

**Pecos River Basin Assessment Program**  
**FY04 CWA Section 319(h)**  
**TSSWCB Project No. 04-11**

Quarter no. 12 From 07/01/07 Through 09/30/07

**I. Abstract**

Work conducted during this quarter has focus on two major efforts: 1) completing and publishing final reports for each task and 2) completing the draft of the WPP. At this point, all subtask reports have been completed except for task 1.7, the economic modeling which was delayed when the economist in charge of the task was deployed to Afghanistan. The initial draft of the WPP was completed and sent out for public comment on September 10<sup>th</sup>. A letter was also drafted that briefly explained the project, the plan and described methods for submitting comments on the WPP. Those methods included by mail, online or in person at five stakeholder meetings scheduled for October 2-5 in Mentone, Pecos, Imperial, Iraan and Del Rio. A presentation on the project was also given at the National Nonpoint Source Pollution conference held in Austin and at the board meetings of the Upper Pecos and Crockett SWCDs.

**II. Overall Progress and Results by Task**

**TASK 1: Basin Assessment**

*Subtask 1.1: Aerial Photography, Delineation, and Characterization*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. This subtask is completed.

**100% Complete**

*Subtask 1.2: Historical Water Quality, Irrigation Delivery, Rainfall, Red Bluff Lake Levels, and Groundwater Monitoring*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Completed and submitted subtask final report.

**100% Complete**

*Subtask 1.3: Aquatic Life and Habitat Inventory*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Completed and submitted subtask final report.

**100% Complete**

*Subtask 1.4: Identify and Characterize the Volume and Quality of Tributaries and Springs*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. This subtask is completed.

**100% Complete**

*Subtask 1.5: Identify and Characterize Saline Water Sources Entering the Pecos River*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. This subtask is completed

**100% Complete**

*Subtask 1.6: Simulate Flow and Salinity of the Pecos River for Evaluating River Management Options*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. This subtask is completed.

**100% Complete**

*Subtask 1.7: Economic Modeling of the Pecos River Basin and Assessment of Saltcedar Control Activities*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. A survey was developed to measure the impact of saltcedar control on rangeland managers whose operation encompassed areas that were treated for saltcedar. This survey was mailed out July 2, 2007 to rangeland owners and managers. A second reminder postcard was mailed on July 9, 2007 to individuals that had not returned the survey.
- b. Work has begun on the IMPLAN model of the Pecos River basin economy. Adjustments are being made to accurately represent the impact of some of the higher value horticultural crops produced within the basin (pecans, melons, onions and potatoes).

**20% Complete**

## **Task 2: Educational Programming**

*Subtask 2.1: Publish Written Informational Materials to Educate Private Landowners, Stakeholders, and Policy Makers about the Pecos River basin and the effects of saltcedar*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. The historical document titled “A Brief History of Water Resources Challenges Facing the Pecos Basin of Texas” was finalized and printed for distribution.
- b. A WPP information packet containing a power point presentation, FAQ list, and Executive Summary was sent to all County Ag Extension Agents in the Pecos Basin.
- c. A letter announcing the public release of the WPP, a WPP FAQ list and Executive Summary were sent to approximately 1,000 landowners in the Pecos Basin. Articles appeared in local newspapers and statewide agricultural news outlets announcing the public release of the WPP.

**95% Complete**

*Subtask 2.2: Educational Meetings of Interested Parties for Input and Organizational Support*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. WPP public comment meeting were arranged for the dates October 2-5 in Mentone, Pecos, Imperial, Iraan and Del Rio.
- b. Special presentations were made at the Upper Pecos and Crockett SWCD meetings in September. These meetings were used to explain the WPP and to seek their support for implementing the plan.

**75% Complete**

*Subtask 2.3: Develop a Website for Dissemination of Information*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Ongoing activities and updates were posted to the project website.

**90% Complete**

## **Task 3: Establish a Monitoring Program**

*Subtask 3.1: Develop a QAPP for Sampling Protocol*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. This subtask is completed.

**100% Complete**

*Subtask 3.2: Water Quality Monitoring, including Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), Total Suspended Solids, Potential Hydrogen (pH), Dissolved Oxygen (DO), and Electrical Conductivity (EC)*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. This subtask is completed.

**100% Complete**

*Subtask 3.3: Quantity and Fate of Water Salvage as a Result of Saltcedar Control*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. The subtask final report was completed and submitted.
- b. This subtask is completed

**100% Complete**

**Task 4: Watershed Protection Plan**

*Subtask 4.1: Develop Annual Reports and a Final Report Summarizing Basin Assessment, Educational Programming, and Monitoring*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. No activity this quarter.

**75% Complete**

*Subtask 4.2: Produce the Final Watershed Protection Plan for Pecos River Segments 2312, 2311, and 2310*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. The initial draft of the WPP was completed and distributed for public comment on September 10<sup>th</sup>.
- b. Comments on the draft continue to be received and are being addressed.

**75% Complete**

### III. Related Issues/Current Problems and Favorable or Unusual Developments

- a. All work conducted under the project that required the approval of a QAPP has been completed. As a result, the QAPP was allowed to expire.
- b. A presentation explaining the project was given at the National Nonpoint Source Pollution Conference held in Austin on August 29<sup>th</sup>. A brief overview of the project was given, but the focus of the presentation was on the WPP and its approaches to managing water quality issues in the watershed.

### IV. Projected Work for Next Quarter

The following will be accomplished during the coming quarter:

*Subtask 1.1* – No activities planned. This subtask is complete.

*Subtask 1.2* – No activities planned. This subtask is complete.

*Subtask 1.3* – No activities planned. This subtask is complete.

*Subtask 1.4* – No activities planned. This subtask is complete.

*Subtask 1.5* – No activities planned. This subtask is complete.

*Subtask 1.6* – No activities planned. This subtask is complete.

*Subtask 1.7* – Further work on production budgets to include cantaloupes and onions, grain and forage sorghum and wheat. Summarization of past historical dry land and irrigated acreage trends will also be completed.

*Subtask 2.1* – Information regarding revisions to the WPP will be distributed to stakeholders throughout the Pecos Basin.

*Subtask 2.2* – WPP public comments meetings will be held on October 2-5.

*Subtask 2.3* – Post updates and documents to the project website.

*Subtask 3.1* – No activities planned. This subtask is complete.

*Subtask 3.2* – No activities planned. This subtask is complete.

*Subtask 3.3* – No activities planned. This subtask is complete.

*Subtask 4.1* – No activities planned.

*Subtask 4.2* – Work will continue to address comments received regarding the WPP. It is anticipated that a revised draft will be distributed toward the end of October.