flowing from children's fixation on artificial entertainments rather than the natural wonders."



"Miss the restorative effects that come with the nimbler bodies, broader minds and sharper senses that are developed during random running-around at the relative edges of civilization."

# What is Environmental Education (EE)?

"teaches children and adults how to learn about and investigate their environment and to make intelligent, informed decisions about how they can take care of it."

(EETAP, 2010; NAAEE, 2013)



After 10 years of

## "Houston, We Have Solutions"







# Why does the Outdoor School Work?

- TEKS based STEMCareer/ Curriculum
  - Team Building
- Instruction/learning focuses on multiple intelligences



Scientific
 Method based
 learning units



#### 14 Curricular units at the Elementary Level



Composting & Recycling Geology
Hiking
Lepidoptering



Aquatic Biology
Astronomy
Biodiversity
Circuits



Night Predation
Orienteering
Pedology
Quail CSI
Streamflow
Understanding Watersheds

# 7 Curricular units at the Secondary Level, with more to come...



Advanced Pedology
Aquatic Biology-River Study
Earthcaching
Field Ornithology
Photovoltaic Cells
Quail Necropsy
Wind Energy



#### **Data Supports Our Success**

- Over 65 ISDs, 25,000 students & teachers since we began
- o Overall, TAKS Science pass rate was 5.6% higher on years of attendance.
- Average pass rate increased with multiple visits to the OS in consecutive years.
- oFemale & economically disadvantaged students had the highest improvements.











# Llano River Field Station Outdoor School Texas High School Project twice recognized Exemplar Program Organization of Biological Field Stations **Human Diversity Award GLOBE** Partner

- Communities Foundation of Texas, Globe, NASA AQ grants
- House Bill 1700 legislation
- Teacher professional development workshops

## **Texas Environmental Literacy Plan**



The Environmental Literacy Summit

January 2013 San Antonio, TX

# Every Student Succeeds Act Includes Historic Gains for Environmental Education



Website:

NAAEE Policy Initiatives

Download:

December 9, 2015 Press Release



BY SARAH BODOR | DECEMBER 9, 2015

For Immediate Release

Contact: Sarah Bodor, Director of Policy, 410-991-3340

#### **Every Student Succeeds Act Includes Historic Gains for Environmental Education**

The North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) applauds the Senate passage of the bipartisan Every Student Succeeds Act, which replaces No Child Left Behind. The much-anticipated bill includes language that, for the first time, supports opportunities to provide students with environmental education and hands-on, field-based learning experiences. A companion bill overwhelmingly passed the House last week.

# Biodiversity

The variety of life on earth in all its forms and the ecological and evolutionary processes that sustain it



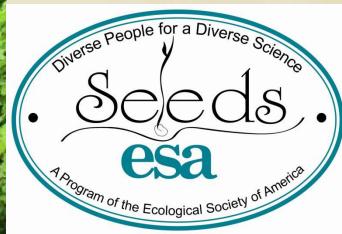
Source: The Global Biodiversity Information Facility www.gbif.org/index.html





