

Education Program for Feral Hog Management in the Plum Creek Watershed

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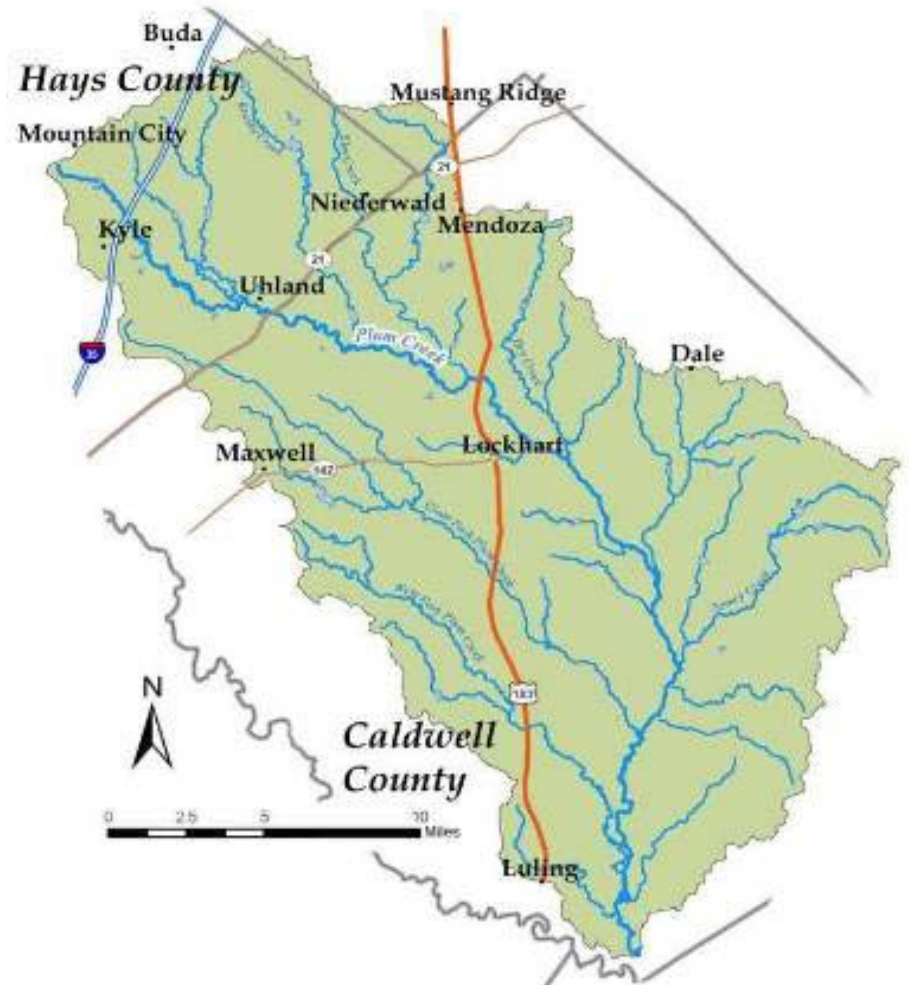
*Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife
Science*

February 8, 2011



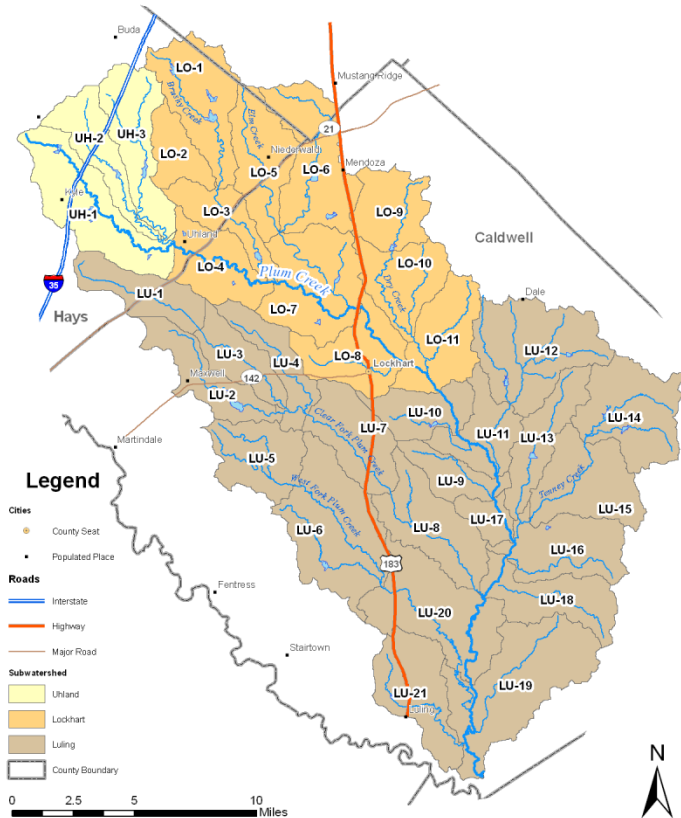
Plum Creek Watershed

- Covers approximately 400 square miles in Hays, Caldwell, and Travis counties.
- Drains into the San Marcos River.



