

**Texas A&M AgriLife Research
Texas Water Resources Institute**

**Implementing the Pecos River Watershed Protection Plan through Invasive Species Control
(Saltcedar) and by Providing Technical and Financial Assistance to Reduce Agricultural Nonpoint
Source Pollution**

**FY 08 CWA 319(h)
TSSWCB Project No. 08-08**

Quarter no. 15 From 4.1.2013 Through 6.30.2013

I. Abstract

Activity this quarter has focused on the continued implementation of WPP items. WQMPs continue to be developed and promoted, saltcedar debris burning was initiated and completed by Global Frontline Solutions. Burn plans were finalized, fire breaks were completed and prescribed fire was applied to 35 river miles. Saltcedar leaf beetles continue their expansion across the watershed and are defoliating saltcedar in a variety of locations. The Upper Pecos SWCD Technician has certified 16 WQMPs in the watershed and has several more in development. The draft WPP Update was completed this quarter and released to the public for review and comment during a series of public meetings held throughout the watershed on June 4th and 5th. Education and outreach continues with the delivery of information to landowners on wildlife and feral hog management through Extension programming. Plans are also underway for additional educational programming in the coming quarters.

II. Overall Progress and Results by Task

TASK 1: Project Coordination and Administration

Subtask 1.1: *TWRI will prepare electronic quarterly progress reports (QPRs) for submission to the TSSWCB. Extension, SWCD Technicians and TFS will collaborate with TWRI to develop QPRs. QPRs shall document all activities performed within a quarter and shall be submitted by the 15th of January, April, July and October. QPRs shall be posted on the project website and distributed to all project partners.*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. The Upper Pecos SWCD Technician submitted 15th QPR information to the Watershed Coordinator on July 11, 2013.
- B. TWRI submitted the Year 4, Quarter 3 report to TSSWCB on July 12, 2013.

96% Complete

Subtask 1.2: *TWRI will host coordination meetings, conference calls, or TTVN meetings with the TSSWCB Project Manager and all Project Partners at least quarterly to discuss project activities, project schedule, lines of responsibility, communication needs, and other requirements. TWRI will develop lists of action items needed following each project coordination meeting and distribute to project personnel.*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. No formal coordination meetings were held this quarter; however, numerous phone calls and meetings with selected members of the project team occurred this quarter.

97% Complete

Subtask 1.3: *TWRI will perform accounting functions for Tasks 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7 and submit appropriate reimbursement forms to TSSWCB at least quarterly. The SWCD Technicians and Bookkeepers will perform accounting functions for Task 2 and will submit appropriate Reimbursement Forms to TSSWCB at least monthly. TSSWCB will manage project funds for Task 3.*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. The Upper Pecos SWCD Technician submitted reimbursement forms to the bookkeeper.
- B. To date, a total of \$513,266 has been spent, or approximately 76% of project funding has been spent through tasks 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7.

90% Complete

Subtask 1.4: *TWRI will continue to host and maintain an internet website (<http://pecosbasin.tamu.edu/>) for the public dissemination of information pertaining to the implementation of the Pecos River WPP. Project partners will provide appropriate content matter for the website as needed.*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. Website updates were made throughout the quarter as needed.
- B. Website usage this quarter consisted of 335 individual site visits with approximately 73% of these being new visitors to the site.

98% Complete

Subtask 1.5: *TWRI, in collaboration with Extension, TFS, and the SWCDs, will develop, complete and submit an aggregate final report to TSSWCB at the culmination of the project. This report will be provided in electronic and hard copy format. The TSSWCB project manager will set the appropriate due dates for this task.*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. The draft Pecos WPP Update has been completed and released to the public for comment. It fully describes work conducted under this project and will constitute a large portion of the final report.

50% Complete

Subtask 1.6: *TWRI will hire (Months 1-3) and oversee (Months 4-36) the Pecos River Watershed Coordinator. This position will be responsible for the general oversight and coordination of all project activities, be responsible for reporting requirements and directing educational activities, and serve as the primary conduit for interaction with landowners and entities to facilitate the*

implementation of the WPP. The Pecos River Watershed Coordinator shall be stationed in the watershed at Fort Stockton.

