

TEXAS WATER RESOURCES INSTITUTE
AND
TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Development of the Upper Llano River Watershed Protection Plan
FY 2011 Workplan 11-04

Quarter no. 9 From 10/1/13 Through 12/31/13

I. Abstract

An initial draft of the Watershed Protection Plan was written for the following chapters: Watershed Management; Upper Llano Watershed Protection Planning Efforts; Historic Review of the State of the Upper Llano Watershed; Methods; Current Concerns to the Health of the Upper Llano River; Pollutant Sources; Education and Outreach; and Project Implementation.

Outreach remained steady this quarter. For the quarter October-December 2013, there were 668 visits and 346 unique visitors to the SLWA website. The SLWA Facebook Page continues to be an effective outreach instrument, reaching 3,944 people this quarter. TTU-LRFS participated in 12 public meetings, including meetings with the SLWA Board, numerous professional conferences, and local events. The next Coordination Committee meeting will be held after the New Year and will consist of topic working group presentations.

On the science side, the 6th quarterly stream and spring sampling was conducted in December 2013. A second revision of the water quality monitoring QAPP was submitted to TSSWCB this quarter. The revision addresses water quality monitoring report limits, a reclassification of the sampling site below the confluence of the North and South Llano rivers, and minor changes to the Hess sampling effort of the macroinvertebrate sampling methods.

Next quarter, routine sampling will continue, and TTU-LRFS in partnership with TPWD will conduct an additional elephant ear herbicide treatment.

II. Overall Progress and Results by Task

Task 1 Project Administration

Subtask 1.1 TWRI will prepare electronic quarterly progress reports (QPRs) for submission to the TSSWCB. 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 distributed to all project partners and posted on the project website.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. The ninth quarterly report was prepared and submitted on January 10, 2014.

60% Complete

Subtask 1.2 TWRI will perform accounting functions for project funds and will submit appropriate Reimbursement Forms to TSSWCB at least quarterly.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. As of the July 31, 2013 invoice, \$178,770 (27%) of federal project funds had been expended. However, as of December 3, 2013, Progress of Allocations to each Project Partner, which provides a more up to date representation of expenditures, was as follows:
 - TWRI has expended 48% of their funds.
 - ESSM has expended <1% of their funds
 - SSL has expended 49% of their funds.
 - TTU has expended 50% of their funds.
- b. On December 9, 2013, TWRI submitted a request for a no-cost extension to 10/31/15 and a budget revision.

49% Complete

Subtask 1.3 TWRI will host coordination meetings or conference calls, at least quarterly, with project partners to discuss project activities, project schedule, communication needs, deliverables, 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. A coordination meeting was held on December 16, 2013 at 4:00 pm via a conference call.

60% Complete

Subtask 1.4 TWRI will work with project personnel from ESSM, TTU-WRC, TTU-LRFS, and SLWA to prepare the WPP incorporating input from stakeholders and findings of monitoring, modeling, and data analysis tasks.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. No activity to report this quarter.

0% Complete

Subtask 1.5 SLWA will continue to host and maintain a website (<http://southllano.org/>) to serve as a public clearinghouse for all project- and watershed-related information. All presentations, documents and results will be posted to this website. The website will serve as a means to disseminate information to stakeholders and the general public. TWRI and TTU-LRFS shall contribute content matter for the website as appropriate.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. The SLWA website, listserv, and Facebook page continue to be a resource for stakeholders in the watershed on land and water stewardship, hydrologic and weather conditions, latest news, upcoming events, community participation, and related topics.
- b. Specific topics this quarter included:
 - Announcement of the Southwest Stream Restoration Conference in May 2014

- Announcement of Texas Riparian Association & Texas Society for Ecological Restoration Conference on November 1st-2nd
 - Announcement of the Texas Water Symposium: Private Property Rights
 - Brush management and its history
 - South Llano River Fall Cleanup on October 12th
 - Monarch migration news
 - Water fight brewing on the Devils
- c. For the quarter October-December 2013, there were 668 visits and 346 unique visitors to the website, with daily visits at 7/day. The workgroups of Upper Llano Watershed Protection Program are currently drafting the chapters of the plan, so website activity has generally been limited to workgroup members as there has been little information to share with the public during this quarter.
- d. A Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/South-Llano-Watershed-Alliance/>) was launched by the SLWA on March 4, 2013. The page currently has 112 'likes' and reached 3,944 people during the 4th quarter. The maximum number of visits was associated with the South Llano River clean-up in early October.

