South Llano Watershed Alliance

Watershed Week in Review

May 29, 2015

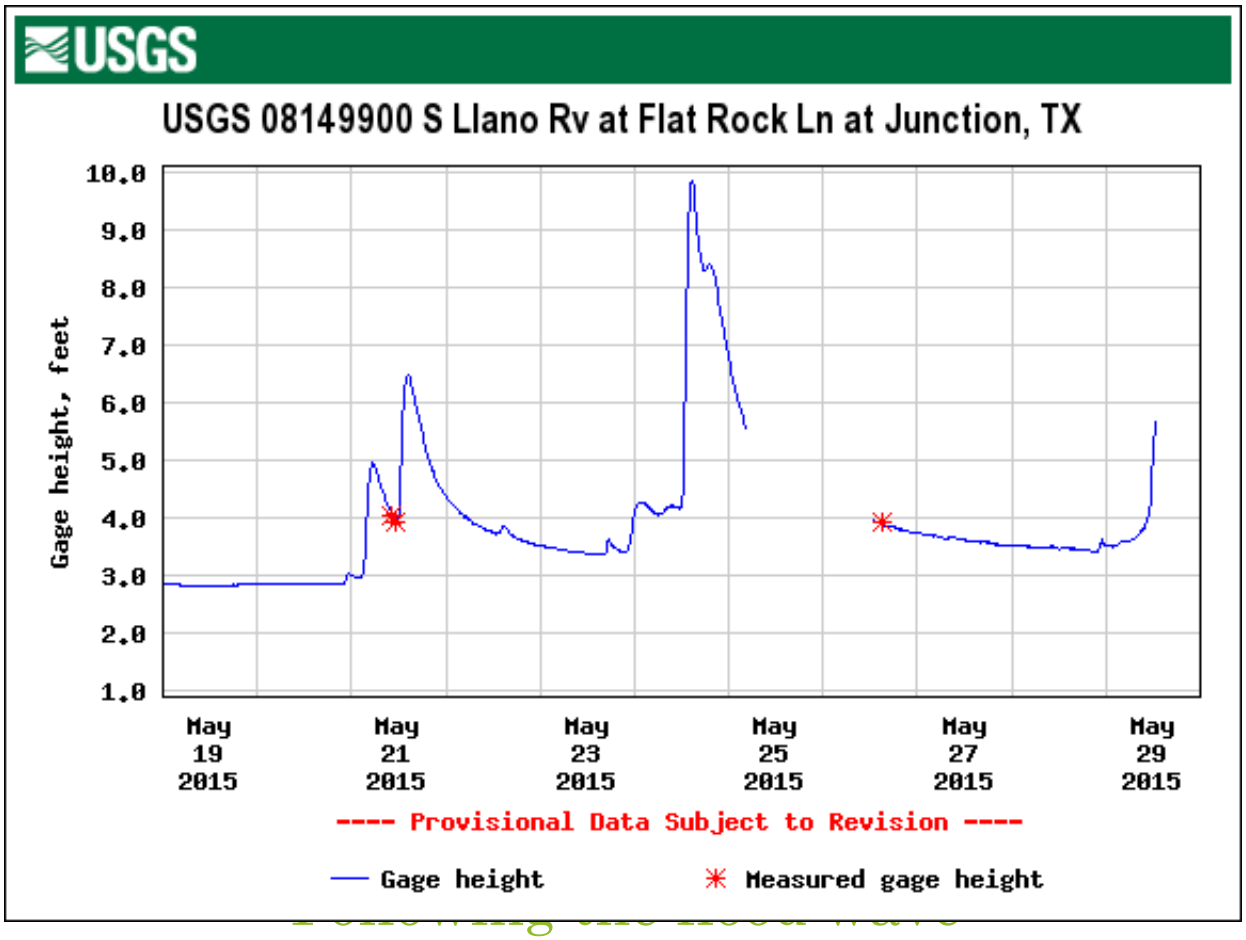
Megan Bean from Texas Parks and Wildlife shared these photos she took of the Llano River at Llano. The above photo was taken May 22nd when the river was flowing 3,770 cfs; the bottom photo is from May 25th with the river four feet higher at 15,800 cfs.

Yesterday, for the third time since the last Friday, the Llano topped 10,000 cfs in Llano. Yesterday's flow was the largest of the three at 26,700 cfs or 2 ½ feet higher than the photo of May 25th.

On average, folks in Llano can expect to see the river reach 9,100 cfs once every year, 17,400 cfs once every two years, and 41,100 cfs once every five years.

