

Watershed Week in Review

February 23, 2018

A publication of the
Llano River Watershed Alliance
and
Llano River Field Station

NRCS and friends moving to a new space in Junction

Our friends at the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Services Agency and Upper Llanos Soil and Water Conservation District will be moving next week to some new digs:

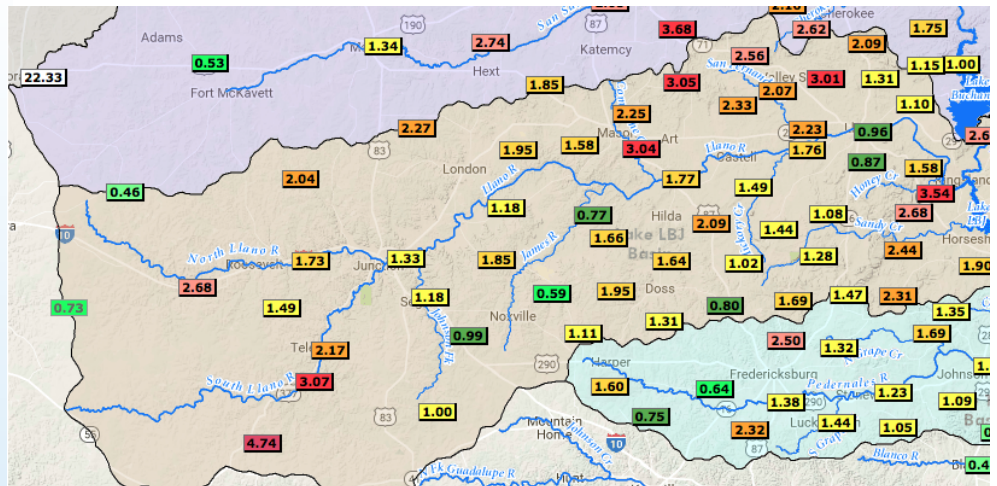
902 College St
Junction

The new office is next door the Farm Bureau and kitty-corner from College Street Church of Christ.

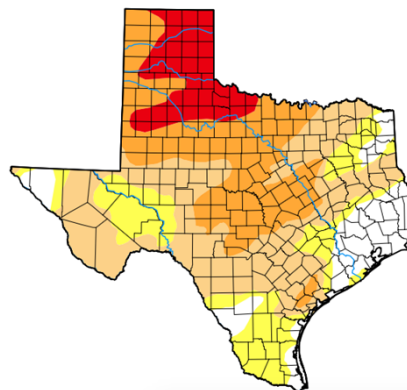
Telephone numbers will remain the same.

The official move dates are February 27 & 28. While they will be officially open on those days, it will be difficult to do much business as computers, telephones and documents will not be accessible.

Sigh of Some Relief



The cold and wet was a welcome relief this week, well at least the wet. Some areas of the watershed, especially the prime recharge areas above Telegraph and Roosevelt received over 2 ½ inches, and up to 4 ¾ inches.



Hopefully, we will see an improvement in the drought map that was released Tuesday showing most of the Watershed to be in Severe Drought.



Basics of Texas Water Law

Tiffany Dowell Lashmet, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension recently released a publication to help landowners and others begin to understand some of the Water Laws in the state.

For example :

- Do you always have the right to the groundwater beneath your property?
- When does surface water flowing across your property become owned by the State?
- When can a landowner divert surface water without a permit from the State?

[Click here](#) to find these answers and more...

Otters making a welcome return to Texas waterways

Story and photos by Shannon Tomkins – Houston Chronicle

...It is impossible not to become bewitched by the sight of one of these long, lean, muscular creatures that seem to be as much fish as mammal...

...They are the masters of their aquatic world. In the water, otters are a combination of unequalled physical grace and athleticism, perpetual animation and an aura of sheer exuberance. They appear to revel in simply existing...

...Over the past two decades, otters have been documented expanding across the eastern half of the state, showing up as far inland as the Llano River and along streams feeding the Red River upstream from Wichita Falls... [full article](#)



Experts : Take care in Processing and Cooking Feral Hogs



Feral Hogs have become a problem throughout Texas, including the Llano River. The Upper Llano River Watershed Protection Plan suggests that some of the bacterial problems seen over the past few years may be coming from hogs and has set a goal of reducing their population by 2,600 annually.

If you do help out the Llano by controlling feral hogs and enjoying the rewards of good table fare, remember to take some precautions as you process and prepare the meat. Wear protective latex gloves and make sure the meat is thoroughly cooked to 160 degrees. In other words, no Swine Sushi.

[Click here for more from AgriLife](#)

South Llano River State Park strives to Control Wildlife Populations

An overabundance of white tailed deer and axis are impacting the riparian habitat along our rivers and streams. Overbrowsing from these species prevents native woody trees such as pecans from becoming established. An evaluation of riparian areas along the South Llano found few young pecan trees, as many of the young species are browsed before they can reach maturity.

The Alliance and the Llano River Field Station, along with our partners at Hill Country Alliance and South Llano River State Park are placing exclosures around young trees in riparian zones in an effort to provide recruitment opportunities.

Recently, South Llano River State Park also implemented an approach they have used over the past few years. Public hunts at the park this winter yielded 57 axis deer, 70 white tailed deer and 12 feral hogs.



Photo : Robert Stubblefield



Texas Master Naturalist Land Management Assistance Program February 26 - Kerrville

We recently have had several inquiries from landowners regarding available programs for landowner assistance. One such program, through the Texas Master Naturalist Hill Country Chapter, will be discussed at their upcoming meeting in Kerrville, beginning at 6:30pm.

Through the Land Management Assistance Program, Master Naturalist volunteers walk the property with the landowner identifying plants and discussing various land management problems such as overgrazing, over-browsing, brush encroachment, erosion and exotic species. The landowners are given a report of species identified and any suggested management practices. [...to learn more about the program](#)



Held on the banks of the Llano River- one block from Llano's historic downtown- the Llano Earth Art Fest (LEAF) is an interactive experience for young and old alike. Watch internationally renowned artists defy gravity with amazingly balanced rock sculptures. Listen to great musicians fill the park with song. Try your hand at rock balancing or see if you've got what it takes to compete in the 2018 World Rock Stacking Championship. For kids there are plenty of activities, including a climbing wall, face painting, and more. Adults can enjoy a cold beer while taking part in workshops, viewing and creating art, or just relaxing in the sun.