60% Complete

Subtask 1.6 The Director of TTU-LRFS will serve as the Upper Llano River Watershed Coordinator and be responsible for the general oversight and coordination of all project activities, reporting requirements, and educational activities, and serve as the primary conduit for interaction with landowners, citizens, and entities to facilitate the development of the WPP. The Watershed Coordinator shall successfully complete (or have already completed) the Texas Watershed Planning Short Course and participate in Texas Watershed Coordinator Roundtables.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Dr. Tom Arsuffi, Director of the TTU-LRFS and Upper Llano River Watershed Coordinator, completed the Texas Watershed Planning Short Course on November 14-18, 2011.
- b. Project partner Tyson Broad of the South Llano Watershed Alliance completed the Texas Watershed Planning Short Course on September 24-28, 2012.

100% Complete

Task 2 Quality Assurance

Subtask 2.1 TWRI will develop a QAPP for water quality monitoring activities in Tasks 4 and 5 and a QAPP for watershed modeling activities in Task 6 consistent with the most recent versions of EPA Requirements for Quality Assurance project Plans (QA/R-5) and the TSSWCB Environmental Data Quality Management Plan.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. QAPP for Tasks 4 and 6 – GIS & Modeling
 - Revision 0 (covering only GIS inventory & LULC) approved on July 27, 2012
 - Revision 1 (adding modeling) was approved on August 1, 2013.
- b. QAPP for Task 5, Water Quality Monitoring, was approved on September 6, 2012.

100% Complete

Subtask 2.2 TWRI will implement the approved QAPPs. TWRI will submit revisions and necessary amendments to the QAPPs as needed.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. QAPP for Tasks 4 and 6 – GIS & Modeling
 - No progress to report. The next update is due in August 2014.
- b. QAPP for Task 5 - Water Quality Monitoring
 - Revision 1 approved on March 5, 2013.
 - Revision 2 (revising water quality reporting and detection limits) was submitted to TSSWCB on January 3, 2014.

60% Complete

Task 3 Public Participation and Stakeholder Coordination

Subtask 3.1 TTU-LRFS, with input from TWRI, SWLA, and Texas AgriLife Extension Service, will compile (Months 1-3) and maintain (Months 4-36) a database of watershed stakeholders and affected parties for use in engaging the public in the watershed planning process. The stakeholder group will be added to based upon previous efforts of SLWA. The database and stakeholder group will represent a diverse cross section of Upper Llano River landowners, citizens, local businesses, local and regional governmental entities and elected officials, state and federal agencies, and environmental and special interest groups.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. The TTU-LRFS continued work on the database of Upper Llano River watershed stakeholders providing the initial list to the TSSWCB in July 2012. The database remains steady at 437 landowners, citizens, local businesses, local and regional governmental entities and elected officials, state and federal agencies, and environmental and special interest groups.

60% Complete

Subtask 3.2 TTU-LRFS will facilitate public participation and stakeholder involvement in the watershed planning process, specifically project meetings and activities. TTU-LRFS will coordinate meetings, secure meeting locations, prepare and disseminate meeting notices and agendas. Meeting summaries will be prepared and posted to the project website. It is anticipated that at a minimum, quarterly public meetings will be sufficient; however, if more meetings are deemed necessary, they will be scheduled accordingly. Meeting frequency may be adjusted throughout the course of the project to accomplish project goals. TSSWCB will review and approve all meeting notices, agendas, and meeting summaries prior to public dissemination.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- No meetings were held this quarter due to the holidays.

