

FY 2015

TXFWCO Activity Report: August



Ottine Dam Removal Project

Texas Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Texas Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office

Monthly Report

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office Activities

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Emphasis Areas

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is charged with a large responsibility to steer conservation of myriad species in a multitude of ecosystems - the conservation issues that persist or will arise in the southwest region are varied and diverse and require a focused attention to address. The Southwest Region identified five geographies or “Emphasis Areas” whereby we can best achieve meaningful and measurable outcomes for fish and wildlife conservation: The Mogollon Rim, the Rio Grande, the Great Plains, the Gulf Coast, and the East Texas/Oklahoma areas.

The Southwest Region is currently steering resources to these five geographies that encompass much, but not the entire Region. Each area has been assigned leadership teams to develop conservation priorities and projects that support strategic conservation in each of the areas. The teams submitted their conservation priorities to the Regional Directorate Team in late August and they are currently under review.

Rio Grande Emphasis Area Project

The Rio Grande Emphasis Area Team has developed two conservation priorities for this emphasis area: Conservation and recovery of federally listed species, migratory birds, and native riparian vegetation, other trust resources, and species of greatest conservation need (SGCN), and Community Engagement, Education, Involvement and Promotion of Scientific Understanding.

East Texas and Oklahoma Emphasis Area

The East Texas/Oklahoma Emphasis Area Team developed a single conservation priority: Maximize conservation of trust resources, species and their habitats via an integrated aquatic/terrestrial watershed approach for five priority watersheds throughout the East Texas/Oklahoma Emphasis Area (Cypress Bayou, Lower Colorado River, Ozark Highlands, Little/Kiamichi River, and Neches River)

National Fish Passage Program (NFPP)

Ottine Dam Removal Project

On 31 September 2015, Mike Montagne and Hal Jones, a heavy equipment operator and dam removal specialist from the North Mississippi Refuge Complex, conducted a site visit to Ottine Dam, on the San Marcos River in the town of Ottine. The water level had continued to go down and the decision was made to move forward with the removal. A start date of 21 September 2015 has been set.

Capes Dam Removal Project

Mike Montagne and Hal Jones also visited Capes Dam to assess the potential for dam removal. Capes Dam is also located on the San Marcos River in San Marcos. The dam and the area around it was recently acquired by the City of San Marcos and they are in debate about what to do with the failing structure. The TXFWCO has offered to help the city to remove the dam using National Fish Passage Program funding.



Capes Dam is failing and is a candidate for removal.

September Schedule of Activities:

7-18 September 2015: Conchos Water Snake Monitoring

16 September 2015: Colorado River Native Fish Conservation Area Advisory Council

18-30 September 2015: Ottine Dam Removal

23-24 September 2015: Caddo Lake Partners meeting

22-23 Pecos Pupfish monitoring

28 September -2 October 2015: FAC conference in Albuquerque

September 2015: Salado Salamander Sampling