

WATERSHED WEEKS IN REVIEW



Lessons from Arundo Control Man Kicking Arundo out of Texas Roadways and Waterways



For the past 2 years, the Alliance has been working with TPWD to remove *Arundo donax*, or Giant Cane, from the Llano waterways.

Thanks to participating landowners along the South Llano, 13 properties have been treated for this invasive.

In the coming year, we plan to treat the three remaining properties on the South Llano, then turn our attention to the North Llano and Llano River in Kimble County.

Alliance Lands Grant for Flatrock Crossing

The Llano River Watershed Alliance is excited to learn we are one of the first recipients of Texas Parks and Wildlife new Habitat and Angler Access Program (HAAP) and can now improve boater and angler access at Flatrock Crossing on the South Llano near Junction.

When Flatrock reopened in May of this year following necessary repairs caused by the October 2018 floods, the boater access that



Flatrock- continued

had previously existed was replaced by granite rip-rap. (*For details of why this happened, see [May 14, 2021 Watershed Week in Review](#).*) As a result, boaters wanting to utilize Flatrock Crossing, one of the major access points on the South Llano River Paddling Trail, are forced to load and unload their boats while parked along the RR 2169 below a blind curve.

Now, thanks to the HAAP and the generous participation by Texas Tech University-Junction, safe boater as well as angler access will again be available.

When floodwaters topped the bridge in 2018, they scoured out a new embayment along the right side of the river. This new embayment will be utilized as the new paddler and angler access. A path from the old highway on the south side of the bridge will connect the access area with the unloading spot.



Above: Looking downstream (north) from Flatrock Bridge near Junction. Left: Looking east from Flatrock Bridge



old road used to connect to the bridge will be the site of a riparian restoration demonstration area that will reduce erosion into the river, provide additional shading for aquatic species, and provide important stewardship information for the public.

Schneider Slab Bridge Replacement



Photo : Save Schneider's Slab Facebook Page

Bridge replacement projects on the Llano seem to be a frequent topic in this newsletter. Flatrock Bridge was recently “repaired” (see previous story) and Kimble County Commissioners recently decided against constructing a new bridge at Boone’s Crossing (KC 150). New bridge construction is beginning at South Llano River State Park and is set to soon begin at White’s Crossing in Mason County. In the midst of all this activity another bridge is nearing completion at Schneider’s Slab between Castell and Llano.

Schneider Slab was poured in the 1920 by Max Schneider, but was apparently made unstable by the 2018 flood. It has been closed since the flood. The original plans called for removing much of the old slab to prevent vehicle access. But local residents, with the assistance of the Llano County Commissioners and State Representative Murr, requested that TxDot leave most of the remaining structure so that it can be used by folks enjoying the river.

While it appears that one portion of the old slab has been removed during construction, the [Save Schneider Slab Facebook](#) page and [The Highlander](#) now report that the approach slabs will be left in place at the old crossing so people can still walk out on the rock slab.

A small piece of history that is enjoyed by many on the Llano appears to have been saved.

Status of Renewal Permit for City of Junction Wastewater Treatment Plant



Photo : Bill Neiman

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) held a virtual public meeting on August 31, 2021 to discuss and take public comment regarding the City of Junction's request to renew their discharge permit for their wastewater treatment plant.

Several individuals and organizations, including the Llano River Watershed Alliance, expressed concerns regarding the color of the water below the sewer outfall, the recent history of permit violations, and the lack of nutrient standards in the permit to protect the clear waters of the Llano from eutrophication.

TCEQ has 60-days following the close of comments to respond to these comments. As comments closed at the end of the public meeting in August, we expect a response from the agency in the next few days.

Stay tuned...

Sign up for a Riparian Site Visit



Does your riparian area look like this?

The Llano River Watershed Alliance is offering on-site technical consultation to assist landowners whose riparian areas need some assistance returning to their properly functioning condition.

