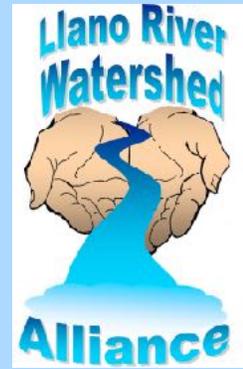


WATERSHED WEEK IN REVIEW



Rains May Help This Summer

Flows in the Llano this summer may get a boost from the rains over the holiday break.

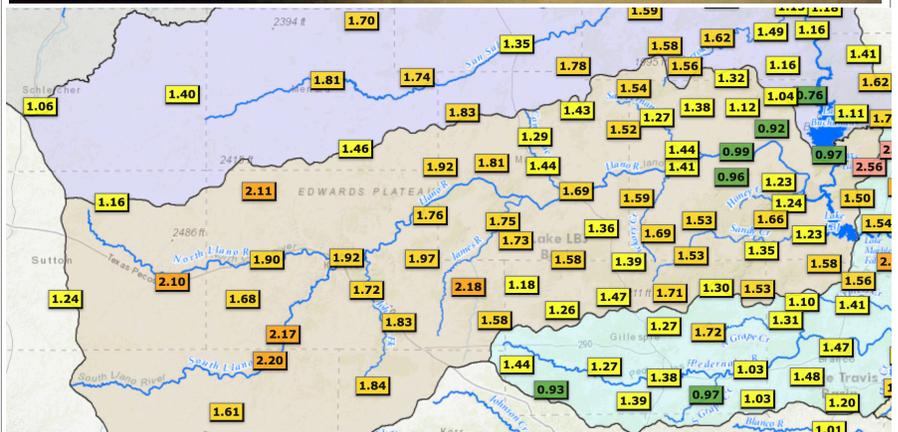
Last month, we discussed how summer flows in the Llano at Llano may be predicted by winter flows at Junction. If the August to February monthly average for Junction is below 85 cfs, the flows at Llano will drop below 21 cfs in Llano. This metric has proven correct 20 out of 21 times.

The holiday rains raised this monthly average from 82 cfs in December to 85 cfs.

Thanks for the Rain, Santa



Well, we asked Santa for rain and he delivered! Over two inches of rain soaked the watershed over the past two weeks.



Zebra Mussels Detected in Lake Buchanan

From Texas Parks and Wildlife

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has designated Lake Buchanan, located west of Burnet and north of Inks Lake in the Colorado River Basin, as “infested” with invasive zebra mussels. Infested status signifies that there is an established, reproducing population of zebra mussels in the lake. The designation is a result of recent sampling efforts that revealed new evidence of a reproducing population of zebra mussels in the lake.

Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) scientists discovered zebra mussel larvae in plankton samples taken from three sites around the lake in October. TPWD then confirmed the identity through microscopic and genetic analysis. The LCRA analyzed samples collected in November and again found zebra mussels at two of the three sites. discovered several settled zebra mussels. Then in early December, crews working on a floodgate project...
continue



The Legend of the Guadalupe Bass, the State Fish of Texas

*Written by Dan Oko
Texas Highways Jan 2021*

In 1849, pioneering French botanist Auguste Trécul followed the Guadalupe River inland from the Gulf Coast to New Braunfels, noting flora and fauna along the way. Trécul was primarily interested in edible plants of the American West, but Texans remember his trip for a different discovery: a feisty little fish, green with a golden belly, that darted about the clear waters of Hill Country streams. Today we know this fish as the Guadalupe bass, the state fish of Texas...



The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department stocked 700,000 genetically pure Guadalupe bass in the South Llano River between 2011 and 2017.

...But things started to change for the Guadalupe bass in 1989, thanks in part to an industrious group of third graders from Decatur Intermediate School in Wise County, 40 miles northwest of Fort Worth. The schoolchildren campaigned to make the species the official state fish of Texas after they learned it is the only bass found exclusively in the Lone Star State. And through the work of former TPWD biologist Gary Garrett, they also discovered the fish was imperiled by habitat loss and the introduction of nonnative species. *(Editor Note: Dr. Garrett is the Vice-President of the Alliance)*

Research by Garrett and his colleagues established that crossbreeding with smallmouth bass in Texas could lead to the disappearance of Guadalupe bass. TPWD added its voice to the student campaign, and the Texas Legislature in turn adopted the species as the Texas state fish. [...go to full article](#)