



Water Quality Update and Next Steps

Lucas Gregory
Texas Water Resources Institute
979-845-1851



Continuous Water Quality Monitoring

- TCEQ currently operates and maintains a series of 'continuous water quality monitoring' stations
- As of September 1, 2011 the operation and maintenance of these sites will be contracted out to USGS personnel from San Angelo
- The data quality will be just the same, if not better and can be accessed the same way

Continuous Water Quality Monitoring

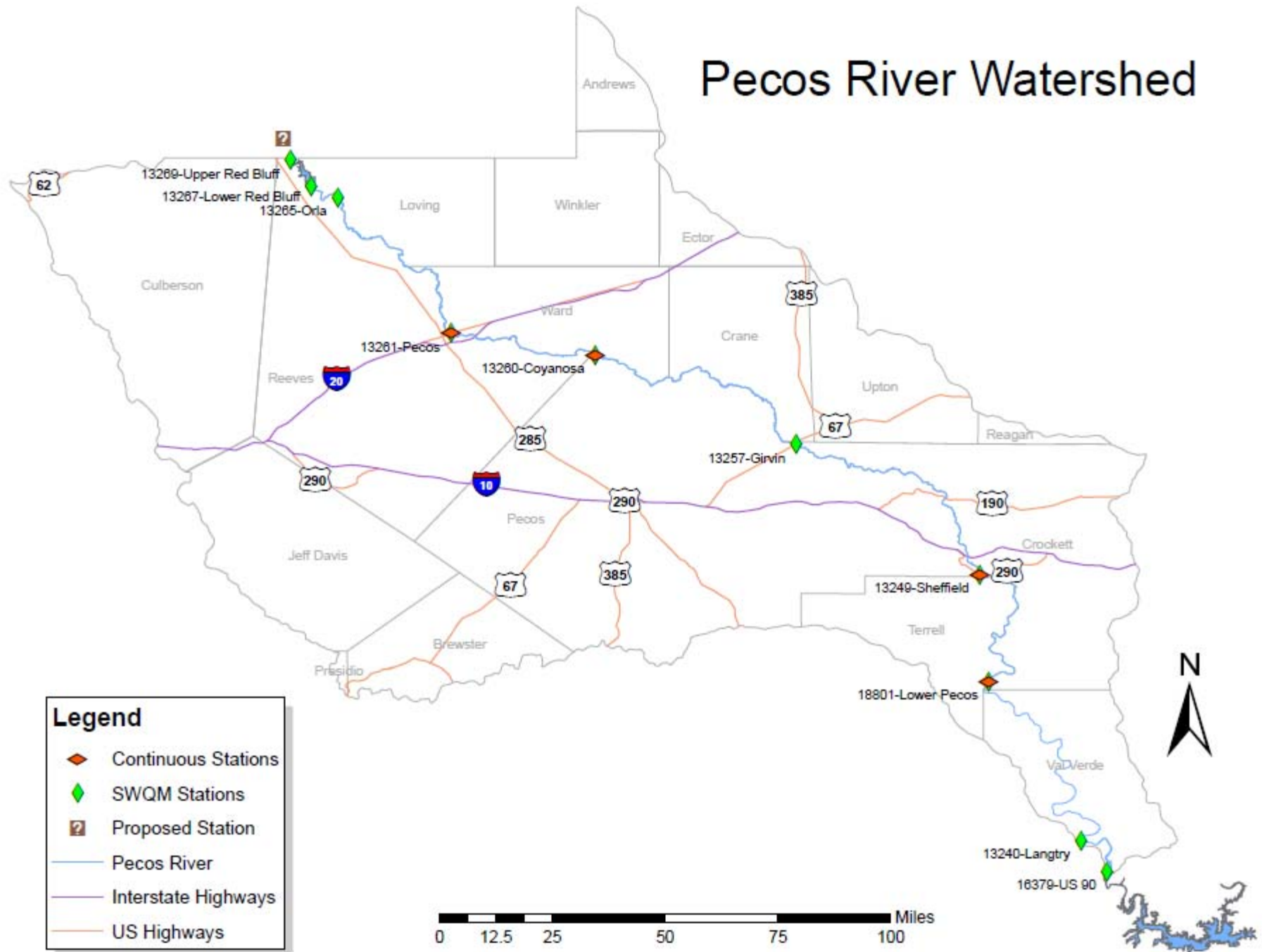
- TCEQ operates and maintains a series of ‘continuous water quality monitoring’ stations
- Currently 5 active stations on the Pecos
- Parameters monitored every 15 min
 - Surface temperature
 - Gage height
 - Specific conductance
 - Dissolved oxygen
 - pH
 - Salinity