60% Complete

Subtask 3.3 TTU-LRFS will attend and participate in other public meetings as appropriate in order to communicate project goals, activities and accomplishments to affected parties. Such meetings may

include, but are not limited to, city councils, county commissioners' courts, Clean Rivers Program Basin Steering Committee and Coordinated Monitoring, local soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs), groundwater conservation districts and other appropriate meetings of critical watershed stakeholder groups.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. This quarter, TTU-LRFS met with/participated in the following meetings:
 - TTU-LRFS staff met with TTU graduate student Jacob Copple and TTU professor Jerod White on November 13, 2013 to discuss preparation of a series of promotional/informational videos to include the Upper Llano WPP and other activities at the Llano River Field Station.
 - SLWA Board meetings on October 17 and November 19. There was no December meeting due to the holidays. A motion was passed to hold meetings every other month.
 - Tom Arsuffi attended the Hill Country Alliance Leadership Summit on October 4, 2013 in Fredericksburg, TX.
 - Tom Arsuffi and TTU-OS staff members Linda Edwards and Peni Green attended the 14th Annual Conference of the Engagement Scholarship Consortium in Lubbock, TX on October 8-9, 2013. Presentations included:
 - i. Tom Arsuffi, Robert Stubblefield, Karen Lopez, Marta Newkirk, and Linda Edwards: "Trailblazing paths to informal/formal education: TTU Llano River Field Station"
 - ii. Tom Arsuffi, Donna Hamilton, Emily Seldomridge, and Nikki Dictson: "Engaging people & place in research & environmental literacy"
 - Tom Arsuffi and Emily Seldomridge attended the Riparian and Stream Ecosystem Education Workshop on October 16, 2013 in Junction, TX.
 - Emily Seldomridge attended the TTU Hill Country Sites Board of Directors Meeting in place of Tom Arsuffi on October 18, 2013 in Fredericksburg, TX. Emily presented updates at the TTU-LRFS, which included efforts conducted under the development of the WPP.
 - Tom Arsuffi attended and moderated the Q&A session of the Texas Water Symposium: Private Property Rights in Kerrville, TX on October 24, 2013.
 - Emily Seldomridge led a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department kayak trip of the South Llano River to showcase conservation efforts made possible through the WPP and other partner projects on October 25, 2013.
 - Tom Arsuffi attended the 30th Annual Meeting of the Association for Politics and the Life Sciences on October 25-26, 2013 at TTU in Lubbock, TX. He gave the following talks:
 - i. "Educating the public on complex water issues to improve water literacy: Expert panels, rotating venues, diverse partnerships, Texas Public Radio"
 - ii. "Environmental illiteracy: Effects of having an uninformed electorate on natural resources, policy, ethics, and a remedy. Media, politics, and education"
 - Tom Arsuffi attended the South Central Climate Science Center Research Workshop on October 28-29, 2013 in Norman, OK.

- Tom Arsuffi and Emily Seldomridge attended the Joint Meeting of the Texas Riparian Association and Texas Society for Ecological Restoration on November 1-2, 2013 in Junction, TX. Presentations included:
 - i. Emily Seldomridge, Tom Arsuffi, Earl Chilton, Gary Garrett, Melissa Parker, Luci Cook-Heldreth, and Preston Bean: “Proactive management of aquatic invasive species through a Watershed Protection Plan and partnerships, Upper Llano River, Texas”
 - ii. Tom Arsuffi, et al.: “Role of natural resource literacy in ecological & restoration success”
- Emily Seldomridge attended the Native Plant Society of Texas luncheon in Junction, TX on November 9, 2013.

60% Complete

Subtask 3.4 TTU-LRFS will facilitate communication with stakeholders in order to engage the public and affected entities in the watershed planning process. TTU-LRFS will utilize all appropriate communication mechanisms including direct mail, e-mail, the project website, and mass media (print, radio, television). TTU-LRFS will utilize the existing SLWA Google Group to facilitate direct discussion between stakeholders. TTU-LRFS will develop, publish, and distribute 5 semi-annual newsletters (1 in year 1 and 2 in years 2 and 3) that highlight Upper Llano River watershed activities; the newsletter shall be distributed as most appropriate to individual landowners and entities in the watershed. TSSWCB must approve all project-related content in any educational materials and publications prior to distribution.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TTU-LRFS will disseminate the 4th semi-annual newsletter next quarter.
- b. The SLWA Google Groups "South Llano River Project" group continues to be an effective tool for communicating with stakeholders. Those interested can sign-up for the group at the SLWA website (<http://southllano.org/>). This quarter, the Google group transmitted a variety of info as described in subtask 1.5.
- c. Media mentions this quarter included:
 - **Land owners alarmed at re-classification of Hill Country Streams**
 - Hill Country Alliance
 - Texas Wildlife Association
 - **Joint Meeting of the Texas Riparian Association and Texas Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration**
 - Hill Country Alliance
 - Society of Wetland Scientists
 - Texas Riparian Association
 - Texas Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration
 - Native Prairies Association of Texas

