

WATERSHED WEEK IN REVIEW



Flows at Junction

Over the course of the fall and winter, we have been spotlighting the flows of the Llano at Junction as a predictor of things to come.

If the August to February monthly average for Junction is below 85 cfs, the flows at Llano will drop below 21 cfs in Llano.

The good news is the monthly average for this period today is 86 cfs. One caveat is that USGS has not made a field measurement since November and might adjust the readings in the future. Stay tuned.

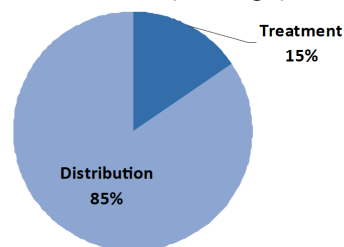
Energy-Water Nexus

The critical connection between energy and water in Texas is an issue that has been discussed for more than 10 years.

While much of this discussion centers on the reliability of water to generate electricity during drought, this article also looks at energy needs necessary to treat and distribute water in municipal water systems.



Energy Use for Drinking Water Treatment (kWh/Mgal)



Sadly, this came home to roost this week when the three major public water suppliers in the Llano (Junction, Mason, Llano) all had to issue boil water notices because system pressures were inadequate

to ensure water quality due to lack of adequate power.

Editor's Note: The Alliance wishes to thank all of the electric and water utility workers for their Herculean efforts these past weeks.

Massive Fish and Wildlife Kills in the Wake of Southern Ice Storm

By Alan Clemons
Outdoor Life Magazine

While we know the Arctic blast that crippled much of the Southwest and Southeast last week caused unprecedented damage to cities and homes, the full extent of its impact on wild game and fish populations remains unclear. State wildlife officials are still conducting surveys to assess the situation.

Mortality is expected in big and small game and non-game animals, game birds, songbirds, and fish due to the storm itself, as well as continued freezing.

Temperatures, ice, snow, and frozen waterways. Quail in Texas and Oklahoma likely took a hit, and other reports note dead songbirds, including purple martins, Eastern Phoebe, and wrens, and shorebirds like pelicans and cormorants...

“Despite the potential significant loss of axis [deer], the silver lining is this mortality event may lower free-ranging exotic populations in areas of the Texas Hill Country where they were overpopulated, ultimately helping native habitats that benefit white-tailed deer and other wildlife.”

[...Read full article](#)



Coming Soon...

A Tale of Two Rivers

The Llano River of Central Texas

Llano River Watershed Alliance - February 26, 2021



*Llano River
Watershed in
Kimble County and
in Mason County*

The Alliance is finalizing the first draft of its characterization report for the Llano River, “*A Tale of Two Rivers*.” The report characterizes the River from its upper elevations on the Edwards Plateau to its confluence with the Colorado in the Llano Uplift near Kingsland. Along the way, the characteristics of the river change dramatically due to the different geologies through which it passes. The report discusses how these differences significantly affect what stewardship practices are most effective. Look for a final version this spring...hopefully.