

OCTOBER 24, 2015

Watershed Week in Review

Llano River Watershed Alliance

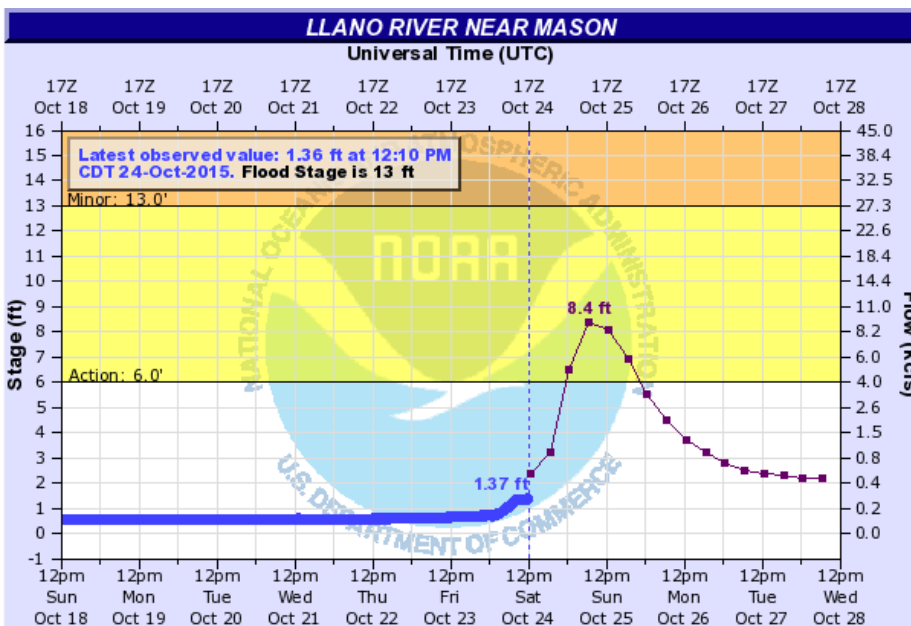
Llano River contribution to Highland Lakes during drought

With significant precipitation occurring in the watershed, these numbers will certainly change.

However, here is a snapshot (from October 22rd) of the amount of inflow the Llano has been contributing to the Highland Lakes during our most recent dry spell (67.4%).

According to LCRA, the amount of water coming into the lakes in Sept 2015 was the lowest since 2011.

River	cfs	%
Llano	53.1	67.4
Colorado	24.0	30.5
Pedernales	1.4	1.8
Sandy Cr	0.2	0.3



No significant flooding predicted for Llano...yet

Areas across the watershed have seen between 2-6 inches over the last 24 hours. However, as of 2 pm Saturday, there have been no flood watches issued for the river. An Action Stage Alert has been issued for the river at Mason. The river is forecast to crest at 8.4 feet, still below the Minor Flood Stage at 13 feet.

Rain is to end soon, but there already is a lot of water in the watershed. Stay tuned with this [link to](#) flood forecast for the Colorado.

Octoberfisch on the South Llano

The Fredericksburg Fly Fishers wrapped up their 12th annual Oktoberfisch last weekend in Junction. Judging by the [photos from their website](#), fun was had by all.



Special thanks to the Fly Fishers for becoming a [Patron Sponsor](#) of the Alliance and providing us with free booth space at Octoberfisch.

Local Guide featured in TPWD Magazine

The November issue of Texas Parks and Wildlife Magazine features Llano River guide (and Llano River Watershed Alliance Patron Sponsor) Tony Plutino in [3-days in the Field](#). Although the focus of the article is on Paint Rock, the author still had time available to check out the Stromatolites (right) along the river south of Mason.

Learn more about Tony's Llano River Region Adventures [here](#).

To learn about the benefits of becoming a [Patron Sponsor](#) of the Alliance, [click here](#).



More on Streambank Erosion



Last week's Watershed Week in Review showed areas along the South Llano River where more than 450 feet of stream bank erosion has occurred since 1974, exposing an old irrigation pipe (see left).

As mentioned, there are several reasons for this occurrence. One is runoff to the river from drought-plagued uplands; another is the lack of a good flood to help flush out the accumulating sediment in the channel. (It doesn't look like this current event is going to help much either.)



Another factor that is exacerbating this problem and causing increased runoff to the river is the high density of deer and axis in the riparian areas. Deer populations in this area should be about one deer per 10-12 acres. Yet some areas along the river currently have deer populations at one deer per $\frac{3}{4}$ acres. See the impacts (above and below).

The Exclosure

In 2010, under the direction of Dr. Tom Arsuffi (above left), the Llano River Field Station constructed an exclosure in the riparian area along the South Llano in Junction.

If you look closely at the pecan groves along the river, you will notice that there are only mature trees to be seen. Small trees have little chance to get established before being browsed. This over browsing not only impacts vegetation, it also impacts erosion. Notice the difference between areas inside the exclosure and outside.