60% Complete

Subtask 3.5 TTU-LRFS will coordinate with SCSC to host a Texas Watershed Steward Program workshop focused on the Upper Llano River through TSSWCB project 11-05, Continued Statewide Delivery of the Texas Watershed Steward Program.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. A Texas Watershed Steward Program was held on August 30, 2012. Thirty-five local stakeholders participated in this exceptional training program.

100% Complete

Task 4 GIS Inventory and Land Use/Land Cover Analysis

Subtask 4.1 TAMU-SSL will collaborate with project partners, local agencies and stakeholders to develop a comprehensive GIS inventory of the Upper Llano River watershed. This GIS inventory will include the most recent information available on land use, elevation, soils, stream networks, reservoirs, roads, public park lands, municipalities and satellite imagery or aerial photography. Locations of SWQM stations, USGS gages, public access points to the waterbodies, floodwater-retarding structures, wetlands, known OSSFs, TPDES permittees (including WWTFs, CAFOs and MS4s), and subdivisions will also be included. Sites permitted for land application of sewage sludge and septage should be included. Information from subtasks 5.4 and 5.5 should be included. The cumulative impact of TSSWCB-certified WQMPs on the management of agricultural and silvicultural lands should be documented. TAMU-SSL will provide watershed maps for stakeholder meetings as needed.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. The compilation of GIS data for the watershed is complete.

100% Complete

Subtask 4.2 TAMU-SSL will perform a combination of satellite based image (2006-2010) classification schemes and where needed "heads-up digitizing" of the 2006-2010 NAIP aerial photos of the watershed using ESRI's ArcGIS 9.x software. TAMU-SSL will identify individual LULC classes and delineate them in shapefile or ArcGIS grid format with a minimum mapping unit of 2 ac on screen. LULC classes will be comparable to NLCD. TAMU-SSL will verify LULC classification through field sampling and ground truthing information to an accuracy of 80% or greater. Ground control points used in the field sampling will be collected for at least ten locations per land use type using GPS units with an accuracy of 1-10 m.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TAMU-SSL has classified the LULC in the watershed, ground truthed the data using ground control points, and provided it to the project team.

100% Complete

Subtask 4.3 TAMU-SSL will provide the GIS inventory and LULC update to the TTU-WRC for utilization in the watershed model. TAMU-SSL will also provide TTU-LRFS needed maps for the WPP.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. On October 10, SSL provided the GIS inventory and LULC update to the project team.

100% Complete

Task 5 Water Quality Monitoring

Subtask 5.1 TTU-LRFS will conduct routine ambient monitoring at 14 mainstem sites and tributaries quarterly, collecting field parameters, conventional parameters, and flow. The QAPP, as detailed in Task 2, will precisely identify sites. The sampling period extends over 30 months. The number of samples planned for collection through this subtask is 140. Currently, routine ambient monitoring is conducted quarterly at 2 stations by LCRA and TCEQ (16701 and 17425) through the Clean Rivers Program. Sampling will be coordinated with these entities to prevent duplication of efforts and ensure comparability. Flow data will be collected by gage, electric, mechanical or Doppler, and flow severity will be noted. Field parameters measured will include pH, temperature, conductivity, and dissolved oxygen. Conventional parameters measured will include total suspended solids, turbidity, sulfate, chloride, nitrate nitrogen, ammonia nitrogen, total kjeldahl nitrogen, chlorophyll a, pheophytin, total hardness, total phosphorus and E. coli (enumerated using USEPA Method 1603). The Edwards Aquifer Research & Data Center at Texas State University, a NELAC accredited laboratory, will conduct sample analysis, provide all containers and chain of custody.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. The 6th quarterly sampling was conducted on December 4-13, 2013. Field parameters, conventional parameters, and flow were measured. Field parameters were measured using the Hydrolab DS5X, and flow using an Acoustic Doppler current meter. Conventional parameters were delivered to Edwards Aquifer Research and Data Center and are awaiting analysis.
- b. After QA/QC checks, data will be prepared for upload into TCEQ SWQMIS database.

