

Watershed Week

in Review

January 13, 2017



The Llano River's susceptibility to drought



No, this is not a recent photo. The North Llano is currently running 31 cfs. But we only need to go back to 2014, when this picture was taken, to remember drier times.

...Or back to 2011 when even the South Llano dropped to 32 cfs.

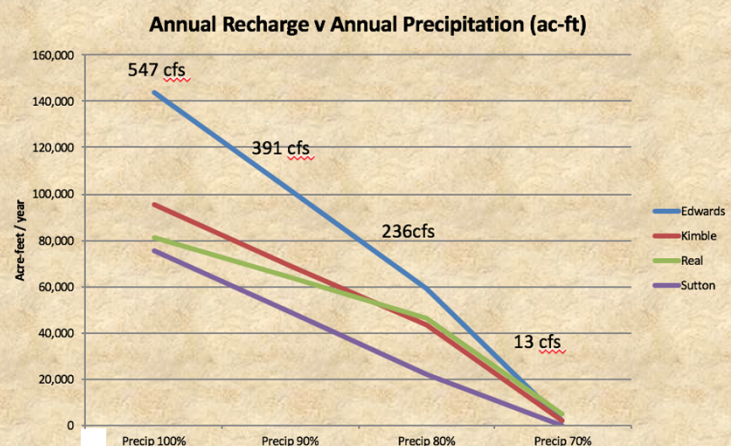
Why do droughts have such an impact on the Llano and other Hill Country Rivers?

The answer lies in this graph that the Alliance produced from a study done by [Dr. Ron Green](#) a few years ago.

As readers of the newsletter are aware, the biggest percentage of flow to the Llano River comes from recharge from precipitation on the Edwards Plateau to the south and west of Junction.

What [Dr. Green's study](#) found is that the relationship between annual precipitation and annual recharge is not linear. Rather, as annual precipitation falls to 70%, recharge to the aquifer, and consequently the Llano, drops to almost zero.

More on this in next week's newsletter...





Soil for Water, a new initiative from the National Center for Appropriate Technology, is aimed at catching and holding more rainwater in the soil. [Their website](#) offers information on the Soil Talk Series held in Wimberley and Blanco last fall.

Recent discoveries in soil science have given landowners new ways of increasing water infiltration, storing carbon in soil, and restoring dead soils to life. When it is properly planned, livestock grazing can be a powerful tool for improving soil health and accelerating soil restoration in the Hill Country.

Don't Forget... Prescribed Burn Association meeting Friday evening

The Annual Meeting of the [Upper Llanos Prescribed Burn Association](#) this Friday, January 13th at the Kimble County Courtroom. The meeting begins at 5:30pm.

-Agenda-

Prescribed burns are a critical part of the recently approved Upper Llano River Watershed Protection Plan. The [Upper Llanos Prescribed Burn Association](#) is a proactive conservation organization based in Kimble County, whose goal is to enhance the productivity of the land and provide more water to the aquifer by reducing runoff, erosion and competition Ashe juniper while simultaneously reducing wildfire fuels.

After the meeting, be sure to drop by the First Baptist Church for the [Piatigorsky Foundation Concert](#). This concert is FREE and begins at 6:30pm. For our friends in Mason, [this concert](#) is on Sunday the 15th at 2pm.



Family Fun Events this weekend at South Llano River State Park



It's better outside!



Like us on Facebook!

Facebook.com/SouthLlanoRiver

Family Park Programs
South Llano River State Park
Phone: (325) 446-3994



Birding 101

Sunday, January 15th, 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Meet at the Acorn Blind

(down the path from the restrooms, between campsites 39 and 41)

Come birding with the park ranger! We'll share binocular and bird ID tips, sit in the blind for a bit, and then take a short walk to see what birds are around. Binoculars provided, or bring your own. Good walking shoes and drinking water are recommended. All ages and skill levels welcome!

Geocaching 101

Sunday, January 15th, 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Meet at the Walk-in Campground parking lot



Join us for Geocaching, a high-tech treasure hunt you can do anywhere in the world using a GPS unit or your smartphone! Loaner GPS units will be provided for this activity. Good walking shoes and drinking water are recommended. All ages and skill levels welcome!



Fawn Trail Nature Hike

Monday, January 16th, 10:00 am - 12:00 noon

Meet at the Walk-in Campground parking lot

Join us for a back-country hike as we find out more about the plants and animals of the Hill Country. This trail is approximately 2.75 miles round-trip, and is moderate in difficulty – parts of this trail are steep and rocky, and others are more flat. Wear good walking shoes or hiking boots, bring drinking water, and dress for the weather! All ages welcome!

Park programs are open to the public and free with park entrance fee