

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

Quarter no. 14 From 01/01/08 Through 03/31/08

I. Abstract

The majority of work conducted this quarter has focused on making revisions to the WPP and conducting public meetings to discuss the WPP. The 2nd and 3rd drafts of the WPP were released during this quarter and one series of public meetings was conducted February 19th -21st. The year 3 annual report was also drafted and has been sent to project personnel for their comment and review. Work also continued on the Economic Modeling of the watershed to evaluate the impacts of water quality improvements across the watershed. The final report for this subtask was also initiated. It is anticipated that TSSWCB will return comments on the WPP early in the next quarter and that those comments will be addressed before the end of the next quarter.

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. This subtask is completed

100% Complete

Subtask 1.3: Aquatic Life and Habitat Inventory

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. This subtask is completed.

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. Work on the IMPLAN model of the Pecos River basin economy has continued during the quarter. 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).
- b. Drafting of the subtask final report was begun.

50% 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. A letter announcing the public release of the 2nd draft of the WPP, and an extended version of the Executive Summary were sent to approximately 1000 landowners in the Pecos Basin. Articles appeared in local newspapers and statewide agricultural news outlets announcing the public release of the WPP.
- b. An article summarizing the second round of public comment meetings and announcing the expected release date of the 3rd draft of the WPP appeared in local newspapers and statewide agricultural news outlets.
- c. A letter announcing the availability of the 3rd draft of the WPP was prepared.

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 2nd draft public comment meeting were held February 19-21 in Pecos, Imperial, Iraan, Ozona and Del Rio.
- b. This subtask is completed.

100% 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.

98% 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. Routine water quality samples were collected as part of the Texas Clean Rivers Program.

98% 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. 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. The year 3 annual report was drafted and submitted to the project team for internal review.

85% 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 2nd draft of the WPP was released to the public on January 7th and comments were received thru March 10th.
- b. Comments received on the 2nd draft were incorporated and resulted in the 3rd draft of the WPP.
- c. The 3rd draft of the WPP was released to the public and submitted to TSSWCB for their review on March 24th.

75% Complete

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

- a. The Coordinated Monitoring Meeting for the Pecos River watershed was held in Midland on March 18th and was hosted by the TCEQ and the IBWC. Funding from TCEQ to initiate sampling to help isolate the source of salinity in the Coyanosa to Girvin reach of the Pecos was discussed. We are currently working with the TCEQ to determine what level of activities they may be willing to fund.

- b. A proposal to implement portions of the Pecos Watershed Protection Plan was submitted to TSSWCB for funding consideration on February 15th. Word on the outcome of this submission should come early in the next quarter.

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. The subtask final report will be completed.
- Subtask 2.1* – Information regarding revisions to the WPP will be distributed to stakeholders throughout the Pecos Basin.
- Subtask 2.2* – No activities planned. This subtask is complete.
- Subtask 2.3* – Post updates and documents to the project website.
- Subtask 3.1* – No activities planned. This subtask is complete.
- Subtask 3.2* – Routine water quality samples will be collected as part of monitoring activities carried out through the Texas Clean Rivers Program.
- Subtask 3.3* – No activities planned. This subtask is complete.
- Subtask 4.1* – The year 3 annual report will be finalized and posted to the website.
- Subtask 4.2* – Comments on the WPP should be received from TSSWCB early in the next quarter. Upon their receipt, these comments will be addressed and the WPP will then be sent to USEPA for their review.