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## **New Study to Focus on Pecos River**

Writer: Steve Byrns, (325) 653-4576, [s-byrns@tamu.edu](mailto:s-byrns@tamu.edu)

Contact: Will Hatler: (432) 336-8585, [wihatler@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:wihatler@ag.tamu.edu)

FORT STOCKTON – Texas Cooperative Extension wants your opinion of the Pecos River's current condition.

Will Hatler, Extension assistant and project coordinator at Fort Stockton, said an online survey, <http://pecosbasin.tamu.edu> being offered through July 1 will give people a chance to comment on watershed management issues, invasive species and the river's ecosystem.

"We invite anyone with an interest in the future of the Pecos River to participate," Hatler said. "The survey only takes a couple of minutes and is strictly confidential. The information will help us develop and evaluate an educational curriculum specifically tailored to the Pecos River Basin Assessment Program."

Key counties involved in the project are Crane, Crockett, Culberson, Loving, Pecos, Reeves, Terrell, Upton, Ward and Val Verde.

Hatler said the program's focus is the Pecos River Basin from Red Bluff Lake to Lake Amistad where the Pecos and Rio Grande rivers meet.

"The Pecos River flows 418 winding miles through the hot, dry landscapes of far West Texas," Hatler said. "It is the largest river sub-basin flowing into the Rio Grande River in Texas. As such, its importance - historically, biologically, hydrologically and economically to the future of the entire Pecos River Basin and the Rio Grande is huge."

Hatler described the Pecos River Basin Assessment Program as having four objectives. The first is to make an assessment of the physical features of the river basin.

The second objective is to provide educational programming to landowners and other stakeholders. This will include meetings, a series of publications and the development of a Web site for the dissemination of program findings and accomplishments.

The third objective is the development of a monitoring program so water quality and quantity can be monitored into the future. This will help assess the effectiveness of the Watershed Management Plan being developed as the fourth objective. This watershed management plan will cover the entire Texas portion of the Pecos River Basin

The Pecos River Basin Assessment Program is a collaborative effort of Extension, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, the Texas Water Resource Institute and the U.S. International Boundary Water Commission Texas Clean Rivers Program. Funding for the project was provided by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board through the Environmental Protection Agency Clean Water Act Section 319 program.

More information about the project can be found at: <http://pecosbasin.tamu.edu>.