

Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lampasas River Watershed Partnership to host two riparian workshops

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LAMPASAS, TEXAS – The Lampasas Watershed Partnership will host two, one day Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) Riparian workshops on assessing riparian/wetland condition. These workshops will be presented by the USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Riparian and wetland areas occur along water courses or waterbodies and occupy the transitional area between the upland and water ecosystems. Typical examples would include floodplains, streambanks, and lake shores. These are some of the most productive resources found on public and private lands, and highly prized by communities for their recreation, fish and wildlife, water supply, cultural, and historic values as well as for their economic values.

A primary objective of this training is to develop a common vocabulary and understanding of riparian areas among people who live and work on the land. The workshops, which are free and open to the public, consist of classroom and field instruction.

Landowners, ranchers, state or federal agency employees and others who are involved with or interested in the values and functions associated with riparian areas would benefit greatly from the workshops according to Lisa Prcin, Lampasas River Watershed Coordinator. “We are also pleased to be able to offer Continuing Education Units for the first time to participants of this workshop. Three Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units are available; one integrated pest management, one laws and regulations and one general” said Prcin.

“Participants will have a better understanding of the functions and values associated with riparian and wetland areas,” Prcin said. The workshops will focus on methods for assessing the condition of riparian/wetland sites on their land, and where to go for assistance in improving or restoring sites, if necessary. The assessment method is straightforward and involves completing a checklist with 17 yes or no questions.”

The first workshop will be on September 27 and will be held at the Crawford Party House, near Lampasas. The second workshop will be held on September 28 and will begin at the Oakalla School House with the field portion at the Duncan Ranch near Oakalla. Lunch at both events will be provided; sponsored by the Texas Land Bank at the Lampasas workshop, and the City of Killeen for the Oakalla event.

There is no fee required to attend these workshops however citizens wishing to attend must RSVP to Prcin by email or phone by September 26. For more information contact her at 254-774-6008 or lprcin@brc.tamus.edu. A draft workshop agenda is available at www.lampasasriver.org as well as maps to workshop locations.

The Lampasas River Watershed Partnership is a collaborative effort by local stakeholders, Texas AgriLife Research, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board to address water quality concerns within the Lampasas River watershed through the development of a Watershed Protection Plan. The Lampasas River watershed encompasses parts of Mills, Hamilton, Lampasas, Coryell, Burnet, Bell and Williamson Counties.

Funding and support for the development of the Lampasas Watershed Protection Plan is provided through a Clean Water Act §319(h) Nonpoint Source grant from the TSSWCB and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The TSSWCB is the lead agency for planning, implementing, and managing programs and practices for preventing and abating agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint sources of water pollution. The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board also coordinates the programs and activities of the state's 216 soil and water conservation districts, administers a Water Supply Enhancement Program for the selective control of water depleting brush and facilitates the Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee.