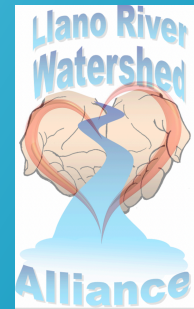


WATERSHED WEEK IN REVIEW



Opportunity to Permanently Protect Your Land

The Hill Country Headwaters Conservation Initiative is a \$5 million stewardship funding opportunity developed by the Llano River Watershed Alliance and other partners for ranchers, farmers and wildlife managers in the Hill Country. The Initiative includes cost-share programs through NRCS's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP).

Pre-applications for ACEP funding will be accepted until TOMORROW February 15.

[details](#)

White's Crossing Bridge *February 24* TxDot Public Meeting



The public is invited to learn about TxDot's plans to place a new bridge at White's Crossing (Ranch Road 1871) in Mason County on Monday, **February 24 at 9am at the Mason County Courthouse**. There are questions amongst the community regarding what public river access will be available during and post-construction of the new bridge. This will be an opportunity to have these questions answered.

A special thanks to Representative Andy Murr's office and Tony Plutino at Llano River Region Adventures for assisting with this public meeting. **See page 2.**

Llano River and White's Crossing's benefit to the Community

The Llano River is a vital component of the local economy. Not only does it provide water supplies to livestock, crops and to several communities (Llano and Junction), it is critical to our economy.

A study by Texas Tech University Llano River Field Station found that in the 24 counties of the Edwards Plateau, over a 16-month period, **more than \$74 million was spent** by anglers in pursuit of species like the Guadalupe Bass. These angler expenditures also helped **create 776 full time jobs**. Many of these anglers access the river using kayaks, employing rental and shuttle services.

Finally, White's Crossing serves as access to some of the most intriguing rock formations in the State. Geologist from all over the world come to admire the stromatolites found downstream of the crossing. These fossilized "algal mats" are 500 million years old and provide clues to earth's beginning and evolution.



Landowner Incentive Program *Pre-proposal deadline Sunday, Feb 16th*



Texas Parks and Wildlife Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) is designed to meet the needs of private landowners wishing to enact good conservation practices on their lands for the benefit of healthy terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. The Llano watershed is a priority area for LIP funding.

For more information...

Feral Pigs in the Hill Country - Confessions of a Novice Hog Trapper

Feral swine continue to be a menace, from the economic damage to the state's agricultural interests to environmental destruction. Craig Childs is a retired pathologist, a graduate of Texas Tech University School of Medicine and a member of the Hill Country Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists. He is presently employed in his dream job by the YMCA of Greater San Antonio as Program and Ranch Manager for Roberts Ranch in Kerr County and he will speak on the subject of feral hogs at the February meeting of the Hill Country Chapter. The Texas Master Naturalist program is **February 24 at 7pm in Kerrville.**
[more detail](#)



After providing an overview of the problem from a local, national, and international perspective, Craig will review management strategies such as whole sounder removal, targeted hunting, and insights on how to integrate the tools for hog management that would be appropriate for a given property and management goals.

South Llano River State Park Activities

Skins, Skulls, and More! - Meet at **Acorn Bird Blind**. Come see and touch animal furs and skulls. Find out what a skull can tell us about how an animal lives! **Saturday, February 15, 10am**

Night Hike! - We will explore the new Overlook Trail (~ 2 mile round trip) it is rated as moderate so at night it may be a little challenging. Meet at the **Walk-in Camping parking lot**. Please bring a red light flashlight if you have one. **Saturday, February 15, 7pm**