60% Complete

Subtask 5.2 TTU-LRFS will conduct biological monitoring (fish, macroinvertebrate, and habitat assessment) at 14 locations twice a year for 2 years to assess the cumulative impact of pollutant loading on stream health and biological communities of stream health. Biotic conditions and assessments for main stem and lower portions of the watersheds are just beginning as part of the Guadalupe Bass Restoration Project for the South Llano River with TPWD in conjunction with TTU-LRFS and Texas State University.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. The first semi-annual biological sampling was conducted in September 2012.
- b. The second semi-annual biological sampling was conducted February 18-28, 2013
- c. The third semi-annual biological sampling was conducted September 16-26, 2013.
- d. The fourth and final semi-annual biological sampling is scheduled for March 2014.

75% Complete

Subtask 5.3 TTU-LRFS will conduct spring sampling at 6 sites including 700 Springs, Big Paint and Tanner Springs. TTU-LRFS will work with Kimble County Groundwater Conservation District to identify other priority springs. Quarterly field, conventional, and flow parameters will be collected. Water quality parameters to be measured are defined in Subtask 5.1. The QAPP, as detailed in Task 2, will precisely identify sites. The sampling period extends over 30 months. The number of samples planned for collection through this subtask is 60. The Edwards Aquifer Research & Data Center, a NELAC Accredited Laboratory, will conduct sample analysis and provide all containers and chain of custody.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. The 6th quarterly spring sampling was conducted in December 4-13, 2013.
- b. After QA/QC checks, data will be prepared for upload into TCEQ SWQMIS database.

60% Complete

Subtask 5.4 TTU-LRFS will conduct surveys and map distribution and abundance of invasive emergent and aquatic plants from the headwaters (Llano Springs, 700 Springs, South Llano River and North Llano River) to Junction. TTU-LRFS and ESSM will work with the TPWD Aquatic Habitat Enhancement Program Director to determine BMPs for controlling or eradicating invasive species and develop an invasive species management plan for incorporation into the WPP.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. The invasive mapping is complete. TTU-LRFS mapped elephant ear, giant cane, and chinaberry. TTU-LRFS found one patch of bamboo on the North Llano, and no salt cedar. Although mapping is complete, TTU-LRFS continues to work with TPWD to eradicate the elephant ears on the South Llano.
- b. TTU-LRFS is working with TPWD and local stakeholders to determine BMPs for controlling or eradicating invasive species and develop an invasive species management plan for incorporation into the WPP.

80% Complete

Subtask 5.5 TTU-LRFS will conduct surveys and map the distribution, abundance, and severity of cut and eroding banks on the South and North Llano Rivers.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Surveys and maps of the distribution, abundance, and severity of cut and eroding banks on the North and South Llano rivers began in March 2013. Surveys were completed in June 2013.

100% Complete

Subtask 5.6 TTU-LRFS will conduct a historical data review for the waterbody, to be included in the WPP, in order to assess and characterize trends and variability in water quality. Historical data collection activities will concentrate on 1) ambient water quality data (including groundwater); 2) stream flow and water level data; 3) precipitation records; and 4) biological data. U.S. Geological Survey, National Weather Service, TPWD, Texas Water Development Board, GCDs, LCRA, TCEQ, EPA and others will be queried for data related to the study area.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TTU-LRFS presented the draft historical data review for the upper Llano River to TSSWCB in May 2013. A final draft of the report was approved by TSSWCB in July 2013. The final report was presented to the Coordination Committee at the August 1, 2013 meeting and posted on the SLWA website.