Continuous Water Quality Monitoring

Station	Location	Date Installed	Parameters Monitored
C788	Pecos River near Red Bluff, NM	6/23/2011	Specific Conductance, Water Temp
C710	Pecos River at Business 20	9/23/2004	DO, gage height, pH, Salinity, Spec. Conductance, Water Temp
C709	Pecos River near Coyanosa	9/22/2004	DO, gage height, pH, Salinity, Spec. Conductance, Water Temp
TBD	Pecos River near Girvin	SOON	DO, gage height, pH, Specific Conductance, Water Temp
C735	Pecos River near Sheffiled	7/19/2006	DO, gage height, pH, Specific Conductance, Water Temp
C729	Lower Pecos River (Brotherton Ranch)	2/23/2006	DO, gage height, pH, Salinity, Spec. Conductance, Water Temp
C764	Independence Creek	17-Jul-08	DO, pH, Specific Conductance, Water Temp



Pecos River Watershed



Potential New Continuous Stations

Pecos River near Orla

Pecos River above Lake Amistad

- TSSWCB is working with TCEQ to establish an agreement to allow for the purchase and transfer of ownership of station components
- TWRI will begin purchasing equipment as soon as TSSWCB & TCEQ get their agreement worked out
- TSSWCB is working on an operation and maintenance agreement with USGS
- Stations likely won't be deployed until after January 1, 2012
- Stations will be identical to other stations in the monitoring network

Finding Water Quality Monitoring Data Online

http://pecosbasin.tamu.edu/

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Pecos River WPP Implementation Program. The header includes navigation links for AgriLIFE RESEARCH, AgriLIFE EXTENSION, and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The main banner features the Texas Water Resources Institute logo and a photograph of a river. The main content area is titled 'Pecos River WPP Implementation Program' and includes sections for 'Download the Watershed Protection Plan for the Pecos River in Texas', 'In the News', 'Newsletter', and 'Need for Restoration'. The sidebar on the right contains a list of links: Meetings, Media, Work Plan, Tasks, Reports, Personnel, Pecos Surface Water Data (highlighted with a blue arrow), BMP Information, Assessment Program, Pecos River Ecosystem Project, Links, and Contact. A search bar is located at the bottom of the sidebar.

Download the Watershed Protection Plan for the Pecos River in Texas

In the News

Pecos River Watershed project sets public meetings for Aug. 2-3 *AgriLife Today*, July 20, 2011

[Browse news archive...](#)

Newsletter

[Read the June 2011 Newsletter](#)

Need for Restoration

The Pecos River - historically, biologically, hydrologically and economically - is important to the future of the entire Pecos River Basin and the Rio Grande. The Pecos provides approximately 9.5 percent of the annual inflows to the International Amistad Reservoir, a major source of drinking and irrigation waters for the lower Rio Grande Valley and its millions of residents. However, the river also contributes an estimated 26 percent of salt loading to the reservoir annually, periodically causing salinity levels to approach the maximum drinking water standard.

The Pecos River winds more than 800 miles through semi-arid and arid landscapes of eastern New Mexico and West Texas and is crucial to many communities, mainly for irrigation, recreational and environmental use and recharging underlying aquifers.

The Pecos was once a critical source of water in the Trans-Pecos region of the state, providing early settlers with abundant water to irrigate crops and water livestock. Today, the river's flow has dwindled to a trickle in some areas, its salinity is so high that its use for irrigation and livestock watering is limited in many instances, and dissolved oxygen (DO) levels in portions of the river do not meet Texas' water quality standards. The reduced quality and quantity has also harmed the river basin's biodiversity.

