

South Llano Watershed Alliance

WATERSHED WEEK IN REVIEW

January 30, 2015



Join us - Feb 5th

Upper Llano River Watershed Protection Plan
Coordination Committee Meeting
Llano River Field Station
Texas Tech - Junction
Refreshments 5:30 Meeting 6-8

[Click here for agenda](#)

Upper Llano River Watershed Protection Plan

Coordination Committee meeting at Packard Hall
Llano River Field Station at Texas Tech – Junction Feb 5th

[Map](#)

The Upper Llano River Coordination Committee continues its work to develop a Watershed Protection Plan to preserve the flows and quality of the Upper Llano. At the upcoming meeting, the Coordination Committee will begin reviewing the plan's content and the scientific studies it will be based on. Specifically, the committee will begin reviewing monitoring and computer modeling results, discussing the structure of the plan, reviewing the opening chapters of the plan, and finalizing a timeline for completing the watershed plan over the next 6 months. Seating is limited but the meeting is open to the public and anyone interested is welcome to attend.



Bass Facts

What impact do Guadalupe Bass have on our area?

2



700 Springs Tour

The date of the 2015 tour of 700 Springs has been set.

4



Guadalupe Bass Facts

Habitat Location

The Guadalupe Bass is a Central Texas endemic black bass species occurring only in streams and rivers draining the Edwards Plateau

Economics

A recent study observed a local annual economic impact of \$74 million from stream fishing in the Texas Hill Country, with 42% of those surveyed specifically targeting Guadalupe Bass.

Hybridization

The proportion of hybridized Guadalupe Bass in the South Llano River before stocking of pure Guadalupe Bass began was around 4%. As of 2014, the percentage of hybrids is less than 1%.

Habitat Restoration

As a result of the Guadalupe Bass Restoration Initiative, more than 8,500 acres of Guadalupe Bass habitat has been improved or restored.

Economic Impacts of Guadalupe Bass in the Hill Country

A new report from Texas Tech University Llano River Field Station and Texas Parks and Wildlife looks at angling behavior, economic impact, and role of Guadalupe Bass in the 24 county Hill Country Region

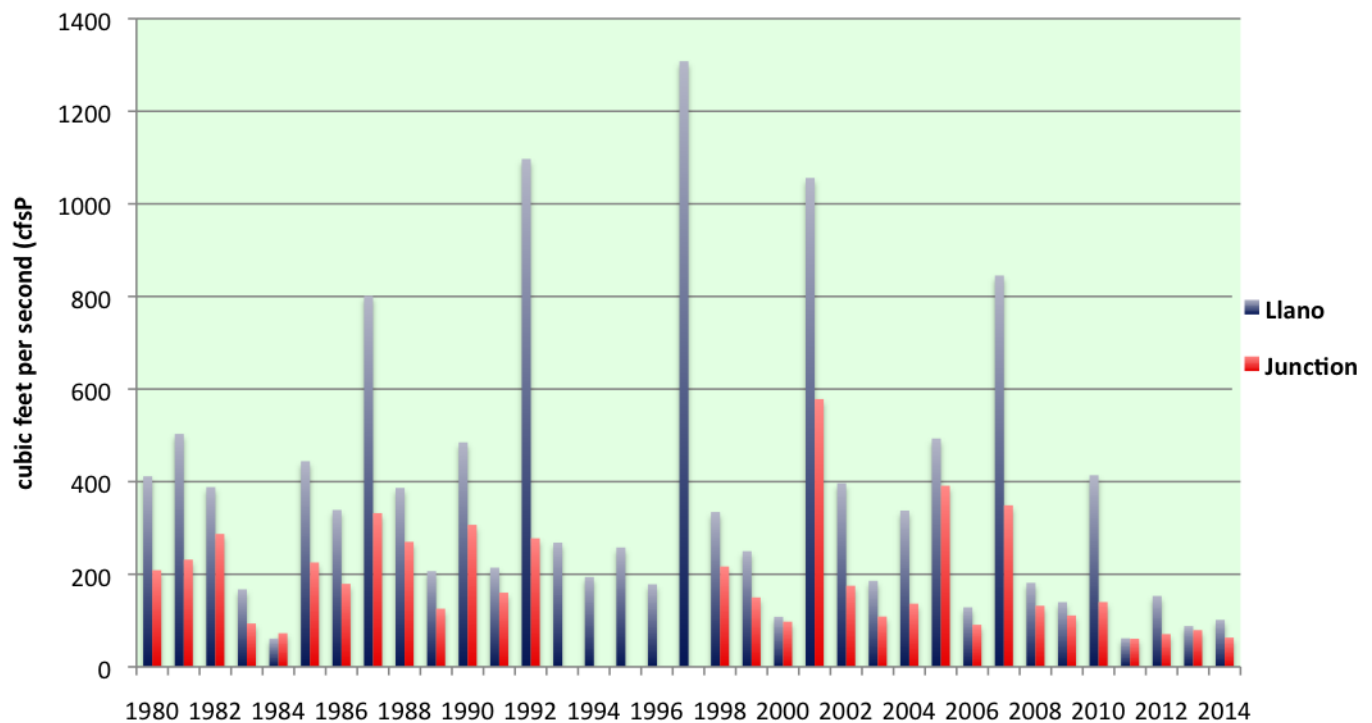
Abstract excerpt: Past socioeconomic surveys of Texas black bass anglers have focused primarily on reservoir fisheries while little is known about fishing patterns, economic impact, and preferences of river and stream anglers. A Web-based open-access survey was used to determine fishing characteristics, assess attitudes and quantify the economic impact of anglers fishing rivers and streams in a 24-county region of Texas from August 20, 2011 to December 20, 2012, with a focus on anglers who specifically fished for Guadalupe Bass. A total of 700 respondents participated in the survey.