100% Complete

Subtask 5.7 Through TSSWCB project 05-02 FY05 Statewide NPS Pollution Management Project, USGS will install and operate one new real-time streamflow gage at an appropriate location on the South

Llano River as near the outlet of the assessment unit as is practical. Through this project, and contingent upon TSSWCB project 05-02, TTU-LRFS will work with USGS to provide operation and maintenance for this new real-time streamflow gage. Continuous sampling extends over 36 months. This gaging station will complement the existing gages maintained by the USGS. The USGS maintains real-time gages at 08150000 Llano River near Junction and 08148500 North Llano River near Junction and collects periodic data at gages 08149500 Seven Hundred Springs near Telegraph and 08149400 South Llano River near Telegraph. TTU-LRFS will work with USGS to ensure continued operation of these other USGS gages throughout the duration of the project.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. The USGS stream gage was activated on May 16, 2012 on the South Llano River at Flatrock Crossing near the Texas Tech Campus. The SLWA website includes a link to this gage: http://waterdata.usgs.gov/tx/nwis/uv/?site_no=08149900&PARAMeter_cd=00065,00060

60% Complete

Subtask 5.8 TTU-LRFS will transfer monitoring data from activities in Subtask 5.1-5.3, and 5.7 to TSSWCB for inclusion in SWQMIS at least quarterly. Data will be transferred in the correct format using the TCEQ file structure, along with a completed Data Summary, as described in the most recent version of TCEQ Surface Water Quality Monitoring Data Management Reference Guide. TWRI will submit Station Location Requests to TCEQ, as needed, to obtain TCEQ station numbers for new monitoring sites. TWRI will input monitoring regime, as detailed in the QAPP, into the TCEQ CMS. Data Correction Request Forms will be submitted to TSSWCB whenever errors are discovered in data already reported. All monitoring data files, Data Summary, and Data Correction Request Forms will also be provided to LCRA. TTU-LRFS will post monitoring data from activities in Task 5 to the project website in a timely manner.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. As QA/QC checks are completed, data will be prepared for upload into TCEQ SWQMIS database.
- b. A temporary student worker was hired to create Binary Large Object (BLOB) reports to accompany biological data to be uploaded into TCEQ SWQMIS. The first semi-annual biological sampling reports were completed in June 2013.
- c. A Microsoft Access database was created in November 2013 to aid in data processing and formatting for upload into TCEQ SWQMIS
- d. A SLOC request was processed in November 2013 to properly name the confluence sampling site. Site 17425 North Llano upstream of the Llano River was changed to 21849 210M downstream of the confluence of the North and South Llano rivers near Junction.

30% Complete

Subtask 5.9 TTU-LRFS, with assistance by TWRI, will incorporate the watershed assessment findings in the WPP developed through Task 8.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. No activity to report this quarter.

0% Complete

Task 6 Modeling and Data Analysis

Subtask 6.1 TTU-WRC, with cooperation from project partners, will evaluate models, such as SWAT and EDYS, to simulate flow and water quality at appropriate subwatershed scales and identify BMPs and targeted locations to enhance the quality of runoff and recharge. TTU-WRC will recommend the use of a suitable candidate model. Once the most suitable model is selected by TTU-WRC, TWRI, and TSSWCB, TTU-WRC will assist TWRI in developing a modeling QAPP (Task 2). TTU-WRC will collect and evaluate relevant hydrologic data for the Upper Llano River watershed, including rainfall, stream flow, and groundwater conditions, and recent land use and vegetation distributions generated through Tasks 4-5.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. The EDYS (Ecological Dynamics Simulation) model, which was selected for use in the project, is being prepared for use in the watershed to simulate flow and water quality and identify BMPs and targeted locations to enhance the quality of runoff and recharge. The following actions have been completed during the reporting period:
 - **Spatial footprint.** The spatial footprint was completed. The entire footprint covers approximately 2100 mi² (1,344,000 acres) in Edwards, Kimble, and Sutton Counties, with small portions of Kerr, Menard, Real, and Schleicher Counties also included. The footprint is gridded into 40 m x 40 m cells (0.4 acre), resulting in a total spatial footprint of about 3.4 million cells. Because of the size of the footprint, the model domain is divided into three models, one primarily including the area in Kimble and Menard Counties, one including the area in Edwards, Kerr, and Real Counties, and the third including the area in Sutton and Schleicher Counties. A linkage module has been built that allows each model to be run separately, or in any combination of the three models simultaneously. This linked-three model approach allows for more rapid run times and less memory requirements than if the entire domain was included into a single model. The spatial footprint includes elevations across the entire domain (40 m x 40 m resolution), along with slopes and aspect. The rivers and major and minor drainages are included, along with locations of roads, towns, and major structures. The capability for some areas to be modeled at a finer resolution (10 m x 10 m, or smaller) is included in the model. Those areas are yet to be defined. Once defined, the larger grid will be subdivided into the finer grid for the selected areas (e.g., river channels).
 - **Soils.** The soil layer has been completed. A total of 77 soil units are included. Each of the 3.4 million cells is assigned a particular soil type, based on the location of the cell in the soil map. EDYS soil profiles have been built for each of the 77 units, each profile containing 20 layers, the thickness and soil properties of each layer varying by soil type.
 - **Precipitation.** The spatial footprint has been divided into 7 precipitation zones, 3 corresponding to west-east segments of the North Llano, 3 corresponding to west-east segments of the South Llano, and one corresponding to the area around the confluence. Each segment is assigned a unique precipitation regime based on distances to primary precipitation stations. Precipitation data were collected and summarized from 16 primary (20 years or more data) and 28 secondary stations (less than 20 years data). Long-term (1893-2012) constructed daily precipitation files were created for the 12 primary stations used to calculate precipitation events for the 7 zones. The constructed data files were built from existing data when available