A. Subtask complete.

100% Complete

TASK 2: Promotion, Development and Implementation of WQMPs

Subtask 2.1: SWCD 213 and SWCD 235 will each hire one full-time District Technician to promote, develop, and implement WQMPs. SWCD 213 and SWCD 235 will each hire one part-time Bookkeeper to assist with project accounting functions.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

A. The Upper Pecos SWCD Technician continued covering duties of both the Upper Pecos and Crockett districts.

100% Complete

Subtask 2.2: To ease the development of the Final Report (Subtask 1.6), the District Technicians will submit quarterly updates to a template Final Report along with QPRs. The TSSWCB Project Manager will provide a template Final Report.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

A. No new activity this quarter.

96% Complete

Subtask 2.3: The District Technicians will identify landowners in priority areas in the Pecos River watershed to periodically distribute notifications announcing the availability of financial and technical assistance for developing and implementing WQMPs.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

A. The Upper Pecos SWCD Technician identified landowners in priority areas of the Pecos River Watershed and continues to promote WQMPs to these landowners.

98% Complete

Subtask 2.4: The District Technicians will develop and distribute flyers, brochures, letters, news releases and other appropriate promotional publications to encourage participation from landowners. The TSSWCB Project Manager must approve all announcements, letters, and publications prior to distribution.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

A. The Upper Pecos SWCD District Technician distributed flyers and Watershed Protection Plan Overviews during the Pecos River WPP Implementation Meetings on July 4th and July 5th.

98% Complete

Subtask 2.5: The District Technicians will work with NRCS and AgriLife Extension to educate

landowners and agricultural producers about water quality issues and how WQMPs and BMPs address pollutant loadings from agriculture. The District Technicians will support, promote, and participate in, as appropriate, any field days, demonstrations, site tours, or education events sponsored by NRCS and/or AgriLife Extension for the Pecos River watershed.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. The Upper Pecos SWCD District Technician gave an overview of the WQMP program, presented highlights of the prescribed burning task, and distributed flyers and Watershed Protection Plan Overviews during the Pecos River WPP Implementation Meetings on July 4th and July 5th.

98% Complete

Subtask 2.6: The District Technicians will work with organizations, such as Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA), Texas Wildlife Association (TWA), Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association (TSGRA) and Texas Farm Bureau (TFB), to educate their members on this opportunity to enhance the value of their operation and achieve water quality goals for the watershed at the same time. Additionally, the District Technicians will work with Irrigation Districts to educate their customers on this project.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. No activity to report this quarter.

96% Complete

Subtask 2.7: The District Technicians will meet monthly with SWCDs 213 and 235, and as needed with SWCDs 224, 231, 237, and 241, in order to efficiently and effectively achieve project goals; summarize activities and achievements made throughout the course of this project; and discuss project activities, project schedule, communication needs, deliverables, and other requirements.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. The Upper Pecos SWCD District Technician met with SWCDs 213, 241, 231, and 235 during their monthly board meetings to discuss project activities including WQMPs and the prescribed burning program.

98% Complete

Subtask 2.8: The District Technicians will cooperate and communicate with landowners and entities in the Pecos River watershed in order to efficiently and effectively achieve project goals and to summarize activities and achievements made throughout the course of this project. Specifically, the District Technicians will, at least, participate in meetings scheduled under the auspices of the WPP. The District Technicians will maintain regular communication with the TWRI Pecos River Watershed Coordinator, TFS personnel, and the selected chemical saltcedar control contractor.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. The Upper Pecos SWCD District Technician maintained communication with the TWRI Pecos River Watershed Coordinator and landowners in the Pecos River Watershed.
- B. The Upper Pecos SWCD District Technician gave an overview of the WQMP program,

presented highlights of the prescribed burning task, and distributed flyers and Watershed Protection Plan Overviews during the Pecos River WPP Implementation Meetings on July 4th and July 5th.