Through the *Watershed Protection Plan Development for the Pecos River* project, a watershed protection plan (WPP) was developed that addresses watershed concerns, impairments and resource management


Meetings
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Personnel
Pecos Surface Water Data
BMP Information
Assessment Program
Pecos River Ecosystem Project
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Pecos River WPP Implementation Program

TWRI > Programs > Pecos River >

Pecos Surface Water Data

- [TCEQ Surface Water Quality Monitoring Database](#)
- [How to access surface water quality monitoring data](#)
- [USGS Daily Surface Water Data for Texas](#)
- Real-Time River Data:
 - [USGS Streamflow](#)
 - [CRP - Pecos](#)
 - [CRP - Coynosa](#)
 - [CRP - Sheffield](#)
 - [CRP - Lower Pecos](#)
 - [CRP - Independence Creek](#)
 - [CRP - Red Bluff, NM](#)
 - [Red Bluff Discharge Data](#)

Meetings

Media

Work Plan

Tasks

Reports

Personnel

Pecos Surface Water Data


BMP Information

Assessment Program

Pecos River Ecosystem Project



Links

Contact

Search this site... 

Texas Water Resources Institute

1500 Research Parkway A240
2118 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843-2118

Phone:  979.845.1851 

Fax: 979.845.8554

Email: twri@tamu.edu

TWRI and the [Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources](#) are working together to foster and communicate research and educational outreach programs focused on water and natural resources science and management issues in Texas and beyond.

Firefox

Pandora Radio - Listen to Free Int... SWQMIS Instructions - Texas Wat...

http://twri.tamu.edu/resources/swqmis-instructions

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Instructions for accessing and downloading water quality data from SWQMIS

TCEQ has an online viewer/database called the Surface Water Quality Monitoring Information System (SWQMIS) that contains all of these data but can be a bit difficult to navigate for first-time users. The document presented here will take you step-by-step through the process to access water quality data from this database. Visit [the application](#) to download the data.

You will hopefully end up on a page that looks like this:

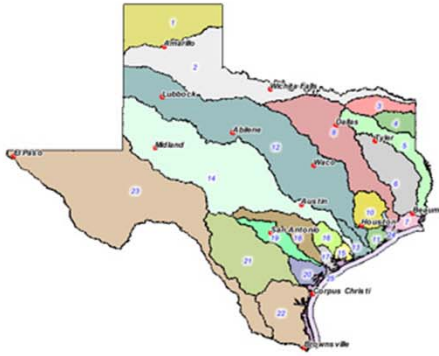


TCEQ TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Surface Water Quality Monitoring Web Reporting

Welcome to the Surface Water Quality Web Reporting Tool. This tool will allow you to select TCEQ monitoring stations to view and optionally download sample data. This data comes from TCEQ's Surface Water Quality Monitoring Information System (SWQMIS).

Select the basin of interest. If you do not know the basin, click on the area of the state that is the closest to your area of interest.



Or select a basin by name:

1. Canadian
2. Red
3. Volpker
4. Cypress
5. Sabine
6. Neches
7. Neches-Trinity
8. Trinity
9. Trinity-San Jacinto
10. San Jacinto
11. San Jacinto-Brazos
12. Brazos
13. Brazos-Colorado
14. Colorado
15. Colorado-Lavaca
16. Lavaca
17. Lavaca-Guadalupe
18. Guadalupe
19. San Antonio
20. San Antonio-Nueces
21. Nueces
22. Nueces-Rio Grande
23. Rio Grande
24. Bays and Estuaries
25. Gulf of Mexico

Or select a segment by name:

