Rio Grande Research Center Mission and Objectives

Mission

The mission of the Rio Grande Research Center's Sustainable Agricultural Water Conservation research project is to improve our understanding of the water resources in the Rio Grande Basin and to provide approaches for their sustainable use.

Objectives

- Create a basin-wide perspective for the sustainable use of water resources within the bi-national Rio Grande watershed
- Provide administrative support and serve as project headquarters for the Sustainable Agricultural Water Conservation research project
- Facilitate intergovernmental, academic, and stakeholder collaboration
- Provide outreach and education about the sustainable use of natural resources

Website

http://www.sulross.edu/pages/4624.asp



Participating Organizations

Texas State University – San Marcos Sam Houston State University, Huntsville

Lamar University, Beaumont

Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory

University of Texas—Pan American

Rio Grande Basin Initiative Texas A&M, College Station

Big Bend National Park, National Park Service

United States Fish & Wildlife Service

World Wildlife Fund

International Boundary and Water Commission

SEMARNAT (Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources) and IMTA (Mexican Institute of Water Technology

Non-Discrimination Statement

No person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity sponsored or conducted by Sul Ross State University, on any basis prohibited by applicable law, including, but not limited to, race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability.



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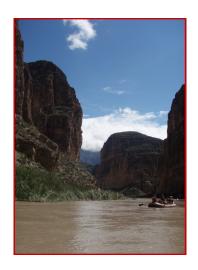
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SDA United States Department of Agriculture

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Rio Grande
Research Center



The Rio Grande Research Center is responsible for the administrative management of all Texas State University School system research projects funded through the Sustainable Agricultural Water Conservation program. The following information describes current projects hosted by the Rio Grande Research Center at Sul Ross State University.

Sul Ross State University

A Member of the Texas State University System Alpine, Texas

2009 Rio Grande Research Center Projects

Rio Grande Environmental Literacy and Capacity Building

This project strengthens the capacity of cities and educational institutions within the Rio Grande Basin to implement watershed protection strategies.



Kokernot Springs Restoration

This is a multi-phase project aimed at returning the spring and the adjacent floodplain to a condition that represents a more functional and sustainable geo-hydrologic and biologic condition.

Edwards Trinity Aquifer Study

This study is a hydro-geologic evaluation of thermal springs along the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River. These springs are potentially threatened by groundwater pumping. This project seeks to provide managers with more detailed information about the hydro-geologic setting, including recharge and source area, a description of flow, and information on how much groundwater contributes to flow in the Rio Grande.

An Educational Application of the Field-Deployable Arsenic Electrochemical Analyzer: A Far West Texas 4-H Student Well Screening Project

This project adds arsenic (As) analysis to an existing regional 4-H well screening project as both an educational opportunity and public service for rural well owners in far west Texas.

Tamarisk Biological Control on the Rio Grande in West Texas: Assessing and Enhancing Biodiversity to Benefit Rare Fauna in Tamarisk Invaded Riparian Areas

Much of the banks of the Rio Grande are choked with tamarisk, reducing surface water availability and negatively impacting native riparian flora. Biocontrol of tamarisk can contribute to native ecosystem restoration. This project will compare the efficacy of two tamarisk beetle species in tamarisk biocontrol and evaluate the effects of tamarisk biocontrol on floral and wildlife diversity.

Mapping and Monitoring of Native and Exotic Vegetation

This study will include vegetation mapping of the Trans-Pecos area and adjacent areas in Mexico using satellite imagery, aerial photos, soil survey and ecological site maps.



TexPREP

A program to strengthen student recruitment in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics by engaging area middle school students in a series of innovative, experiential learning activities that focus on critical water issues (USDA grant # 2007-38422-18081).



Wintering Grassland Birds as Bio-indicators

The project will investigate wintering grassland bird abundance, distribution, community structure, habitat use and inter-annual movements across the Marfa grasslands of west Texas, and major grasslands near Coyame, Chihuahua, and along the Rio Conchos basin, a major tributary of the Rio Grande, in Chihuahua, Mexico. This project will help fill important gaps in our knowledge of wintering North American grassland bird populations in the Rio Grande drainage basin, which is globally important to their conservation, and thus contribute substantially to the analysis of the biological environment.

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