98% Complete

Subtask 2.9: The District Technicians, with assistance from NRCS and TSSWCB as appropriate, will assist landowners in the development of WQMPs and associated Prescribed Grazing Plans. The District Technicians will develop at least 10 WQMPs above Girvin and 10 WQMPs below Girvin. Noting that the 10-year goal of the Pecos River WPP is to develop at least 120 WQMPs along the riparian corridor and 50 WQMPs in other portions of the watershed, the District Technicians shall strive to develop additional WQMPs beyond the minimum of 20; cost-share availability for additional WQMPs is dependent upon outcomes of Subtask 2.10.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. The Upper Pecos SWCD District Technician assisted landowners in the development of WQMPs in Crane, Crockett and Ector County.
- B. To date, 16 WQMPs have been certified.

85% Complete

Subtask 2.10: The District Technicians, with assistance from NRCS and TSSWCB, will assist landowners in the Pecos River watershed in applying for and obtaining cost-share to aid in implementation of BMPs prescribed in WQMPs. This project provides \$200,000 in CWA §319(h) funding (TSSWCB project 09-02 provides an additional \$100,000 in CWA §319(h) funding) as cost-share through the TSSWCB WQMP Program with allocations of \$100,000 to each SWCD 213 and SWCD 235. Landowners shall be eligible to receive a maximum cost-share amount of \$15,000 from the TSSWCB §319(h) funds. The maximum cost-share rate shall not exceed 60% of the cost of implementation of the BMPs. The remaining 40% will be provided by the landowner. Cost-share will be based on actual cost not to exceed average cost of the practice.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. The Upper Pecos SWCD District Technician assisted landowners in applying for and obtaining cost-share in Reeves and Terrell Counties.
- B. To date, \$69,849 has been reimbursed to producers and an additional \$101,824 is obligated to producers.

80% Complete

Subtask 2.11: The District Technicians will prioritize WQMP development and cost-share applications consistent with the priority areas identified in the Pecos River WPP. Specifically, priority shall be given for operations nearest to the Pecos River or major tributaries and those lands where chemical saltcedar control and follow-up debris removal has been conducted.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. The 10 SWCDs participating in the Pecos River Watershed Protection Plan defined the two top priorities for WQMP financial assistance eligibility:
 - Tier 1: Priority will be given to applicants requesting funds for land adjacent to the Pecos River on a first come, first served basis.

Tier 2: Priority will be given to applicants requesting funds for land adjacent to a major tributary of the Pecos River.

100% Complete

Subtask 2.12: The District Technicians will assist landowners with WQMPs in acquiring financial assistance through USDA administered federal Farm Bill Programs, including but not limited to, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) 1) county-level funding based on resource concern priorities established by Local Work Groups and 2) any applicable State Resource Concerns], the Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP), and the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP).

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. No activity to report this quarter.

70% Complete

Subtask 2.13: The District Technicians will conduct annual status reviews on all WQMPs developed and certified through the course of this project and any existing WQMPs (certified prior to this project) in the Pecos River watershed to ensure that the landowners implement BMPs as specified and agreed to in the WQMP implementation schedule. The District Technicians will document any follow-up technical assistance needed or necessary modifications to the WQMP implementation schedule.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. No new activity to report this quarter.

20% Complete

Subtask 2.14: The District Technicians will track utilization of obligated cost-share funds and, with assistance from TSSWCB and NRCS, will assist landowners in utilizing obligated cost-share funds on schedule.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. The Upper Pecos SWCD Technician tracked utilization of obligated cost-share funds in Crane, Crockett, Ector, Jeff Davis, Pecos, and Reeves Counties. The District Technician assisted landowners/cooperators in utilizing obligated cost-share funds on schedule

80% Complete

Subtask 2.15: The District Technicians will create spreadsheets and maps describing and showing the location of all WQMPs developed and BMPs implemented through the project. These maps will not reveal the identity or exact location of any producer.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. The Upper Pecos SWCD District Technician continues to create maps and spreadsheets describing and showing the general location of certified WQMPs and BMPs implemented.

80% Complete

TASK 3: Chemical Control of Saltcedar

Subtask 3.1: *The District Technicians will obtain permission to spray saltcedar, conduct debris removal (Task 5) and re-vegetation efforts. The SWCD 213 District Technician will work in the Pecos River, between Interstate-20 and Girvin, TX; and the SWCD 235 District Technician will work below Girvin down to the confluence with the Rio Grande. The District Technicians will also collect GPS coordinates of areas where chemical treatment will not be applied (e.g., sensitive areas, where permission is not obtained, or in areas where biological control is implemented).*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. The Upper Pecos SWCD Technician continued to sign landowners up for spraying and burning as opportunities arose.