# Strategies for Ecology Education, Diversity and Sustainability





### ESA SEEDS/SPUR Interns



#### SPUR Fellowship

SEEDS Partnerships For Undergraduate Research (SPUR) Fellowship

CARNEGIE MUSEUM OF

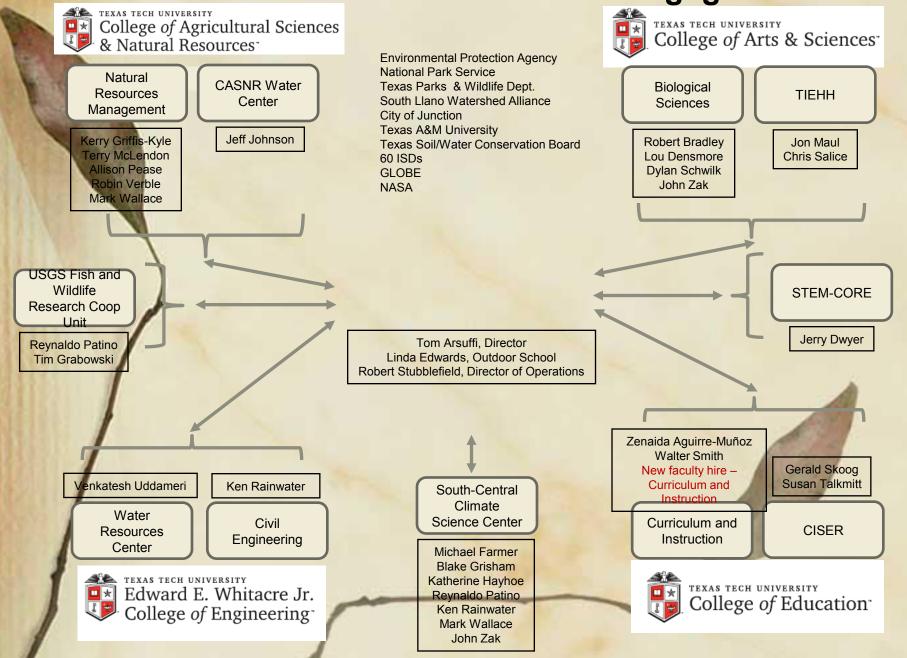
NATURAL HISTORY



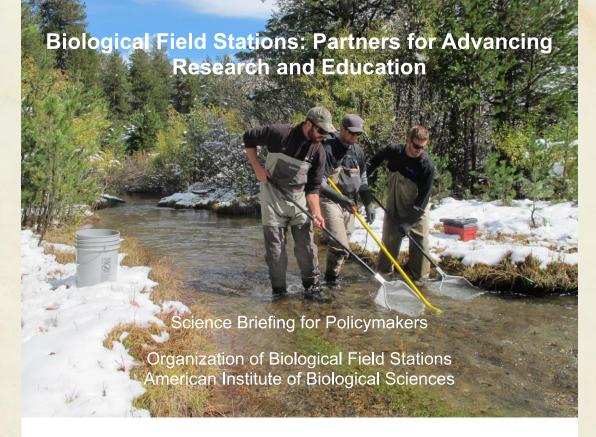




#### Llano River Field Station Engagement







Learn about how biological field stations are partnering with agencies, non-governmental organizations, and communities to advance research, science education, and public engagement on our natural resources.

Tuesday, July 14, 2015 2:30-4:00 PM Capitol Visitor Center SVC-201

#### Speakers:

- Dr. Sarah Oktay, Nantucket Field Station University of Massachusetts Boston
- Mr. Jeff Brown, Sagehen Creek Field Station University of California, Berkeley
- Dr. Tom Arsuffi, Llano River Field Station Texas Tech University



#### TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY



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# / Texas Tech Today / 2015 / June

#### LLANO RIVER FIELD STATION RECEIVES UCOWR EDUCATION AND PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

June 18, 2015

Written By: George Watson

F Like < 0



The station is a part of the Texas Tech University Center at Junction, a dedicated research and educational facility on the banks of the South Llano River.



Universities Council on Water Resources (UCOWR) has aiven the Llano River Field Station the UCOWR Education and Public Service Award for 2015.

Junction

The Llano River Field Station (LRFS)

is the strategic arm of the Texas Tech University Center at Junction, providing academic, research and service opportunities in the Texas Hill Country and Edwards Plateau. Researchers collaborate on studying and solving the issues of the region and beyond, including watershed, range science and environmental education and public engagement.

#### CASNR



The College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources is made up of six departments:

- Agriculture and Applied Economics
- Agricultural Education and Communications
- Animal and Food Science
- Landscape Architecture
- Plant and Soil Science
- Natural Resources Management

# Bridging the Gap



**Environmental Education & Environmental** 



#### **Literacy**

Government

Economy

**Public Health** 

Agriculture

Recreation

**Natural Resource Careers** 

