

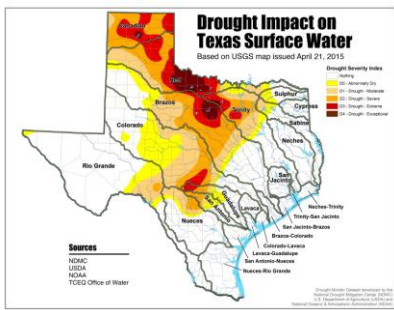


## Watershed Week in Review



April 26, 2015

Tour of 700 Springs



## Inside

### Drought Update

A bit of good news as drought conditions ease a little in the watershed.

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### Timber of the Edwards Plateau

This 1904 document provides an historical perspective

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A beautiful day greeted the approximately 100 participants on last Saturday's tour of 700 Springs. This year marked the 20<sup>th</sup> year of this great event hosted by the [700 Springs Ranch](#) and the [Kimble County Historical Commission](#).

Commission President Frederica Wyatt began the presentation by thanking 700 Springs Ranch owner Lee Pfluger for his continued hospitality. Mrs. Wyatt then recounted the [History of 700 Springs](#) on a new portable public address system **donated by the South Llano Watershed Alliance**.



Geologist and part-time Telegraph resident Pete Rose then provided a geological history of the Edwards Plateau and 700 Springs (photo above right). Video of this year's event will be available on the SLWA website in the near future.

Here is James Murr's [third and final article](#) about the Oasis Pipeline Recover Workshop held April 18<sup>th</sup>.

The presentations and much of the field tours were taped. These videos are currently in editing and will be made available on the website as soon as possible.

Thanks again to the Junction Eagle and James Murr for allowing us to reprint the articles. A special thanks to Scott Richardson of SLWA and Megan Bean, Arlene Kalmbach, and Joyce Moore of Texas Parks and Wildlife for putting together such a great event.

## Oasis Pipeline Wildfire Recovery Workshop



Vegetation recovers after fire under protection of juniper limbs. Photo: Megan Bean

## Land Stewardship: Providing Water for Texans

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has partnered with the Association of Texas Soil & Water Conservation Districts (ATSWCD), Texas Wildlife Association, and Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) to highlight the important connection between voluntary land stewardship and sustaining water availability.

[Read more](#)