98% Complete

Subtask 3.2: *The District Technicians will send out notifications to landowners describing goals and asking for landowner cooperation. The letter will be accompanied by approved technical documents that illustrate the benefits of treating saltcedar. Contact information for the District Technician will be included. Verbal contact with the landowners that are not receptive to written communication will be made. The District Technicians will continue to promote participation in chemical treatment of saltcedar throughout the duration of the project.*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. Subtask Complete

100% Complete

Subtask 3.3: *TSSWCB will take bids from qualified aerial herbicide applicators experienced in strategically applying pesticides to sensitive areas using helicopters and GPS coordinates to treat selected saltcedar. The budget allows for chemical treatment at \$220 per acre.*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. Subtask Complete

100% Complete

Subtask 3.4: *TSSWCB will contract with the selected applicator (Subtask 3.3) (chemical saltcedar control contractor) to treat an estimated 1,422 acres of saltcedar in segment 2311 of the Pecos River, between Interstate-20 and Girvin, TX and an estimated 353 acres of saltcedar in segments 2311 and 2310 of the Pecos River, between Girvin, TX and the Val Verde County line with ArsenalTM (Imazapyr) herbicide or a comparable generic version. The herbicide will be applied by helicopter in a selective manner using GPS guidance technology, to control saltcedar and having little or no effect on desirable plants and wildlife. General areas to be sprayed were developed from low-level, high-resolution aerial photography that was digitized and converted to GIS shapefiles. Areas will be ground-truthed by the District Technicians prior to initiating spraying. These files will be loaded into the helicopter's GPS system and will dictate where herbicide is applied.*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

A. Subtask Complete

100% Complete

Subtask 3.5: *The District Technicians will be onsite with the TSSWCB contractor during aerial pesticide application to observe and document (Observation Checklist) the following: 1) chemical mixture, 2) chemical application, 3) treatment acreage, and 4) weather conditions.*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

A. Subtask Complete

100% Complete

TASK 4: Biological Control of Saltcedar

Subtask 4.1: *Extension will coordinate site selection with the saltcedar spraying and debris removal efforts (Tasks 3 & 5) so that these areas do not overlap with biological control areas.*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

A. Task complete.

100% Complete

Subtask 4.2: *Extension will establish at least 10 release sites across the watershed. Beetles will be placed in protective enclosures and the beetle populations will be allowed to go through one regeneration cycle before being released.*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. The Upper Pecos SWCD District Technician informed Extension of 3 landowners' interest in having beetle populations established on their property.
- B. AgriLife Extension will work with landowners to collect and distribute beetles on these properties as timing and beetle availability allow.

90% Complete

Subtask 4.3: *Extension will track and document the location of biological control sites and leaf beetle release dates and the subsequent acres of defoliated saltcedar on each site. Extension will create GIS maps showing the location of release sites and defoliated acres at each site.*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. The ability to track the movement of individual beetle colonies has been precluded by the rapid rise in the beetle population and their natural dispersal and subsequent intermingling of populations; however, efforts to document where beetles are observed have continued.
- B. In June, beetle damage was noted in and around Balmorhea, Coyanosa, Girvin, Imperial, Iraan, and Pecos.
- C. The need for beetle tracking has been described in the draft WPP addendum.

85% Complete

TASK 5: Prescribed burning for saltcedar debris removal

Subtask 5.1: *TFS will coordinate with the District Technicians to obtain permission for debris burning activities from private landowners (Subtask 3.1).*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. The Upper Pecos SWCD Technician continued to coordinate with landowners to obtain permission for debris burning activities.
- B. The Upper Pecos SWCD Technician verified the continued interest of enrolled landowners in the debris burning program and informed them that Global Frontline Solutions is under contract and would begin conducting burns this quarter.
- C. The Upper Pecos SWCD Technician notified enrolled landowner's whose saltcedar was not burned that available funds have been expended and that their property's will not be burned under the existing contract.
- D. Task complete, but the Upper Pecos SWCD Technician will continue to obtain permission from producers as interest is expressed.

