

Watershed Week in Review

March 2, 2018

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

700 Springs Tour April 28



The Kimble County Historical Commission, in partnership with Lee Pfluger and 700 Springs Ranch, have set Saturday, April 28th as the date for this year's tour of the Springs.

As in years past, the motorcade departs the Kimble County Courthouse in Junction at 10am for the 21-mile trip to the 700 Springs Ranch. Reservations are not required, but parties must register when they reach Junction.

Llano Clean Up Tomorrow



Join the folks at Keep Llano Beautiful tomorrow morning for their spring cleanup. To help out, meet at 8am at the West Pavilion in Badu Park (north side of river).

Keep Llano Beautiful (KLB) began last summer and held its first cleanup last fall. As an added bonus, KLB has sprinkled \$100 in prize money around the area, so why not come on out and help the River.



A New Way to Think About Water?

*From Joseph P. Williams
Staff Writer
US News & World Report*

...a new Texas study unveiled Thursday charts a path for states to get ahead of oncoming, inevitable water shortages triggered by a changing planet and rapidly growing populations. The “One Water” approach recommends integrating different government entities and taking a “holistic” approach, treating all water – from rainfall to “gray water” left over from household waste treatment – as a single, renewable, highly sustainable source.

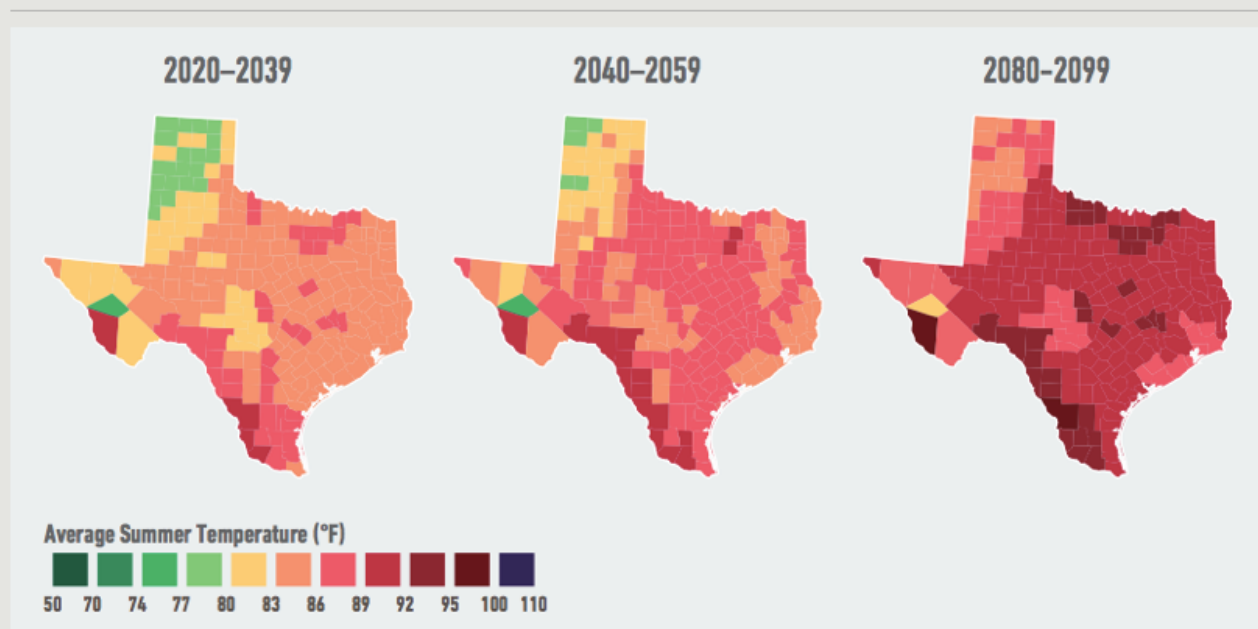
...The One Water approach “avoids the false choice of working for the economy or environment or society,” according to the report, produced by the nonprofit Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation. Instead, the report says, One Water “recognizes the critical importance of sustaining the community’s water resources for all audiences and, most importantly, the public good.”

...Under the One Water approach, Texas authorities would integrate water use across departments, from parks and recreation to waste water treatment, to meet “both community and ecosystem needs,” the report states. That means creating a plan to use all sources of water “and manage all waters running through it holistically. This includes rivers and aquifers, wastewater, stormwater recycled water, and greywater.