and from estimated data for other dates. The estimated data were created from similarity relationships among recorded precipitation events and each two-station combination for the 16 primary stations.

- **Vegetation.** A vegetation map has been constructed for the spatial footprint. Each cell is assigned a particular vegetation type. The vegetation types are developed from NRCS ecological site descriptions, which are then modified based on information from the published literature and from woody plant coverage estimated from NAIP aerial photographs. Woody plant coverage was visually estimated from the photographs in each of 16,838 vegetation polygons across the spatial footprint. An automated geospatial processing method was developed to increase the efficiency of the processing in future applications. A QA/QC process based on line transects drawn on aerial photographs was developed to estimate the accuracy of both the visual and the automated methods. Estimates of woody plant cover on the areas subjected to the QA/QC process averaged 50% by the transect method (assumed to be most accurate), 58% by the automated method, and 62% by visual estimation. Each plant community (vegetation type) contains a specific combination of 47 plant species in the Upper Llano model, with the amounts of the woody species varying within a community based on percent woody plant coverage. Data from plant parameter matrices are used by EDYS to simulate changes in the vegetation over time. There are 33 matrices, each matrix containing data on 1-6 variables for each species. Preliminary data have been entered for all 47 species for all 33 matrices. These preliminary data are updated as additional information becomes available.
- **Animals.** Work has just begun on the inclusion of animal dynamics into the model. These will include livestock, wildlife, and aquatic species. Preliminary herbivory data have been included for cattle, deer, rabbits, and insects. These preliminary data will allow testing of the model to be conducted while additional animal data are collected and entered.
- **Management.** Initial land management options (brush control, level of livestock grazing, reseeding, cultivation, surface disturbance) and stressor (fire, drought, flooding, nutrient and sediment loadings) have been included. Addition options may be added if needed.
- **Report.** Preparation of the draft report has begun. Portions of the text for the soils, precipitation, and vegetation sections have been written, along with appendix tables with supporting information. These will be expanded and completed, along with the other sections, as additional information and results become available.

65% Complete

Subtask 6.2 TTU-LRFS will employ EPA's Causal Analysis/Diagnosis Decision Information System (CADDIS) to conduct a causal evaluation of the benthic macroinvertebrate data. CADDIS, an online application, provides a pragmatic guide for determining the causes of detrimental changes and undesirable biological conditions observed in aquatic systems. CADDIS supports defensible causal analyses of the mechanisms, symptoms, and stressor-response relationships for various stressors in order to draw appropriate conclusions.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. No activity to report this quarter.

0% Complete

Subtask 6.3 TTU-WRC, with cooperation from project partners, will summarize modeling findings to inform the stakeholders about the physical behavior of their watershed resulting from various implementation scenarios and work with project partners to incorporate this into the WPP.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. No activity to report this quarter.