100% Complete

Subtask 5.2: *TFS will draft the appropriate prescribed burn plans.*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. TFS has opted out of their role in the project.
- B. Work planned under this task has been transferred to Subtask 5.5.

0% Complete

Subtask 5.3: *TFS will work with the District Technicians to inform landowners of scheduled prescribed burns. Where practical, landowners and local prescribed burning organizations shall be involved in burning activities.*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. TFS has opted out of their role in the project.
- B. The Upper Pecos SWCD Technician informed landowners of Global Frontline Solutions' anticipated schedule. The District Technician observed Global Frontline Solutions conduct prescribed burns.
- C. Task complete.

100% Complete

Subtask 5.4: *TFS will conduct prescribed burning on standing dead saltcedar that has been chemically treated prior to this project along the main channel of the river, between Girvin, TX and the confluence of the Pecos River and Independence Creek, or about 138 river miles. As*

stated in the WPP, at least 3 years should have transpired between chemical treatments and prescribed burning in order to achieve the most effective kill rate of saltcedar and the most effective degree of debris removal. Controlled burns will only be conducted in areas where landowners have given permission for these activities to be carried out.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. TFS has opted out of their role in the project and will not conduct any prescribed burns.
- B. Work planned under this task has been transferred to Subtask 5.5.

0% Complete

Subtask 5.5: Upon completion of the bid process, the selected contractor will begin developing burn plans on properties where landowners have requested debris burning. All preparations and burning activities will be coordinated with the landowner, TFS, SWCD Technician, the Watershed Coordinator and Extension Entomologists.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. Global Frontline Solutions was brought under contract this quarter and a coordination meeting was held February 22nd in Pecos with part of the project team.
- B. A broad scale burn plan was been developed and reviewed by the project team.
- C. Global Frontline Solutions contacted landowners and completed all needed fire lines.
- D. Global Frontline Solutions conducted and completed prescribed burning on 35 river miles on the river from near Pecos south to I-10 on enrolled properties.
- E. Task complete. See photos attached.

100% Complete

Subtask 5.6: TFS will work with the District Technicians to inform landowners of scheduled prescribed burns. Where practical, landowners and local prescribed burning organizations shall be involved in burning activities.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. A public notice was issued prior to this quarter to notify the public of planned burns beginning April 14th. This notice was paid for in local and regional media outlets.
- B. Enrolled landowners were contacted by the Upper Pecos SWCD Technician informing them of the planned burn schedule.
- C. Task complete.

100% Complete

TASK 6: Support and Facilitation of WPP Implementation, Education and Tracking

Subtask 6.1: Extension will engage and facilitate Pecos River watershed landowners and other entities identified in the Pecos River WPP and work in cooperation with partner agencies to implement the Pecos River WPP. Extension will facilitate and host meetings of the landowners

and partner agencies as needed, likely semi-annually at multiple locations across the watershed.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. The Upper Pecos SWCD Technician gave an overview of the WQMP program, presented highlights of the prescribed burning task, and distributed flyers and Watershed Protection Plan Overviews during the Pecos River WPP Implementation Meetings on July 4th and July 5th

98% Complete

Subtask 6.2: Extension will assist governmental and non-governmental organizations in the Pecos River WPP, in identification and acquisition of resources (financial and technical) to enable WPP implementation. Extension will actively seek and pursue funding opportunities and work with partners to develop grant proposals.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. The Watershed Coordinator has been working with several groups and entities in the watershed to document resource needs in the Pecos WPP Update and developing tentative plans for grant proposal submissions later this year.

90% Complete

Subtask 6.3: Extension will evaluate progress toward achieving milestones established in the WPP. Extension will publish an addendum to the Pecos River WPP that describes modifications/updates to goals and milestones, explains new understandings of sources and cause of water quality issues, documents success in achieving goals and milestones and success in achieving water quality improvement and load reductions at least biennially. As the WPP was published in October 2008, this biennial addendum would most appropriately be published around October 2010, or soon thereafter.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. Work on the Pecos WPP Update continued this quarter with the completion and distribution of the first draft on June 4th and 5th during public meetings.
- B. The first draft is now out for public comment and will be revised based on comments received.