Similar to previous surveys of Texas river and stream anglers, access was identified as the largest impediment to the future maintenance and improvement of river and stream fishing....An estimated \$74,182,080 in direct angler expenditures was spent on fishing trips to the study region, resulting in...776 full-time jobs.

[Access full report...](#)



Comparison of Annual Flows Llano River 1980-2014



Flows of the Llano

Last week's edition of the newsletter contained an article about the annual flows of the Llano at both Llano and Junction. First, an update: At the time, USGS had not calculated the annual flow of the Llano at Junction for 2014. They have since done so and the 2014 annual flow of the Llano at Junction is 63 cfs, (cubic feet per second) down from the 2013 annual flow of 79 cfs. Quite the opposite, Llano at Llano had a larger 2014 annual flow in 2014 (102 cfs) than in 2013 (88 cfs).

Second, a reader noted that the Llano gage currently has almost twice the flow of the Junction gage and wondered if this is normal. Perhaps the easiest way to explore this question is to again look at the annual flows between the two gages. The above figure shows these values from 1980 to 2014 (note that Junction gage was not operating in the early 1990s).

During wet years, it makes sense that the Llano gage has more flow than the Junction gage, as the downstream gage drains a larger area of watershed. During dry years, however, the two gages have similar flows, with the Llano gage having slightly more flow. This also makes sense as most of the flow during dry periods is from spring flow and evaporation rates are higher, resulting in less flows making it to Llano. In 2011, the Llano gage annual flow was 62 cfs and the Junction gage was 61. In 1984, the annual flow of the Junction gage was actually higher (72 cfs) than the Llano gage (61 cfs). This is the only year this has happened since records have been kept at both locations.

Next week, we will compare the monthly data for the two sites and see what we learn.

In the News

700 Springs Tour - 2015

The 700 Springs Ranch and Kimble County Historical Commission have announced that April 25th will be the date for this year's springs tour.

[Frederica Wyatt's History of 700 Springs](#)

Public Meeting for Southern Edwards Plateau Habitat Conservation Plan

You may have received notice of a public meeting scheduled on February 4th in Kerrville to discuss the Southern Edwards Plateau Habitat Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. SLWA has received inquiries from stakeholders re how this plan might impact them. [Click here for more details](#)

Smells like rain?

How does rain get its distinctive smell?

[Read more](#)

Land Stewardship

Texas Wildlife Association is hosting a Land Stewardship Workshop for Brush Contractors on **February 6** in **Junction**. But note, this is OPEN TO LAND OWNERS as well.

[More information available here](#)



Central Stoneroller

The Central Stoneroller gets its name from the behavior of the males moving gravel with their nose to construct nests for spawning. The adult male Central Stonerollers also develop [tubercles](#), mainly on their head and also along their body. They are primarily herbivores and use a ridge of cartilage on their lower jaw to scrape algae from rocks.

(Photo and text from "Common Fish of the Upper Llano Watershed", by Dr. Preston Bean, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department)



Please Consider renewing your membership

The beginning of each year is the time for membership renewal with the SLWA.

Individual Membership is \$20

Business Sponsorship is \$100

[Click here for application form](#)

Memberships are the primary revenue source for the all-volunteer South Llano Watershed Alliance. Thank you for your support.