0% Complete

Task 7 Public Outreach and Education

Subtask 7.1 ESSM, in conjunction with the TTU-LRFS, TTU-WRC, and SLWA will provide watershed training workshops for landowners on riparian protection, land stewardship, grazing management, invasive species, brush control, conservation, wildlife and habitat plans and water resource issues. Two workshops per year are planned to provide adequate coverage of the broad range of elements associated with water and watersheds and to allow a broad coverage of stakeholder groups. Pre- and post-participant surveys will be administered at selected events to evaluate (1) changes in producer knowledge and awareness and (2) expected adoption of BMPs.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. A Riparian Education Workshop was held on October 16, 2013 in Junction, TX.
- b. The project team continues to work on arranging delivery of the Lone Star Healthy Streams Program in the watershed.

60% Complete

Subtask 7.2 TTU-LRFS will develop and offer a K-12 TEKS based water and watershed curriculum unit.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TTU-LRFS rewrote the established curriculums: Aquatic Biology Units, The Understanding Watersheds, and the Soils/Pedology.
- b. The updated curriculum was unveiled summer 2013 and received positive feedback from a group of teachers attending a Professional Development event at TTU-LRFS.

100% Complete

Subtask 7.3 TTU-LRFS will organize a Texas Water Symposium in partnership with Texas Public Radio, Schreiner University, Hill Country Alliance, SLWA, and TWRI on EPA's Healthy Watersheds Initiative with this project as a case study for Texas.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TTU-LRFS hosted a Texas Water Symposium on Healthy Watersheds and Upper Llano WPP efforts on March 22, 2011. The Symposium was held at TTU- LRFS in front of a live audience and taped for broadcast during Texas Public Radio's Newsmaker Hour. The TWS included panelists from TPWD, TSSWCB, Hill Country Alliance, TTU-LRFS, and TWRI.

- b. A second Texas Water Symposium on Texas Springs: Making Connections between Groundwater, Surface Water, Science, and Stewardship was held on March 8, 2013. The TWS discussed the connection between groundwater and surface water and included a panel of local ranchers, TTU-LRFS, and Texas Water Development Board.
- c. A third Texas Water Symposium on Private Property Rights was held on October 24, 2013 in Kerrville, TX. The TWS included panelists from the San Antonio Area Foundation, Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, a national non-profit Sustainable Water Infrastructure Program, and the Real County Judge.

100% Complete

Task 8 Watershed Protection Plan Development

Subtask 8.1 TTU-LRFS, in collaboration with project partners, will develop a WPP for the Upper Llano River watershed that is consistent with and satisfies the expectations of the nine elements fundamental to watershed-based plans as described in EPA's 2004 Nonpoint Source Program and Grants Guidelines for States and Territories [68 Fed. Reg. 60653-60674 (October 23, 2003)] and incorporates the elements of EPA's Healthy Watersheds Framework as described in the technical guidance document Identifying and Protecting Healthy Watersheds (EPA 2011). The WPP shall be founded on decisions made by stakeholders through the watershed planning process (Task 3) and incorporate findings from project Tasks 4-7. TTU-LRFS will facilitate public review and stakeholder approval of the WPP.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. An overview of the issues of the Upper Llano Watershed as identified by Working Group members was prepared by Emily Seldomridge. In addition, a draft of the following chapters of the WPP is written:
 - a. Watershed Management
 - b. Upper Llano Watershed Protection Planning Efforts
 - c. Historic Review of the State of the Upper Llano Watershed
 - d. Methods
 - e. Current Concerns to the Health of the Upper Llano River
 - f. Pollutant Sources
 - g. Education and Outreach
 - h. Project Implementation

60% Complete

Subtask 8.2 TTU-LRFS will develop an "executive summary" style document, based on the WPP, which will serve as a public outreach tool to garner support for the implementation of the WPP and achieve long term sustainability.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. No activity to report this quarter.

0% Complete

Subtask 8.3 After EPA has completed a satisfactory nine element consistency review of the WPP, TWRI will publish, print, and distribute the WPP and "executive summary" document to stakeholders.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. No activity to report this quarter.

0% Complete

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

- An error was detected in the reporting limits of the nitrogen water quality analyses processed by the Edwards Aquifer Research and Data Center. Corrective action was taken and a revision was made to the QAPP.

IV. Projected Work for Next Quarter

- Sampling data will be uploaded into TCEQ SWQMIS database
- Seventh quarterly routine sampling will be completed
- Quarterly Working Group meetings will be held