

Lampasas River Watershed Partnership Habitat & Wildlife Work Group Meeting		
4.12.2010	6:00 – 9:00 pm	Lampasas County Farm
Attendees	Habitat and Wildlife Work Group Lisa Prcin, AgriLife Research Karen Sears, AgriLife Research Pam Casebolt, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board Beth Bendik, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Bradley Ware, Bettie Black, Chris Meis, Wayne Boultinghouse	

- ❖ Introductions
- ❖ Power Point Presentation provided
  - Printed copies provided as handout
- ❖ Interactive Discussion about Stakeholder Concerns
  - Solid Waste
    - Tires
    - Lawn Mower Parts
    - Refrigerators
    - Kayakers fill drink cans with water to sink them
    - Recreational users of the water dig holes to bury trash. Animals dig up trash.
  - Problem is with what people leave and do on the river
    - Recreational users who are approached when seen leaving trash are aggressive and quote the law to landowner
    - Users can include Military, Kayakers
    - Historical Maxdale bridge has 2x4's sawed out which has left a approximate 6 foot hole
  - Vehicle Use
    - Limited due to the river being too inaccessible
  - Erosion/ Stream Bank Failure
    - Brad has lost approximately 4 – 5 acres in floods
    - Slope 15 foot digging in under Pecan trees
    - Tree roots exposed due to storm water runoff from Killeen and Copperas Cove which Texas Commission on Environmental Quality says is not happening
    - Would like to learn more about erosion
    - Encourage larger buffer strips
  - Water Rights - What part of the river is owned by the State?
    - 30 feet bank to bank starts where vegetation ends
    - Water and sandy gravel
    - Gravel island if it is started as part of property prior to becoming an island is owned by the landowner
    - Gravel island if it is formed naturally it is owned by the state
  - Parrie Haynes Ranch
    - Now part of Texas Youth Commission but presumed to become State Park. Adam Jarrett manager at Prairie Haynes Ranch

- Horses crossing and wading in the river
- 50 miles of trails
- Trails eroding
- Number of riders is determined by pay box for use of trails
- Lisa Prcin will call to get numbers from Prairie Haynes Ranch and request possible tour/meeting
- Possibly work with Prairie Haynes State Park to educate public
- Discussed Solutions
  - Boulders or poles placed at access points to limit direct access by automobiles to the river
  - Signs
  - Education – Don't restrict but teach respect
  - Internet – show public access points, navigable areas of river – make notes to users to respect landowners and properties along the river
  - Provide bags (onion sacks) at access points of the river to recreational users for disposing trash
- ❖ Initial Land Use/Land Cover Analysis
  - Types of land use – water, urban, forest, pasture, managed pasture, rangeland, barren, and crops
  - Rangeland and Pasture Separate or Combined
    - Difficult to distinguish between rangeland and pasture even using satellite imagery
    - Work Group was asked to decide to leave rangeland and pasture as separate land use for analysis or to combine rangeland and pasture for land use analysis of wildlife populations
    - Calculations were explained to help work group make decision using maps and pie charts in power point presentation
      - OPTION 1: Rangeland and Pasture Combined
        - 87% -Accuracy based on ground-truthing
      - OPTION 2: Rangeland and Pasture Seperated
        - 71% - Accuracy based on ground-truthing
    - End result is to find the number of animal units on the ground
    - OPTION 1: Rangeland and Pasture Combined was chosen by work group for use in accuracy based on ground-truthing
- ❖ Sources and Distribution of Nonpoint Source Pollutions
  - Source estimates needed to assist model determine bacteria and nutrient loading
  - Sources of Bacteria and/or Nutrients with Data - Deer, Feral Hogs
    - Whitetail Deer
      - Resource Management Unit (RMU) 23 is average estimate 0.061 deer per acre to be used across whole watershed
      - RMU 23 has 1.5 million acres
        - ◆ Estimated number 50% based on Texas deer census
      - Local WMA estimate 0.14 deer per acre in their respective WMAs
        - ◆ Data gathered from Southwest Hamilton and Simms Creek WMAs

- ◆ Need to get data from other WMAs, specifically in the southern portion of the watershed
  - Deer-Land use estimates will be revisited when Lisa Prcin receives more data from other Wildlife Management Associations
- Feral Hogs
  - Work group decided on estimate of 20 feral hogs per square mile
  - Estimated number 100% along riparian and forest, 75% in upland encouraged by deer feeders
  - Deer feeders have changed foraging habits of feral hogs, encouraging them to range farther from riparian areas, sightings in the day and night, feral hogs not in urban areas
  - Trapping
  - Helicopter hunts
    - ◆ Landowners must sign waiver to allow hunts
    - ◆ Landowners don't want cattle spooked
    - ◆ Best results during the winter months because of reduced tree canopy cover
- Birds and bats under bridges - Are they a possible concern?
  - Is there supporting population and bacteria loading data?
- Duck pond in Lampasas - Is it a possible concern?
  - Is there supporting population and bacteria loading data?

#### ❖ Next Steps

- Discussion of Plum Creek Watershed and the use of the SELECT model
  - Lampasas' utilization of the SELECT model will be similar to Plum Creek
- Meeting schedule
  - Group agreed meeting time 2pm – 5pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month

#### ❖ Adjourn

- 8:45pm