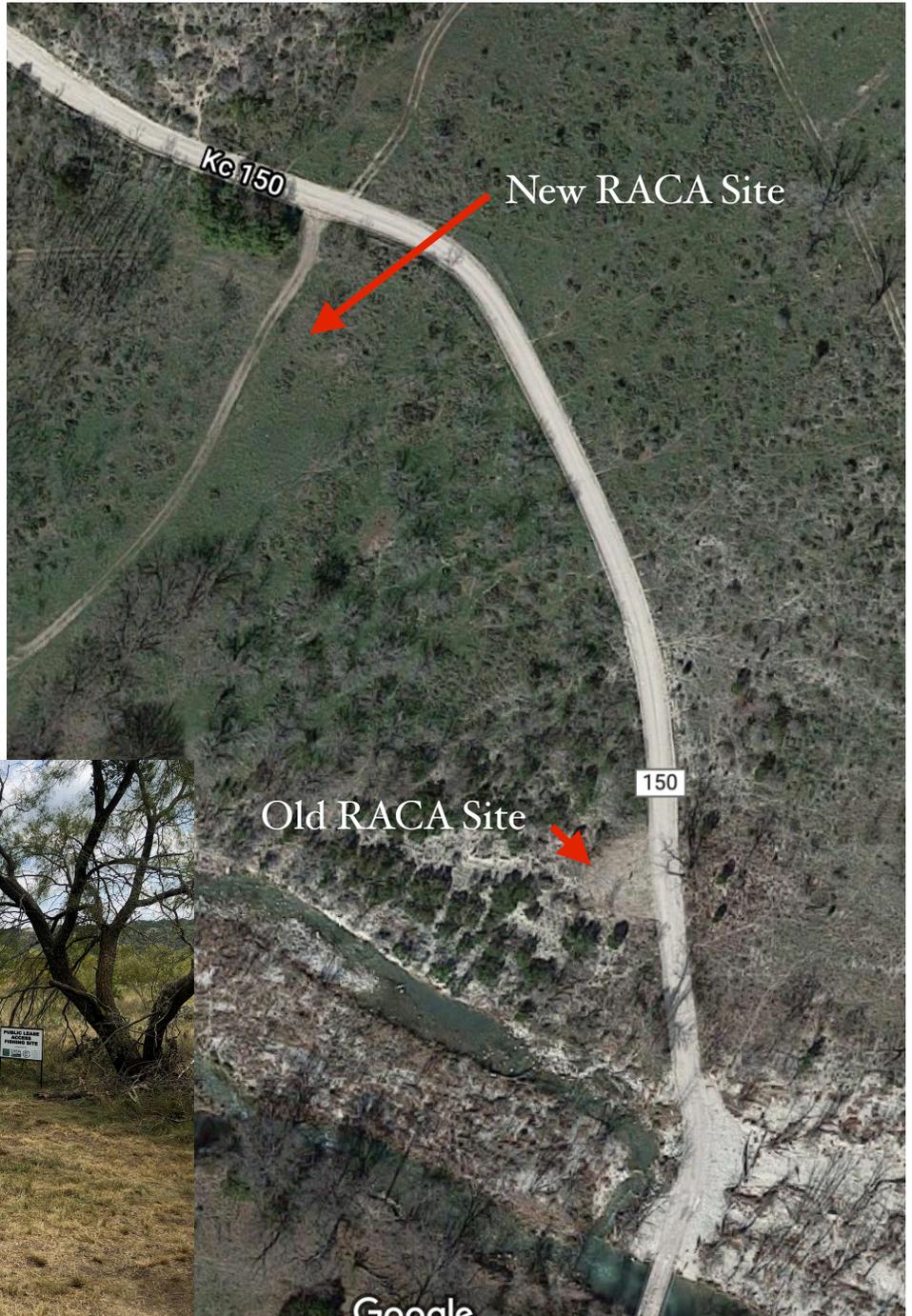
During these visits, we will help landowners identify areas where Best Management Practices could be employed to increase vegetative growth and reduce erosion, allowing the riparian area to trap sediment, store more water, and provide shade to improve habitat for aquatic species.

There is no charge for this consultation or for the plantings, which will be delivered in the fall.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact southllanoriver@gmail.com.

New location for RACA site at Boone's Crossing

Kimble County Commissioners decided last month not to proceed with a new bridge at Boone's Crossing (KC 150) on the South Llano. However, in the process, TPWD and the landowner leasing the land for the River Access and Conservation Area (RACA) agreed it would be beneficial to move the site a bit further away from the river to avoid traffic congestion and damage to the site during flooding.



Update: Proposed Sand and Gravel Permit on James River

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, Magellan Crude Oil Pipeline Company has applied to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) for a permit to remove or disturb 111.1 cubic yards of sedimentary material within the James River in Mason County.

Details of the application note that Magellan is proposing to stabilize an exposed pipeline at two locations where the pipeline crosses the James River, approximately 1 mile below the Eckert James River Bat Cave. At each location, the repair site will be dewatered and excavated to conduct the necessary maintenance on the pipeline. Following repairs, the area will be filled with washed river rock. All activity will occur within the proposed pipeline easement.

TPWD visited the site in late September and has now declared the permit to be administratively complete. The public is welcome to comment on this proposal until November 14, 2021. Since the proposal is to perform the least disturbance needed in order to conduct maintenance on an existing pipeline, TPWD is proposing to issue the permit with the usual conditions regarding refilling any excavation, re-establishing existing contours, and other necessary requirements.

The Alliance does not plan to submit comments as not performing repairs to this existing oil pipeline could have far greater consequences.

