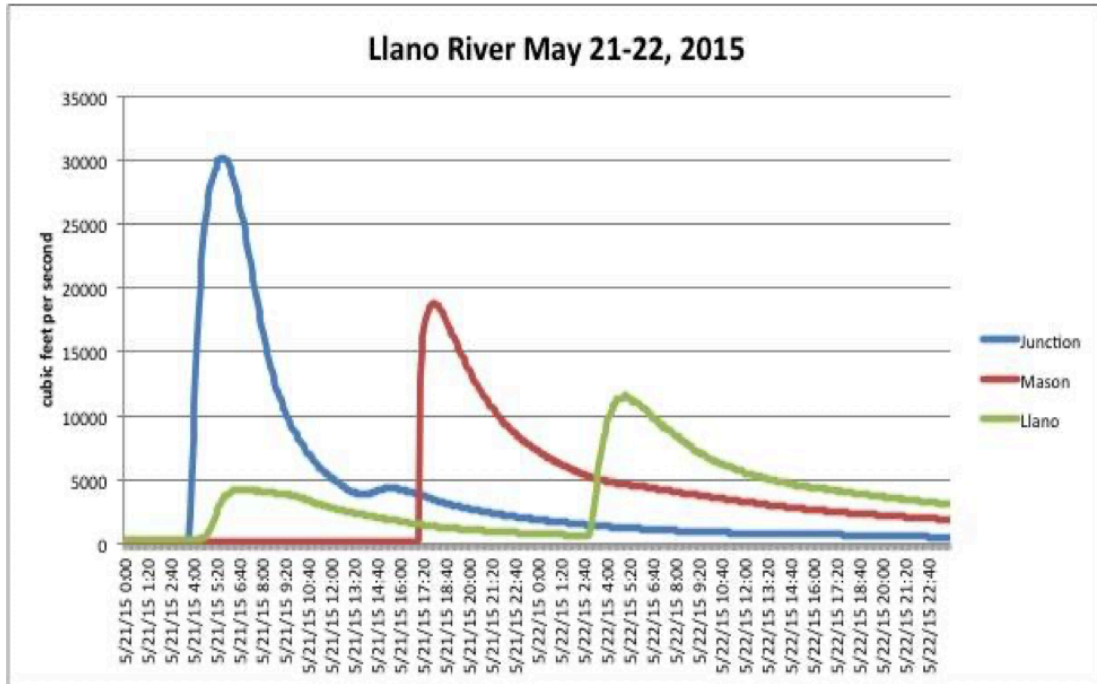


May 23, 2015



Following the flood wave

After passing the Junction gage at 5:40 am last Thursday morning, the flood wave crest reached the Llano River near Mason gage (55 miles downstream at US 87) at 6:10 that evening with a flow 18,800 cfs. That is an average speed of 4.4 miles/hour.

The flood wave continued on to Llano, cresting the gage there at 5:05 the next morning with a peak of 11,600 cfs. The travel time for the 31 miles from Mason was just under 11 hours, or an average speed of 2.9 miles/hour.

While the flood crest was one foot above flood stage in Junction, it was about two feet below flood stage at both Mason and Llano.

Healthy riparian habitats are an important component of flood mitigation. As seen in the picture on the front page, riparian buffers filled with trees and other plant species help slow floodwaters, thus reducing the size of the flood wave as well as the risk of stream bank erosion. Some of the floodwaters slowed by riparian habitat seep into the soil and are stored in the stream banks....[more benefits](#)