Flood Recovery Suggestions from Steve Nelle and Texas A&M Forest Service

While this message about how to clean up (or not clean up) after a flood is directed towards impacted residents along the Blanco, it applies to all of us who care about our Texas Rivers



The crews from the US Geological Survey office in San Angelo have been visiting Junction and the new gage on the South Llano River frequently in order to collect more stream flow data to help calibrate this gage. (The red star indicates a stream measurement.) Since the South Llano had not had a rise since the gage was installed, USGS took the opportunity to collect new information.

As mentioned a couple of weeks ago, stream gages only record the height or stage of the water. The discharge of a stream is calculated by developing a plot comparing gage height against know levels of discharge. So for example, based on the most recent measurement, we now know that when water levels at the gage are 4.04 feet, the flow of the river is 577 cfs.

Using other nearby gages, we can estimate that the peak flow of the South Llano on May 24th was about 5,600 cfs. While this is a nice rise, it is only about 20% of what rushed down the North Llano a week ago Thursday (27,600 cfs)

DON'T FORGET

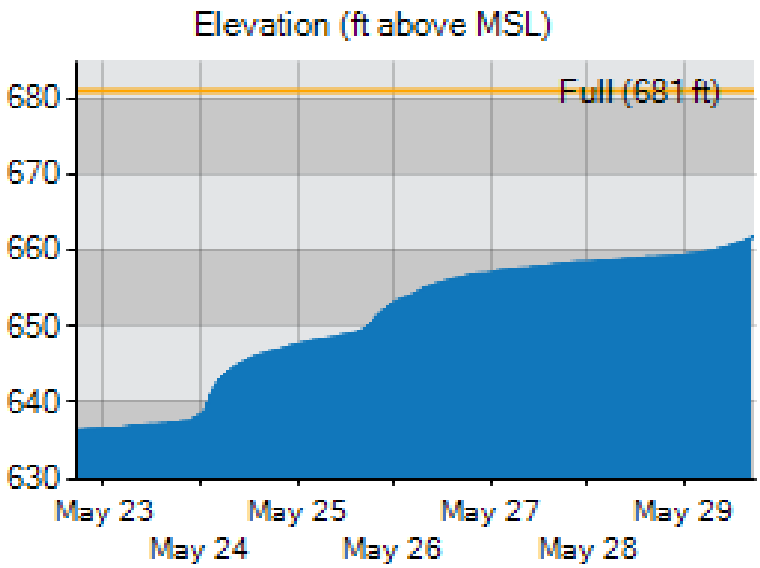
Living Waters Conference

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is sponsoring the Living Waters Conference in Junction on June 4th for landowners to learn about new techniques for managing watersheds and riparian areas.

What's causing the flooding?

After months of delay, the effects of El Niño are finally being felt in Texas.
Read more

Is the Drought Over?



As Lake Travis begins to refill at a remarkable rate (graph above), talk turns to whether or not the drought is over. Certainly, in some places the answer is yes.

In other places, such as the Llano River Watershed, the answer might be, "things are certainly looking up". Over the past two weeks, LCRA Hydromet stations in the recharge zone of the North and South Llano have received 4-6 inches of rain.

The latest Drought Impact on Texas Surface Water map, however, shows that portions of the watershed are at least, still in Moderate Drought.

As KUT reported Friday morning, LCRA notes that things have been very, very dry for a number of years and it will take some time and several cycles of this activity to fully replenish our supplies, especially our aquifers.

How these rains replenish the aquifer that feed the spring-fed North and South Llano Rivers will be the telltale sign if the drought is over.

Llano River Field Station garners recognition from Universities Council

Our partners at the Llano River Field Station were recently named recipients of the Education and Public Service Award from the Universities Council on Water Resources.

The award recognizes "contributions to increased public awareness of water resources development, use, or management".

Director Dr. Tom Arsuffi will accept the award on behalf of the Field Station next month in Nevada.

Read more...

SATURDAY!

Electronics recycling available in Junction-

The Kimble County Chamber of Commerce is hosting a FREE Computer & Electronic Recycling Event next Saturday, May 30th from 9 am to 1 pm. The location of the event is the vacant lot behind the City Offices at the corner of North 8th and Pecan Street.

Items such as computers, printers, copiers, fax machines, servers, cell phones, electronic games, and digital cameras will be accepted.

Tires, paint, light bulbs and items with Freon are NOT accepted.

For a complete list of accepted items, check out the Chamber's website.

How healthy is my river?

Macroinvertebrates can tell us a lot about the health of a river. Stoneflies, caddisflies, and mayflies are sensitive to pollution and only are found in healthy streams. How can you ID them?
Here is a great chart to help you find out.
and
What does it tell me about stream health?