

Pecos River Basin Assessment Program

Pecos WPP and WPP Implementation Highlights:

Gary Bryant has been hired as the new Watershed Coordinator and will be the primary point of contact for all Pecos Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) Implementation related activities. He fills the role previously held by Will Hatler. Gary will coordinate and oversee all projects, meetings, and workshops related to the Pecos WPP Implementation.

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Copies of the Pecos WPP can be picked up at the following locations:

- Fort Stockton Research and Extension Center: ask for Gary Bryant
- Big Bend SWCD: 807 North 5th St., Alpine, TX
- Crockett SWCD: 201 11th St., Suite E, Ozona, TX
- Devil's River SWCD: 302 East 17th St., Del Rio, TX
- Rio Grande – Pecos River SWCD: 823 West Oak St., Sanderson, TX
- Sandhills SWCD: 2464 West I-20, Odessa, TX
- Toyah-Limpia SWCD: 303 South Dallas, Balmorhea, TX
- Trans Pecos SWCD: 2306 West Dickinson Blvd., Suite 3, Fort Stockton, TX
- Upper Pecos SWCD: 1415 West 3rd St., Pecos, TX

You can also download a PDF copy of the Pecos WPP at: <http://pecosbasin.tamu.edu/wpp.php>

Current WPP Implementation Tasks, Entity Performing Work and Funding Needs

All WPP Implementation Tasks will be overseen by Gary Bryant, the Watershed Coordinator.

- 1. Spraying additional saltcedar along the main stem of the Pecos will target roughly 1,775 acres of saltcedar**
 - Field Technicians employed by Crockett and Upper Pecos SWCDs will directly coordinate spraying efforts by securing permission to spray from volunteering landowners. The Field Technicians will be onsite during actual spraying. Spraying will be conducted using a helicopter operated by a contractor hired by TSSWCB through a bidding process. This task is fully funded and will be carried out at no cost to the volunteering landowners.

- 2. Burning standing dead saltcedar on the main stem of the Pecos on approximately 140 river miles**
 - The Texas Forest Service has been contracted to carry out this task. Texas Forest Service personnel will coordinate with SWCD Field Technicians to obtain permission from landowners to conduct burning preparation and debris burning functions on private property. This task is fully funded and will be carried out at no cost to the volunteering landowners.

- 3. Development of 20 Water Quality Management Plans to implement management practices that will improve water quality and enhance the productivity of individual properties**
 - Field Technicians employed by Crockett and Upper Pecos SWCDs will carry out this task. They will directly contact landowners along the Pecos River and work directly with landowners to develop property specific plans that achieve the management goals of participating landowners while providing for improved water quality. Technical assistance for this task will be provided free of charge. Up to \$15,000 of federal funding will be provided to install prescribed practices; participating landowners will be required to contribute 40% of total practice implementation costs.

- 4. Establishment of 10 saltcedar leaf beetle populations across the watershed**
 - Texas AgriLife Extension personnel from Fort Stockton will carry out this task. They will coordinate with SWCD Field Technicians and Texas Forest Service personnel to identify appropriate areas of the watershed to establish these sites. Extension will work directly with volunteering landowners to establish, release and monitor the saltcedar leaf beetle populations. The task is fully funded and will be carried out at no cost to volunteering landowners.

- 5. Delivery of workshops for landowners**
 - Texas AgriLife Extension personnel including the Watershed Coordinator and County Agents will cooperate to plan and deliver workshops on topics of interest to landowners in the watershed. Topics may include grazing management, predator management, watershed and water quality management, prescribed burning, nutrient management and many others. This task is fully funded and will be carried out at no cost to participating landowners. The only cost may be a nominal fee for lunch should the workshop last longer than half a day.

- 6. Dissolved oxygen modeling**
 - Texas AgriLife Extension will oversee this effort; actual modeling work will be conducted by the Texas Institute of Applied Environmental Research. This work will evaluate water quality in the portion of the river between Pecos and Girvin to determine what is causing low dissolved oxygen levels. This task is fully funded and will be carried out at no cost to watershed landowners.

- 7. Installation of a real-time water quality monitoring station near Girvin**
 - Texas AgriLife Extension will oversee this effort. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality will construct, install and operate a water quality monitoring station near Girvin, Texas to monitor water quality. This task is fully funded and will be carried out at no cost to watershed landowners.

