



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY™



November 27, 2012

Dear Citizens and Landowners of the North and South Llano River Watersheds,

The Texas Tech University Llano River Field Station, the Texas Water Resources Institute at Texas A&M and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, cordially invite you to come and participate in the first meeting of the Upper Llano River Watershed Coordination Committee. This meeting will be held on **December 11, 2012 at 6:30 pm at the Texas Tech University Llano River Field Station located at 254 Red Raider Lane in Junction.** Refreshments will be served a half-hour before the start of the meeting.

Organizational meetings held on August 14 and October 9, 2012, provided an overview of what we know about the North and South Llano Rivers and how local citizens can become involved in developing and implementing a Watershed Protection Plan for the Upper Llano River. The meetings culminated with the consensus to create a Coordination Committee to guide the effort. The attached newsletter provides a detailed description of these meetings and the watershed planning effort initiated.

At this first meeting of the Coordination Committee, discussions will center on (1) reviewing Coordination Committee composition to determine if additional members are needed, (2) establishing committee policies, and (3) identifying, prioritizing, and solving watershed issues. A detailed agenda is attached.

Input from local citizens is greatly needed to ensure that the Committee appropriately represents the viewpoints and interests in the watershed. Once formed, members of the Committee will use their local knowledge of the area to identify the strategies that will most effectively preserve these important rivers and springs. Measures recommended by the committee will then be drafted into a watershed protection plan to serve as a blueprint for protecting natural resources in the watershed. Participation in this effort, both the development and implementation of it, is 100% voluntary and locally determined.

The North and South Llano Rivers and the springs that feed them in Sutton, Kimble, and Edwards counties support the livelihood for many, are an integral part of our “quality of life” in the region and offer a variety of recreational opportunities. The North and South Llano Rivers are currently healthy and provide critical flows to the Llano and Colorado Rivers, as well as the Highland Lakes. However, land fragmentation, loss of vegetation and increased erosion along river banks, spread of invasive elephant ear and giant cane along the rivers, expansion of cedar and mesquite throughout the watershed, and other issues threaten the North and South Llano Rivers. This proactive approach will help address these concerns before they become critical issues and thus help preserve these rivers and springs for future generations.

We invite you to join in solving these land and water issues. Your active participation is pivotal to the successful development and implementation of an Upper Llano River Watershed Protection Plan. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 325.446.2301 or tom.arsuffi@ttu.edu. You can also talk to Kevin Wagner with the Texas Water Resources Institute at 979.845.2649 or klwagner@ag.tamu.edu or visit our website <http://southllano.org/>. Thanks in advance for your dedication to the success of this effort.

Sincerely,
Tom

Tom Arsuffi, Director
Llano River Field Station, Texas Tech University-Junction

Upper Llano River Watershed Protection Plan Coordination Committee Meeting

December 11, 2012
Llano River Field Station
Texas Tech University
Junction, TX

Agenda

- 6:00 Refreshments and Sign-in
- 6:30 Welcome and Introductions
– TBD
- 6:45 Finalize Coordination Committee
– Tom Arsuffi, Texas Tech University Llano River Field Station
- 7:00 Discuss Committee Policies
– Kevin Wagner, Texas Water Resources Institute
- 7:15 Update on Activities
– Kevin Wagner, Texas Water Resources Institute
– Emily Seldomridge, Texas Tech University Llano River Field Station
- 7:30 **Presentation:** North and South Llano River Watershed Conservation Plan
– Tyson Broad, South Llano Watershed Alliance
- 7:45 Committee Discussion, Further Identification and Prioritization of Watershed Issues
– Tom Arsuffi, Texas Tech University Llano River Field Station
- 8:05 Committee Discussion on how to address Watershed Issues, e.g. workgroups, other
- 8:20 Discuss Time, Date, and Topics for Next Meeting
– Tom Arsuffi, Texas Tech University Llano River Field Station
- 8:25 Door Prizes, Wrap-up and Next Steps
– Tom Arsuffi, Texas Tech University Llano River Field Station
- 8:30 Adjourn