Pecos River Watershed Happenings Through January 2014

News

- The annual Clean River Program Coordinated Monitoring Meeting hosted by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to discuss water quality monitoring on the Pecos River will be held Tuesday, March 25th from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at the Midland TCEQ Regional Office located at 9900 W IH-20, Suite 100 in Midland.

- The annual Pecos River Commission will be held April 10, 2014 in Marfa at the Hotel Paisano at 9:00 a.m. If you have questions about the meeting, contact Suzy Valentine, PRC Texas Engineer Advisor at suzy.valentine@tceq.texas.gov

- The Southwest Stream Restoration Conference will be held May 28 – 30 in San Antonio, TX. To learn more or register, visit: http://southweststream.org/

- The U.S. Supreme Court ruled last week that Texas can continue its lawsuit against New Mexico regarding management of the Rio Grande. This case highlights the challenges of managing precious water resources under varying legal frameworks.

- The February 2014 issue of *Texas Wildlife* contains an interesting article on management of invasive grasses. Although written from a South Texas perspective, it presents a common sense approach to managing these species on any property. For more information, visit www.texas-wildlife.org

Watershed Protection Plan Implementation Projects (TSSWCB 319 Projects)

- Time Domain Electromagnetic Survey
    - Efforts to implement an alternative approach to collect data that will help identify the sources of salts entering the river did not materialize. As a result this project is in the process of being terminated. A final report describing work accomplished is being drafted and will be available soon.

- Dissolved Oxygen Modeling and Monitoring Project
    - The Draft DO Modeling Report is complete and available on the program website at http://pecosbasin.tamu.edu/reports/. This report details predicted impacts of various management scenarios on instream dissolved oxygen levels.

- Compilation of Water Quality Monitoring Data
  - The online data viewer is completed and available at: http://pecosbasin.tamu.edu/map/
  - The Pecos River stream flow and water quality data can be accessed at: http://pecosbasin.tamu.edu/surface-water-data/

Other Activities Around the Watershed

Malaga Bend –Southwest Salt Company LLC has been pumping saline groundwater for over 1 year. Thus far, the average salt reduction to the river has been about 220 tons per day.

Pecos River Water Quality Coalition – No new activity to report.

Trans Pecos Native Plant Materials Initiative – Excellent progress was made this year in the effort to evaluate native plant species for future seed production. New plantings of side oats grama, cane/silver bluestem and Hall's panicum were completed this fall. Infrastructure improvements have also been made at the research facilities located at Sul Ross State University and a field location in Brewster County. West Texas seeding specification recommendations were also submitted for consideration to TXDOT.

Red Bluff Reservoir Report – As of February 3rd, the reservoir held 67,847 AF and gained 1,990 AF since January 3rd.

Upper Rio Grande Basin and Bay Expert Science Team (BBEST) Report – No action this month.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Watershed Assessment – No new activity to report.

For More Information

If you have any questions, comments or wish to discuss anything further, please contact Lucas Gregory or Amy Porter.

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