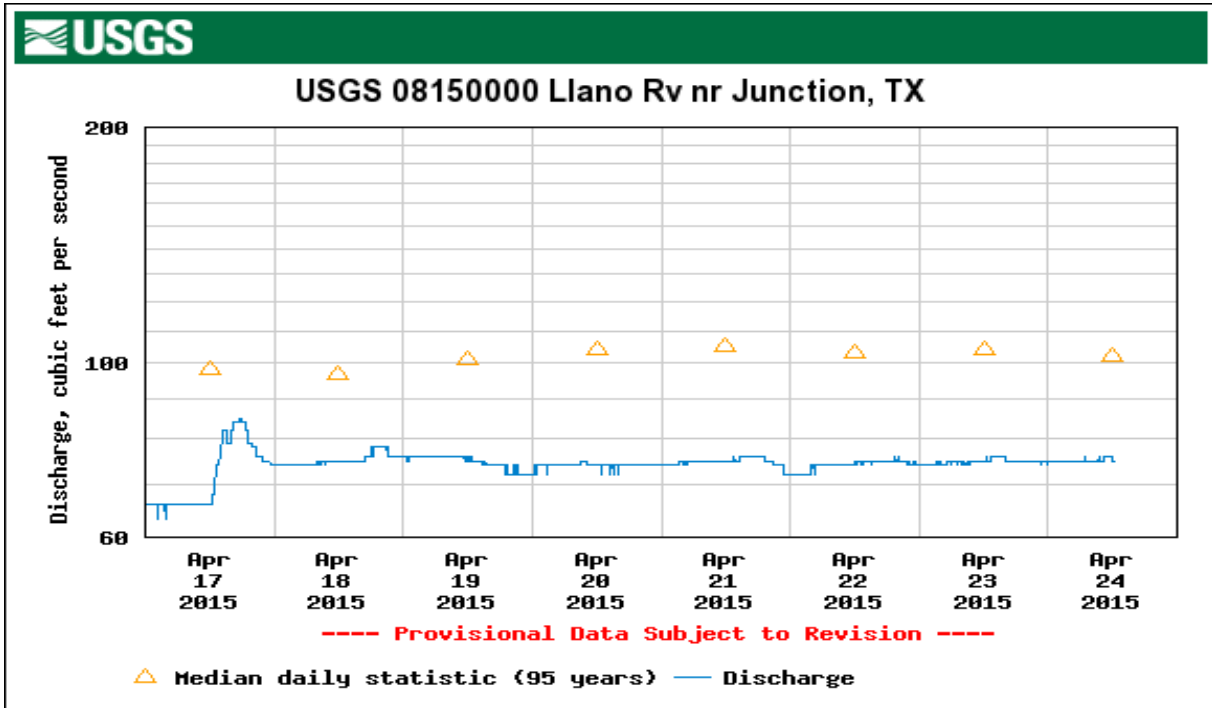
## Outsmarting Hogs

Josh Helcel with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will discuss the impacts of feral hogs and strategies and emerging technologies to control them next Monday in Kerrville.

The hour-long program is part of the monthly meeting of the Hill Country Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist. The public is welcome to attend.

Note: the correct date for this event is April 26<sup>th</sup>.

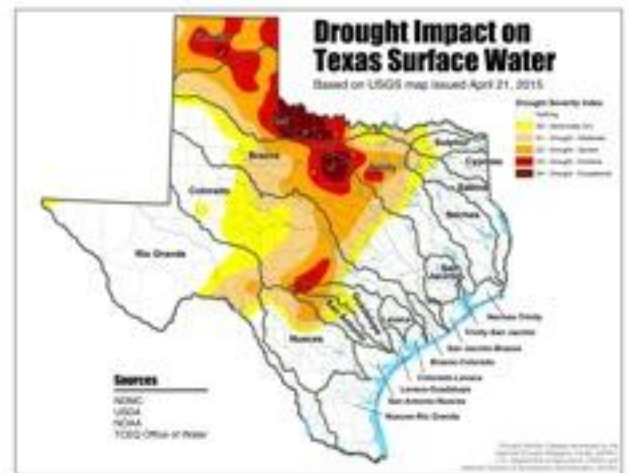
[Learn more](#)



## More Cedar Beavers

A newsletter reader wrote: *Your newsletter was of particular interest because of the Cedar Beaver article. I spent Friday night at our place on the North Llano and found a small cedar that had been cut down by a beaver and dug about half way from where it was downed...to the river...Now if Texas Tech could just start breeding beavers who only eat Ashe juniper, just imagine the fortunes that could be made.*

## Drought Update and Llano River Flows



There was some improvement this week in the Drought Impacts map (right). The upper and middle part of the watershed (down to Mason) is now in Moderate drought, Mason to Kingsland is in Severe drought. Only an area southwest of Llano is still in Extreme drought.

The Llano River at Junction has gained about 10 cfs of baseflow over the last week from 65 cfs to 75 cfs. –note the fairly level line before and after the small pulse on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

We still do not know enough about the aquifer to know if this baseflow increase is the result of the most recent rains or rains that occurred weeks earlier. Likely, it is both



## USDA Designates Centex Counties as disaster areas due to drought

**Burnet, Lampasas, and San Saba** Counties have been designated by the Agricultural Department as primary natural disaster areas due to damages and losses from drought. Contiguous counties (**Llano, Mason, McCulloch**) are also eligible.

Agricultural producers in these counties are eligible for low interest emergency loans.

[Press release](#)

## *The Timber of the Edwards Plateau of Texas* William L. Bray

The Timber of the Edwards Plateau of Texas is a US Department of Agriculture publication from 1904. It is available for [download from the SLWA website](#). Some of the language from this 111-year old document sounds familiar.

*“The water supply furnished by the rainfall of the Edwards Plateau is important not only for its own area, but especially for the coast plain lying to the southeast and south of it.”*

## Chinaberry Trees: Invasive Species



**Chinaberry trees** (*Melia azedarach*) may look pretty and smell good right now, but Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) have identified them, along with Giant reed (*Arundo donax*) and elephant ear (*Colocasia esculenta*), as the three most invasive species in the Upper Llano River watershed.

Efforts to control these three invasives species are underway. Last week, TPWD and Llano River Field Station staff did follow-up treatment on elephant ears along the upper reaches of the South Llano.

Future efforts to control invasive species will be part of the [Upper Llano River Watershed Protection Plan](#), currently being developed by stakeholders in the watershed.