75% Complete

Subtask 6.4: Extension will facilitate and coordinate education and outreach activities as identified in the Pecos River WPP. Extension will develop and distribute press releases when warranted. Specifically, Extension will collaborate with NRCS and SWCDs to host workshops, field days, demonstrations, site tours, or other education events focused on each of the following topics:

- *Texas Watershed Steward Program (2 events)*
- *Lone Star Healthy Streams Program (2 events)*
- *Nutrient Management (2 events)*
- *Wildlife Management (3 events)*
- *Crop Management (2 events)*
- *Irrigation Management (3 events)*

- *Feral Hog Management (2 events)*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. Efforts are under way to plan the delivery of the Texas Well Owner's Network program in the watershed this fall.
- B. AgriLife Extension in Crane County hosted a Wildlife and Fisheries management seminar that focused on feral hog and wildlife management.
- C. Several other programs in the watershed are planned for next quarter that focus on livestock management, rainwater harvesting, prescribed burning and oil/gas land stewardship (revegetation).

85% Complete

Subtask 6.5: Extension will provide information to IBWC for inclusion in the Clean Rivers Program Basin Summary Report and Basin Highlights Report. Extension shall participate in IBWC-sponsored meetings of the Clean Rivers Program Basin Advisory Committee.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. No new activity to report.

95% Complete

Subtask 6.6: Extension will develop and publish a semi-annual newsletter that is designed to keep landowners and entities informed of ongoing WPP implementation activities and other relevant information. The newsletter shall be distributed as most appropriate to individual landowners and entities in the watershed.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. The draft of the July 2013 Newsletter was initiated this quarter and will be finalized in July.

90% Complete

Subtask 6.7: The Watershed Coordinator will make deliberate efforts to increase awareness of the WPP and secure implementation support thereof from county and municipal governments, and irrigation districts throughout the watershed, as well as, the Red Bluff Water and Power Control District. The Watershed Coordinator will also work with the Pecos River Compact Commission and the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) to explore mechanisms to influence the implementation of management measures in New Mexico that have positive effect to the Pecos River in Texas.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. The Watershed Coordinator has maintained contact with Red Bluff Water Power and Control District Staff, the Pecos River Compact Commissioner's office in Texas and individual landowners.
- B. The Watershed Coordinator and Upper Pecos SWCD Technician attended the Pecos

River Compact Commission meeting in Ruidoso, NM in April where the Watershed Coordinator provided an update on WPP Implementation activities.

- C. The Watershed Coordinator provided an overview of WPP Implementation activities and the WPP Update development during the June 4th and 5th public meetings.

98% Complete

TASK 7: Compilation of Surface Water Quality Monitoring Data

Subtask 7.1: Extension will maintain and update Red Bluff release and delivery databases. USGS gaging station discharge data and TCEQ Clean Rivers Program water quality and streamflow data from established monitoring sites will be updated and maintained in existing databases by Extension. This task will build upon the existing water quality database developed under TSSWCB project 04-11.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. The Pecos River data viewer was updated as appropriate this quarter.

95% Complete

Subtask 7.2: Extension will collaborate with IBWC to assess water quality data collected through the Clean Rivers Program and other projects in relation to achieving load reductions described in the WPP.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. A draft water quality assessment was completed in association with the draft WPP Update and distributed to the public for review and comment.

75% Complete

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

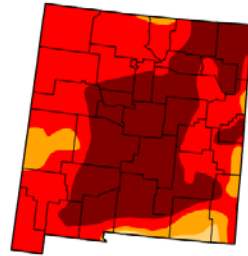
- Drought continues to impact the Pecos River watershed with all of the Texas portion of the watershed being abnormally dry or worse. The majority of the watershed in Texas is considered as being in Moderate drought. The drought in the New Mexico portion of the watershed is worse with all of the watershed being in severe drought or worse.

