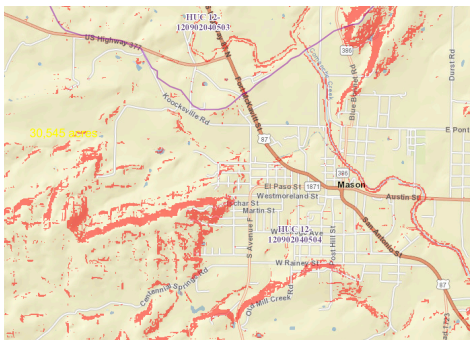


# WATERSHED WEEK IN REVIEW



## Updated Tool from Forest Service



Texas A&M Forest Service has a lot of great tools for landowners. One such tool is Plan My Land

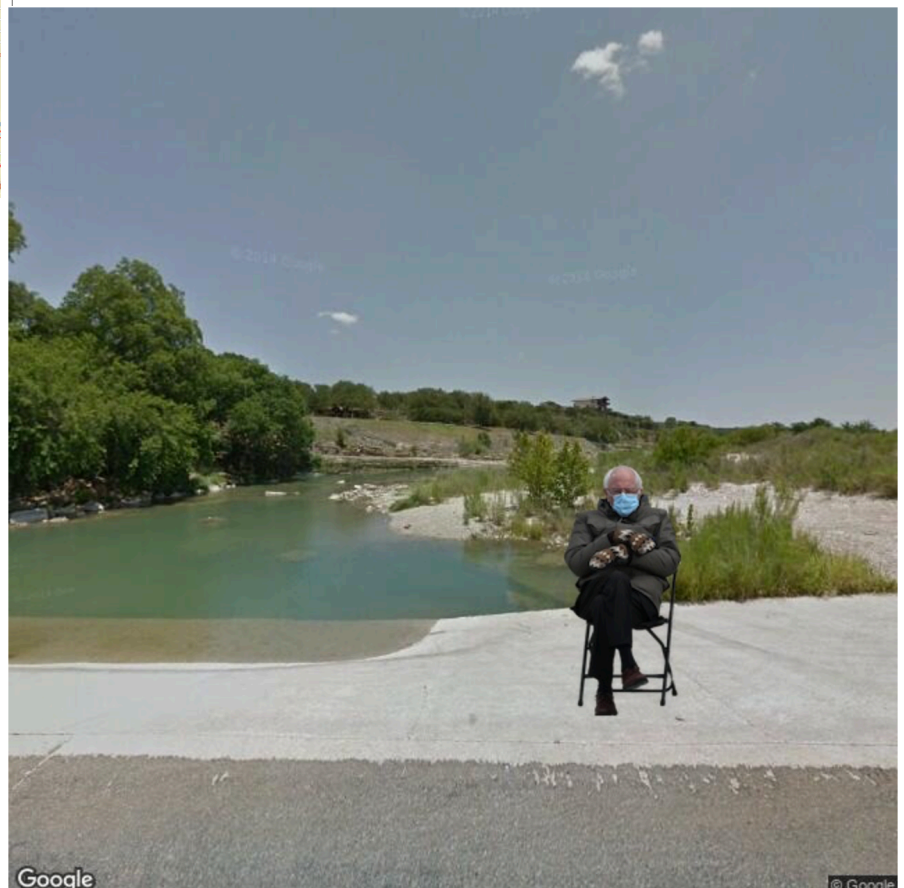
Operation which helps identify sensitive areas on properties where extra care needs to be taken.

This map shows areas around Mason with slopes > 12%, where extra caution needs to be taken to avoid increasing erosion.

## Don't Forget the next Trout Release at James River Crossing

February 3rd will be the date Texas Parks and Wildlife will be releasing another 1,000 trout into the Llano River at James River Crossing.

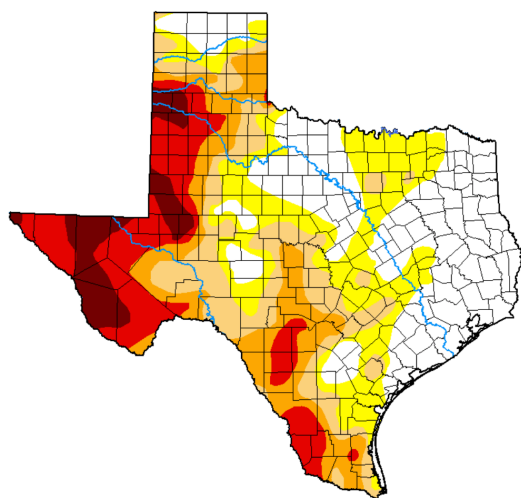
**Get there early to save your spot.**



## Rains Ease Drought

None  
D0 (Abnormally Dry)  
D1 (Moderate Drought)  
D2 (Severe Drought)

D3 (Extreme Drought)  
D4 (Exceptional Drought)  
No Data



January 19, 2021



December 22, 2020

The welcome rains (and snow) since Christmas continue to bring relief to the watershed. A month ago (right), much of the Llano was in Extreme Drought; now these areas are in Severe Drought.

