



Texas Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office

August Events

- 08/01-05/2016: Diego Araujo to Albuquerque for Collateral Duty Safety Training
- 08/08/2016: Diego Araujo to El Paso Zoo to talk about Leon Springs pupfish refugia
- 08/18-22/2016: Paddlefish tracking in the Big Cypress Bayou
- 08/22-26/2016: Dolan Springs Monitoring

- 08/08/2016: William Gee joins the TXFWCO staff
- 08/22/2016: Lindsay Campbell joins the TXFWCO staff

Contact Information

Project Leader: Mike Montagne

Phone: 512-353-0011

Fax: 512-392-0270

Email: mike_montagne@fws.gov

Web:
<https://www.fws.gov/Southwest/fisheries/txfwco/index.html>

July Activities

Devils River Minnow

On July 6-7 2016, the TXFWCO sampled Pinto Creek to look how the fish community has adjusted to the creek flowing again after the prolonged drought. The creek began drying up in 2011 and became a series of unconnected pools dominated by predator fish. By 2015, we were unable to capture any Devils River minnow (DRM) in Pinto Creek. The TXFWCO was able to collect three DRM from one area on the creek. The aquatic vegetation has returned to the entire critical habitat section of the creek, but the small bodied fish community is still recovering from the drought and has yet to repopulate the entire creek.



Pinto Creek Sampling

Paddlefish Reintroduction Project

The TXFWCO continued boat tracking the American paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*), for the second phase of the Paddlefish Reintroduction Project in the Big Cypress Bayou. Twenty one of the fish were implanted with radio transmitters so biologists from the TXFWCO can track their movements within the watershed. In addition to the boat tracking, five radio telemetry data collecting stations have been strategically placed throughout the watershed to collect data if a paddlefish passes the location. For more information on the Paddlefish Reintroduction Project go to: <http://www.caddolakeinstitute.us/>



Annual Texas Wild Rice Survey

Dolan Springs Monitoring

On July 18-22 2016, The TXFWCO, with help from the San Marcos Aquatic Resource Center, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Austin and Oklahoma Ecological Services Office, the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (PFWP), and Miami Ohio University conducted spring sampling and a mussel survey. Invertebrate and salamander samples were collected and tissue samples were collected from the Texas hornshell (*Popenaias popeii*) for genetic studies.

Salado Salamander

With the help of volunteers, the TXFWCO installed an informative Kiosk at the City Park on Salado Creek. The kiosk contains information about the Threatened Salado salamander (*Eurycea chisholmensis*) and its habitat. The TXFWCO continues to monitor the Salado salamander in Bell County.



Salado Salamander Kiosk

Chris Chapa to the Partners Program

The TXFWCO bids farewell to Chris Chapa as Chris has accepted a position with the PFWP in Austin. Good Luck Chris!