# Upper Llano Watershed Protection Plan

# Coordinating Committee Meeting Summary December 11, 2012

**Finalization of Coordination Committee**

Tom Arsuffi, TTU Llano River Field Station

* Coordination Committee and other stakeholders suggested adding a representative from the Texas Wildlife Association and the Texas and Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas to the Coordination Committee.

**Coordination Committee Policies**

Kevin Wagner, Texas Water Resources Institute

* Examples of committee policies were distributed to members of the Coordination Committee.
* Members decided to include the following sections in the Ground Rules: Purpose, Goals, Meeting Timing, Member Roles and Criteria, and Decision Making by Consensus Voting. A draft of the Ground Rules will be presented to Committee members next meeting.
* Members agreed that the Watershed Coordinator will serve as meeting facilitator. The Coordinator is also responsible for disseminating meeting materials and reserving a meeting place.

**Update on Activities**

Kevin Wagner, Texas Water Resources Institute

* Texas A&M University Spatial Sciences Laboratory completed classification of land use and land cover of the Upper Llano River Watershed. Maps were available for viewing at the meeting. The maps can be viewed online: <http://southllano.org/>. Landowners are asked to view the map and validate the data, i.e. brush density as indicated on the map with brush density the landowner sees.
* Additional data was collected to inventory the elevation of the watershed, soils, stream networks, reservoirs, roads, public park lands, and municipalities. Together, the data will be used for watershed modeling.

Emily Seldomridge, TTU Llano River Field Station

* The first Upper Llano River Watershed Protection Plan newsletter was released in November and can be viewed online: <http://southllano.org/>.
* Data from the September 2012 sampling suggests the Upper Llano River Watershed remains in a healthy condition.
* Quarterly sampling for water quality and flow was completed in early December. Data is currently being processed, and updates will be presented at the next stakeholder meeting.
* A part-time student worker was hired to aid PhD student Donn Edwards in sorting macroinvertebrate samples.

**North and South Llano River Watershed Conservation Plan**

Tyson Broad, South Llano Watershed Alliance

* The WCP was developed as a result of a 2008 workshop held in Junction to discuss local and regional issues that stakeholders identified as potentially detrimental to the long-term sustainability of the North and South Llano Rivers. In general the issues pertain to water resources (surface water and groundwater use, water quality, protection of tributaries and small creeks, aquatic habitat) and land management (riparian habitat, fragmentation, land stewardship, and wildfire and drought). The full report can be viewed online at <http://southllano.org/>.
* The WCP is a framework for community participation and organizational partnerships to address issues, and will be used by the Coordination Committee as a framework and resource for the Upper Llano Watershed Protection Plan.

**Committee Discussion**

* The Coordination Committee identified the following issues to add to those contained in the WCP:
  + An analysis of the effects of full use of water rights on the health of the Upper Llano.
  + The stocking rates of livestock and the carrying capacity of ranches (including both livestock and wildlife). This includes an examination of best management practices to maintain healthy populations and upland habitat management.
  + Implementing public educational programs about managing groundwater resources and surface water/groundwater interaction, and brush clearing (including a review of critical clearing areas, variety and effectiveness of clearing practices, and maintenance of land after clearing).
  + A review of landowner incentives or mitigation for brush clearing in an area without water rights. The Committee identified New York City’s water supply as an example for potential practices in the Upper Llano: The New York City invested money in rural parts of the watershed to protect their source of water from development and pollution.
* No work groups were formed at this time to discuss specific issues.
* Topics for the next meeting include: brush control, finalize committee policies and membership, and prioritize resource issues in the Upper Llano River Watershed