Because base flows (that portion of flow fed by discharge from the aquifer back to the river) are a significant portion of flows in the Llano during the summer, how much flow we have during the winter months at Junction can help predict summer flows at Llano. If the average monthly flows from August to February at Junction are below 85 cfs, summer flows at Llano will drop below 21 cfs. Right now, the monthly average is right at 85 cfs.

What is the significance of 21 cfs? TCEQ critical low-flow value is 55 cfs, so a flow this low is already stressful for aquatic life.

The answer is it is an artifact of a Drought Contingency Plan prepared for the City of Llano nearly 15 years ago. One of the stages of the Drought Plan used 21 cfs as a trigger for implementation. Although the City now uses pumping as a trigger, the back-of-the envelope relationship between monthly winter flows and summer flows has proven correct 20 years out of 21.

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## Botanizing in Texas.\* II.

J. REVERCHON.

1886.]

BOTANICAL GAZETTE.

211

*“West of Fort Terrett we found ourselves on a vast table land, the divide between Devil’s river to the west and the Nieces to the south. This country is a perfect desert, with only temporary supplies of water in holes, plenty of grasses though not properly a prairie, being covered with mesquite bush, climbs of post-oak, and thickets of cedars and live oaks, the home of the peccary or Mexican hog. The cretaceous rocks crop out in every direction, and traveling in a water through such a country is nothing but punishment.*

Julien Reverchon was a French botanist who immigrated to Dallas in 1856 with his father at the age of 19. In 1885, he spent several months exploring an area of Southwest Texas as yet unvisited by botanist. Here is his account as he traveled from Llano County to Fort Terrett, then over the divide to the South Llano. Traveling down the South Llano, they reached Junction City and then followed Johnson’s Creek over the divide to the Guadalupe.

Mr. Reverchon returned to Dallas where he taught botany at Baylor University College of Medicine and Pharmacy. He died in 1905. During his lifetime, he collected over 2,600 species of Texas plants. Dallas’ Reverchon Park is named in his honor.



## Attention Local Businesses!

**SEEKING 2021 DONORS FOR PRIZE  
DRAWING**

# AXIS DEER CONTROL PROJECT

**DONORS CONTRIBUTING ATLEAST \$25  
IN PRIZES WILL BE RECOGNIZED IN A  
SERIES OF LOCAL NEWSPAPER ARTICLES**



**CONTACT DANIEL OPPENHEIMER AT  
HILL COUNTRY ALLIANCE (210-287-0478) WITH  
ANY QUESTIONS**

The goal of the Axis Deer Control Project is to raise awareness about the impacts of free-ranging Axis deer, recognize land stewards for their efforts to control this exotic species, and support research that will inform control efforts.

[www.hillcountryalliance.org/wildlife](http://www.hillcountryalliance.org/wildlife)



# Opportunity for South Llano Landowners

## ***The Texas Water Development Board seeks participants for a groundwater-surface water interaction study in the South Llano River area***

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) is starting a project with funding from the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) to examine how groundwater levels affect spring discharge and streamflow along the South Fork of the Llano River. A better understanding of how rapidly groundwater levels respond to drought or flood events and how regional changes in groundwater levels affect spring discharge into the river will help us forecast potential low-flow events as much as three to six months in advance. Having a few months' warning before streamflow reaches critical levels can help the LCRA manage its water operations and give local resource managers time to implement contingency plans to reduce drought impacts on wildlife and riparian habitats.

### **Be part of the study!**

If you have an unused well or spring on your property where the TWDB can install monitoring equipment, please contact Andrew Weinberg at 512-626-6019 or [Andrew.weinberg@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:Andrew.weinberg@twdb.texas.gov). The project is scheduled to get underway in early 2021 and will run for at least three years.



The TWDB is looking for unused wells where staff can install continuous monitoring instruments. A typical groundwater monitoring system is shown to the left. The equipment is powered by a small solar panel and transmits data via a satellite link; a minimal area around the well is fenced to keep cattle and wildlife away from the instruments. The TWDB is looking for sites throughout the South Llano drainage area, including locations near the river and locations higher up in the watershed. The TWDB will also be sampling some wells for water quality analysis. All data collected for this study will be available to the landowners at no cost.

The TWDB is also seeking access to springs in the watershed to collect data on pool level, spring flow, and water quality. TWDB staff will periodically measure the spring discharge and will install a small, battery-powered data logger to record the level of the spring pool. Two rounds of water quality sampling are planned to measure high- and low-flow conditions.

