**Upper Llano River
Watershed Protection Plan**

**Coordination Committee Meeting**

**Aug 31st, 2015**

**Llano River Field Station**

**Texas Tech University**

**Junction, TX**

**Meeting Notes**

(A list of acronyms is provided at the bottom of these notes)

**Tyson Broad** provided summary most recent EDYS modeling results related to brush control and water supply enhancement and sedimentation. (See EDYS Presentation Power Point-attached). The new scenario is 9,000 acres of brush removal (on <12% slope), in conjunction with follow-up treatment with fire and with prescribed grazing.

Major points of Model Presentation:

* Model is likely not a good tool for showing results of hog removal. Other tools can, and are be used to predict results.
* Model shows that efforts to restore riparian efforts must exclude deer in order to show any potential results.
* Previous model predictions were based on 16,000 of brush removal with no grazing management. Showed an increase in water availability, but also an increase in sediment.
* Most recent model predictions with brush control, burning, and grazing management show that there is a lag time in positive hydrologic response, ie more water available via less evapotranspiration. About 11 years after brush removal, start to see a positive response of 75,000 ac-ft/year continuing through year 25 of the simulation.
* Targeting watersheds of greatest potential hydrologic response is important, resulting in greater water availability with less brush removal.
* New model output also shows a reduction in sediment loading of 41%.

**Kevin Wagner--Discuss & Finalize Management Measures & Implementation Goals (see attached ppt)**

Voluntary Land Stewardship for white-tailed & axis

Coordination committee agreed on a goal to increase the number of ‘active’ TPWD Wildlife Management Plan in watershed by 2 per year

Voluntary Land Stewardship for Upland wildlife habitat management

Coordination committee discussed and clarified previous decision related to 20,000 acres for upland wildlife habitat. There were no changes to previous decision.

Feral Hog Removal

Tyson has confirmed that a 66% reduction in feral hog population is the target set by Plum Creek Watershed to stabilize hog population. The Coordination Committee agreed to use this goal as well.

Water Conservation

Coordination Committee agreed to use goals set by Texas Water Conservation Implementation Task Force: reduce water use by 1%/yr until a target per capita use of 140 gallons/person/day is achieved. This results in a WPP goal of 10% reduction in use. Per capita use in Junction and Rocksprings will be used a metric to identify success.

Urban Stormwater Management

Coordination Committee agreed to obtain funding to study the implementation and location of BMPs to reduce runoff from 79 acres, or 1 percent of the total urban area in the watershed.

**Tyson Broad—Highlights of Updated WPP**

The purpose of the presentation is to highlight changes and additions to the WPP. The WPP has 10 Chapters. The Coordination Committee has already reviewed Chapters 1-3, but there have been a few additions to Chapter 3. Most significant are tables and maps highlighting areas of the North Llano that are beginning to have a few water quality issues related to Dissolved Oxygen and Bacteria.

In reviewing the Plan (see Next Steps) the areas where the Committee should focus attention are Chapters 5, 9 and 10. The tables at the end of Chapter 10 show the costs to implement all management measures in the WPP. Brush Control measures account for about 75% of total costs. Funds to implement these measures come primarily from grants and loans and matching funds (which can be actual dollars or payment in kind, ie sweat equity.) Potential funding sources are shown in Chapter 7. Chapter 9 shows what management measures are to be implemented.

**Next Steps**

The WPP will be submitted to the Soil Board for review this week. The Board has asked for 2-3 weeks to review. Once they review, we will need a week to respond to their comments. Once we have addressed the Board’s comments (early October) we can release it to the Coordination Committee for review.

The Committee decided that they need 2 weeks to review (the 3 main chapters to review total about 40 pages with tables and graphics). As per the bylaws, the WPP cannot be released to the public until it has the approval of the Coordination Committee.

Following response to Coordination Committee comments (end Oct-early Nov), the WPP will be released to the public for a 30-day comment period. During that period, there will be a public meeting to allow folks to comment on the plan. Once the comment period closes, there will be about a week to respond to comments and then send the plan to the Soil Board. Hopefully this will occur in December.

ACRONYMS

EDYS-Ecological Dynamics Simulation

BMP-Best Management Practices

NRCS-Natural Resource Conservation Service

TSSWCB-Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board

SWCD-Soil and Water Conservation Distructs

TPWD-Texas Parks Wildlife Department

LIP-Landowner Incentive Program

WMA-Wildlife Management Area

OSSF-On-site Sewage Facilities

WPP-Watershed Protection Plan