[Read full article](#)

TEXAS. Average Summer Temperature. Source: American Climate Prospectus.

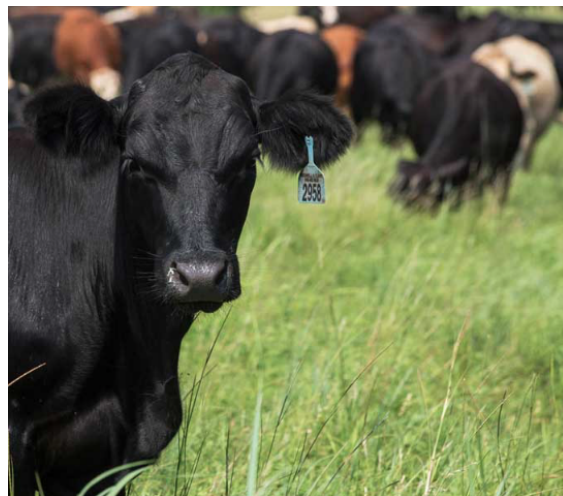


Livestock Management can change Watershed Health

By Russ Conser
CEO, Standard Soil

Although we often think of healthy soil in terms of fertility, soil's role in the water cycles is fundamental and vitally important. Good soil doesn't simply hold water; it allows water to move through at a pace that is right for life...

In one of the most comprehensive studies to date, scientists at Texas A&M studied the soil properties on four ranches in the Clear Creek watershed of North Central Texas and developed a watershed hydrology model to show the impacts of different grazing practices on water behavior. They found switching to from conventional grazing to "multi-paddock" grazing wherein land was grazed quickly then rested for long periods (a process that mimics the natural movement of grazing animals), led to:



- An almost 40 % reduction in quick surface runoff
- A five percent increase in infiltration into the soil, and
- A reduction in immediate streamflow of roughly 30 %

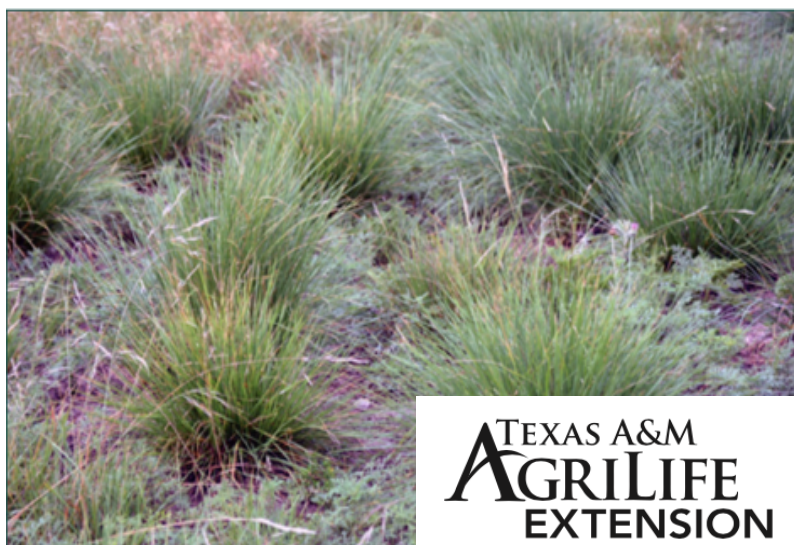
[Read full article...](#)

Mexican Needlegrass

M.L. Russell and R.Q. Landers Jr.*

West Texas rangelands offer a diverse and productive landscape of native perennial grasses. However, a nonnative grass introduced to West Texas from Mexico is causing significant landowner concerns because it is difficult to manage. This problematic plant, Mexican needlegrass is an introduced, cool-season, perennial bunchgrass that has established alongside roadsides and fence rows. It also establishes in reseeded pastures, oil and gas reclamation sites, and in native pastures with deep soils. It was first observed in Kimble County in the early 1950s...

[read flyer on this invasive](#)





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Family Park Programs South Llano River State Park Phone: (325) 446-3994



Bird Walk

Saturday, March 3rd, 8:30 am - 10:00 am
Meet at the Fawn Trail parking lot
(behind Park Headquarters)

South Llano River State Park is a great place to go birdwatching. Join us and see what you can spot! We will walk to the bird blind and see what birds come in to bathe, drink, or feed. Good walking shoes and drinking water are recommended, and dress for the weather! Binoculars provided, or bring your own. All ages and skill levels welcome!



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.