

FY 2014

TXFWCO Activity Report: August



Recaptured Paddlefish on the Big Cypress Bayou

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

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Monthly Report

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office July Activities

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Capes Dam Removal Meeting

On 26 August 2014, Mike Montagne attended a City of San Marcos Parks and Recreation Board meeting and gave a presentation on the National Fish Passage Program and how it could help the city in regards to Capes Dam. The City has recently acquired the dam and the land adjacent to it. Kristy Kollaus of the Meadows Institute (Texas State University), and Ken Saunders (TPWD) also presented information on the benefits of removing the dam and the history of the dam. Some on the board would like to rebuild the dam into a recreational area similar to Rio Vista Park, with kayaking chutes and heavy public use. Others are more interested in doing what would be best for the endangered species.



The City of San Marcos is considering removing the failing Capes Dam.

Paddlefish Reintroduction Project

On 18-22 August 2014 Pete Diaz and Diego Araujo, with help from TPWD in Marshal TX, conducted American paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*) radio telemetry monitoring at Caddo Lake and the Big Cypress Bayou. The towers continue to collect data at each of the three locations. Approximately 56 miles of Big Cypress Bayou and

Caddo Lake were searched by boat and twenty seven of the forty seven paddlefish were contacted. Twenty three paddlefish were detected just below the spillway of Lake O’ the Pines. Of the 47 fish originally released, 29 of them (62%) moved upstream until they reached the spillway at Lake “o” the Pines in the past five months. Many of the fish had been contacted there for consecutive months and we suspected that they may had died. With the help and equipment of TPWD we were able to electrofish survey the area below the spillway and recaptured three of the tagged paddlefish and two more were seen but not captured.



TPWD and TXFWCO recapture a radio tagged paddlefish near the spillway at Lake “o” the Pines.

Pinto Creek Sampling

On 5 August 2015, The TXFWCO and TPWD gained access to another section of Pinto Creek. While the creek on the property was flowing slightly, no Devils River minnows, *Dionda daboli*, were captured. With this new section of creek, the TXFWCO has access to approximately 7.5 miles of the 11 miles of critical habitat.



Kenny Saunders (TPWD) and Mike Montagne (TXFWCO) look for Devils River Minnows in Pinto Creek.

Rio Grande and San Filipe Aquatic Invertebrates

The TXFWCO continues to sort and identify aquatic invertebrate from sampling efforts on the Rio Grande and San Filipe Rivers in 2014. The TXFWCO is working with Bill Harrison of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to build invertebrate metrics for the Trans Pecos Region.

September Schedule of Activities:

3-5 September 2014: Brazos River Fish Passage Site Visits

8-10 September 2014: Pecos pupfish monitoring

10-12 September 2014: Fisheries meeting in Albuquerque

16 September 2014: Clear Creek gambusia collection for Inks Dam

22-26 September 2014: Paddlefish Radio Tracking