Select Segment and jump to Station List

Go

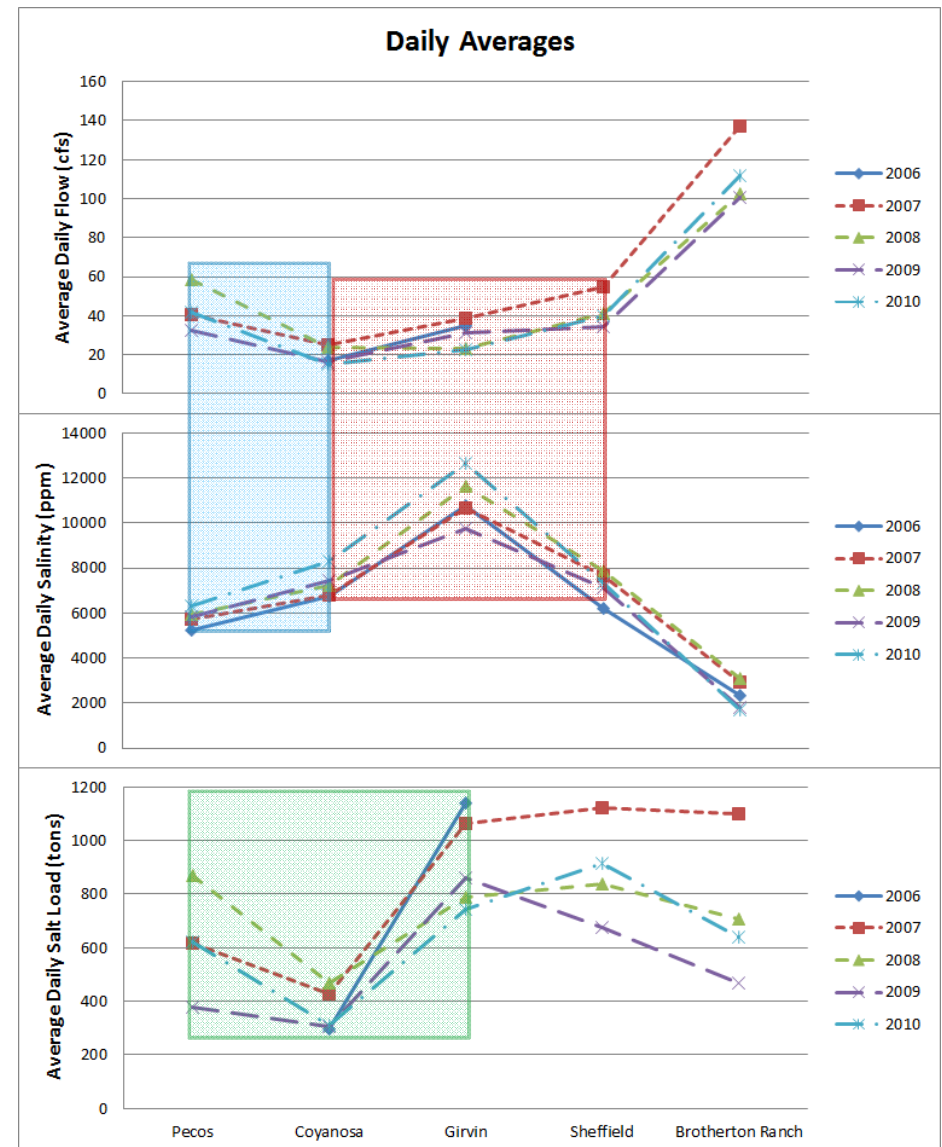
Salinity Source Evaluation

Aaron Hoff
Master of Science
Water Management & Hydrological Science

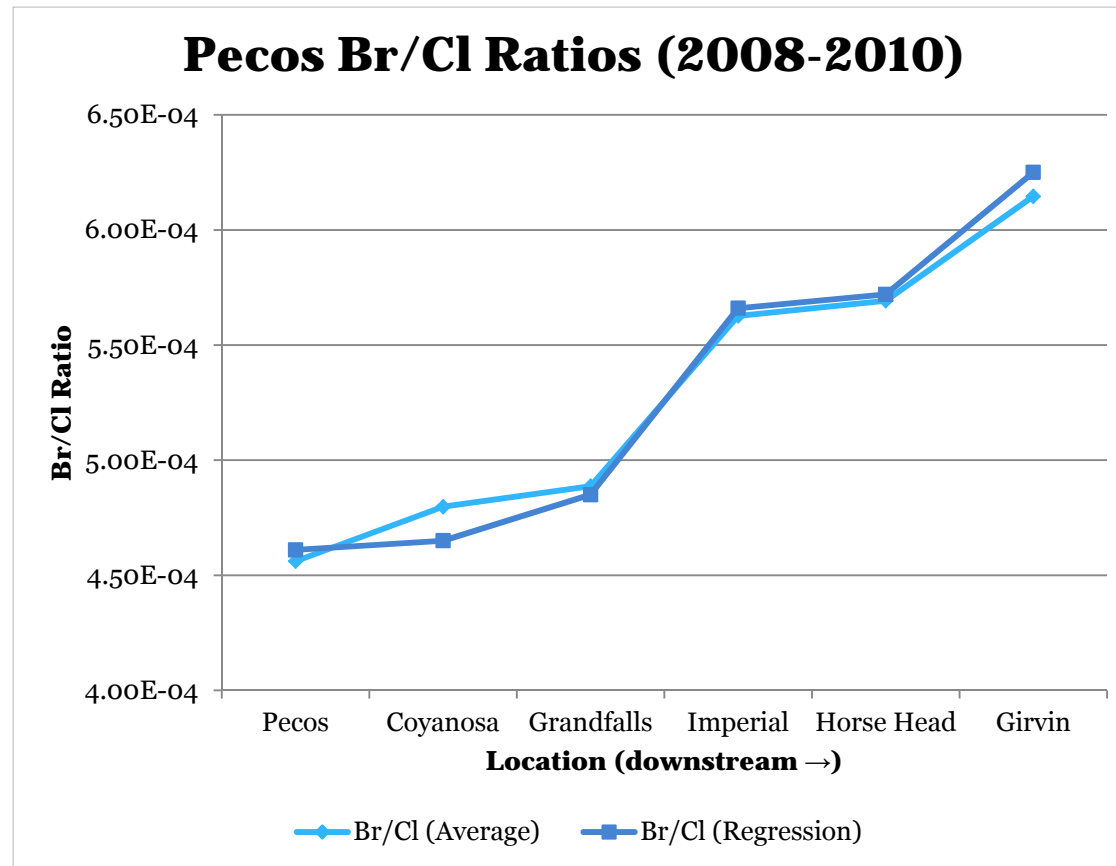
Trends in Salinity and Flow

- Flows decrease from Pecos to Cuyanosa while salinity gradually increases
- Flows continually increase downstream of Cuyanosa
- Salinity peaks at Girvin, but increasing flows downstream dilute the salt concentrations
- Salt loading is sporadic and is highly dependent upon flow
 - Generally decreases down to Cuyanosa, increases to Girvin and varies south of there

(colored text corresponds with colored areas on graph)



Bromide/Chloride Ratio



- Br/Cl ratio is a “fingerprint” for a water source
- If the ratio changes significantly, it’s a good indication that a different source of water is entering the river

Conclusions

- Flow reduction at Cayanosa is due mostly to irrigation diversions, but evaporation does play a role. Salinity increases while salt load decreases indicating that evaporation is quite influential
- Decreasing salt load at Cayanosa indicates a deposition of salts, most likely through irrigation diversions
- Salt loads increase quickly at Girvin, indicating that new sources of saline water are entering the river
- Br/Cl analysis shows significant changes for river between Grandfalls and Girvin, further indicating the influence of groundwater intrusion

Dissolved Oxygen Modeling Update

Data Obtained and Processed

- CWQM data are the primary source of information for the model
- Algae and other biological material build up on sensors causes the data to 'drift'
- Only data collected the first day after the sensor is changed are considered reliable
- Sensors change twice a month
- Despite missing days, still a very good data set
- Approximately 192 data points per month
- Statistical analysis was performed to try to find any patterns in water quality trends relating to flow or seasons
 - No patterns were found as expected