U.S. Drought Monitor
New Mexico

July 9, 2013
Valid 7 a.m. EST

| | None | Drought Conditions (Percent Area) | | | | |
|---|------|-----------------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | D0-D1 | D1-D2 | D2-D3 | D3-D4 | |
| Current | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 98.92 | 90.91 | 42.43 |
| Last Week (07/02/2013 miss) | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 98.92 | 92.56 | 42.77 |
| 3 Months Ago (04/09/2013 miss) | 0.00 | 100.00 | 98.66 | 93.30 | 68.73 | 4.36 |
| Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 miss) | 0.00 | 100.00 | 98.83 | 94.05 | 31.08 | 0.97 |
| Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 miss) | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 92.56 | 12.26 | 0.66 |
| One Year Ago (07/09/2012 miss) | 0.00 | 100.00 | 99.79 | 85.70 | 25.98 | 0.00 |

Intensity:
■ D0 Abnormally Dry
■ D1 Drought - Moderate
■ D2 Drought - Severe
■ D3 Drought - Extreme
■ D4 Drought - Exceptional



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>

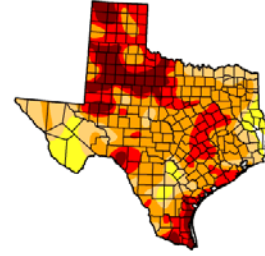


U.S. Drought Monitor
Texas

July 9, 2013
Valid 7 a.m. EST

| | None | Drought Conditions (Percent Area) | | | | |
|---|------|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | D0-D1 | D1-D2 | D2-D3 | D3-D4 | |
| Current | 0.58 | 69.42 | 91.80 | 79.22 | 34.70 | 12.20 |
| Last Week (07/02/2013 miss) | 1.23 | 68.77 | 87.13 | 68.67 | 32.63 | 12.20 |
| 3 Months Ago (04/09/2013 miss) | 0.44 | 99.56 | 89.44 | 69.35 | 28.81 | 11.56 |
| Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 miss) | 3.04 | 96.96 | 87.00 | 65.39 | 35.03 | 11.96 |
| Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 miss) | 9.13 | 90.87 | 78.73 | 67.41 | 24.91 | 5.18 |
| One Year Ago (07/09/2012 miss) | 2.65 | 87.35 | 78.76 | 36.79 | 8.77 | 0.00 |

Intensity:
■ D0 Abnormally Dry
■ D1 Drought - Moderate
■ D2 Drought - Severe
■ D3 Drought - Extreme
■ D4 Drought - Exceptional



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



IV. Projected Work for Next Quarter

- Continue to work on certifying WQMP practices installed and processing payment for certified practices.
- Secure additional WQMPs.
- Conduct WQMP status reviews.
- Advertise program availability to landowners in priority areas.
- Attend monthly board meetings with SWCD #s 213 and 235 and as necessary attend board meetings with SWCD#s 241, 231, 230, 209, 227, 237, and 224.
- The Watershed Coordinator will continue to engage watershed landowners, work on developing the WPP addendum and coordinate planning for future WPP Implementation with watershed landowners.
- Education and outreach will continue to be delivered across the watershed as appropriate.
- Biological controls will be disbursed across the watershed and their tracking will continue.
- TWRI will continue to update the Pecos Basin Website to keep the public aware of activities in the watershed.
- TWRI will continue to develop the Pecos River WPP Update and will address comments as they are received.
- TWRI and the Upper Pecos SWCD Technician will begin working to develop a project proposal to support future WPP implementation.

Prescribed Burning Photos:



Typical pre-burn vegetation. Ample dead material mixed with living mesquite and saltcedar.



Burned and unburned river bank in the foreground and background respectively.



Typical post-burn scene. Dead matter is almost fully consumed and live trees are left standing.



Approximately 10 weeks post burn. Living saltcedars in the background were top-killed (roots still viable) and saltcedar leaf beetles are attacking new growth (not the brown vegetation at the base of the trees). Grasses and forbs are growing well and producing new seed stock to continue the natural vegetation process.



Approximately 7 weeks post burn near Iraan. Vegetation response is good with a mix of forbs and grasses quickly re-establishing in burned areas.



Saltcedar regrowth from a top-killed tree is quickly attacked by saltcedar leaf beetles and defoliated adding further stress to the tree.