Model Development

- Process has just begun and will take several months
- GIS used to segment the river into 5 km segments
- Irrigation turn outs identified and will be included in the model
- Irrigation data currently being formatted so that it is in a consistent format

Next Steps for Modeling

- Continue to format data
- Complete model set up
- Begin model calibration and validation
- Begin to run the model
- Present initial modeling results at next meetings

Funding

Funding and support for the development and implementation of the Pecos River Watershed Protection Plan is provided through federal Clean Water Act §319(h) Nonpoint Source grant from the TSSWCB and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



Future Projects and Project Ideas

Salinity Source Isolation Proposal

- Proposal submitted to TSSWCB for Clean Water Act Section 319(h) funding consideration
 - Use helicopter based Electromagnetic Survey to identify salinity hotspots
 - Verify Electromagnetic Survey results with hydrogeological assessment

Proposal is still undergoing review

Implementation Outlined in WPP

- Riparian revegetation
- Well plugging
- Nutrient management plans
- Irrigation canal water audits
- Upstream irrigation delivery timing

Upcoming Meetings

AgriLife Extension Range Management Webinars

- <http://naturalresourcewebinars.org>
- \$10 per person per event
- 1st Thursday of each Month starting this Thursday at Noon; recorded for later watching
- TDA Pesticide License CEUs awarded
 - August: Common Herbicide Use Mistakes: Will Hatler
 - September: Do-It-Yourself Brush Control Equipment: Dr. Bob Lyons
 - October: Invasive Plants of Texas Rangelands: Dr. Barron Rector
 - November: Rangeland Herbicide Laws: Dr. Alyson McDonald
 - December: Online Resources for Plant ID and Management: Dr. Megan Dominguez

Ecotourism Business Workshop

- August 10th at 1 p.m. at the Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center: 1380 A&M Circle in El Paso
 - Plan for business or project success
 - Integrate your product into the tourism industry
 - Internet marketing
 - Economic costs and benefits
- \$50 registration by August 1st. Contact Ray Bader 915-860-2515
- <http://naturetourism.tamu.edu>

Basic Prescribed Burn Workshop

- August 11 – 13 at the Texas AgriLife Research Station at Sonora
 - Prescribed burning and drought
 - Managing fuels
 - Weather monitoring
 - Fire suppression equipment
 - Prescribed burn plan development
- \$395 includes meals and on-site lodging
- To register call 325-387-3168 or visit <http://ranchmanagement.org>

West Texas Beef Conference

- August 20th, 8 a.m. at the San Angelo Stock Show and Rodeo Fairgrounds Sale Pavilion
- Some of the topics are:
 - Low Stress Cattle Handling
 - Long-term Market Implications of Drought
 - Working Facility Design
- To pre-register go to:
<https://agriferegister.tamu.edu> and type in keyword: Beef. Cost is \$60 and includes lunch

Meeting of the Monitors

- Texas Stream Team's annual meeting
- September 29th thru October 1st at the Hilton Houston NASA Clear Lake
- Free for volunteer water quality monitors, \$50 registration for others
- <http://txstreamteam.rivers.txstate.edu/mom>

Permian Basin Small Landowner College

- Tuesday Nights: September 13 thru October 11
- \$25/class or \$100 for all
- Targets landowners of 5 to 100 acre tracts
 - The Land, The Location & The Vegetation: Dr. Alyson McDonald
 - What it Takes to Manage Livestock on Small Acreage: Dr. Bruce Carpenter
 - Pecans, Wine and Greenhouse Options: John Begnaud
 - Plants, Birds and Bugs that Attract Tourists: Burr Williams & Michael Nickell
 - Am I Going to do Some of This, What Happens to My Land Values
 - <http://www.co.midland.tx.us/ext/PBSLC.html>

Texas Watershed Steward

- August 30, 2011 in Baytown
- September 28, 2011 in Uvalde
- Very similar to those delivered here in Pecos and Iraan back in June
- Registration is free
- <http://tw.s.tamu.edu/workshops/online-registration>

Thanks!

Lucas Gregory

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979-845-1851

lfgregory@ag.tamu.edu