Water Quality Issues

Plum Creek Watershed

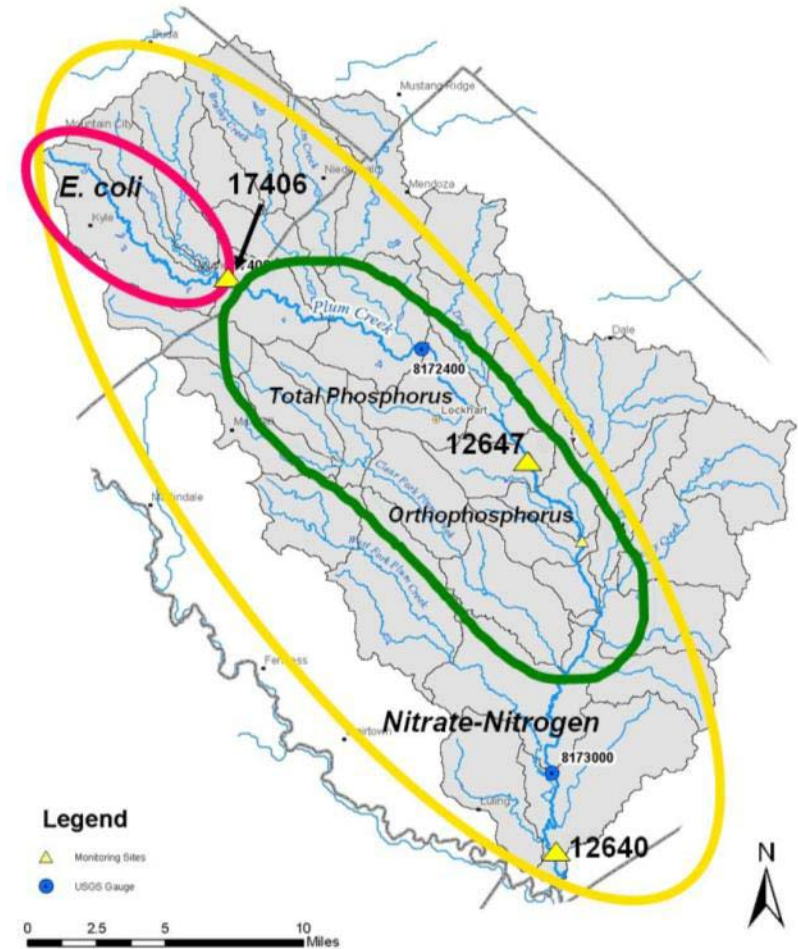


- Water quality routinely monitored at 3 places along the stream
- Regions separated into Uhland/Kyle, Lockhart, and Luling



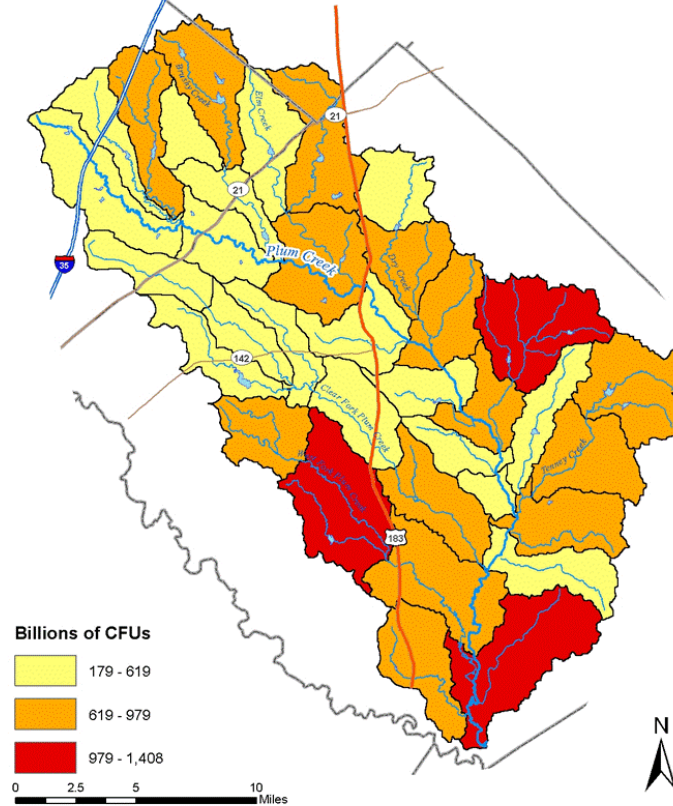
Water Quality Issues

- High nutrient levels throughout the watershed
- High *E. coli* bacteria levels upper and lower areas



Hogs and Bacteria

Average Daily Potential *E. coli*
Load from Feral Hogs



Objectives

- Provide education on feral hog management strategies to watershed landowners
- Document sightings of feral hog activity and damage.
- Encourage landowner and the general public's participation in the online feral hog reporting system.

Feral Hog Management Workshop

- Covers feral hog biology, behavior, laws, regulations, and management strategies
- Draws landowners from the watershed and throughout the region
- Offers TDA credit
- The next workshop will be February 23, 2011 in Luling



Landowner Report

- Landowner gives monthly report of:
 - Amount (dollars) and type of damage
 - Control methods used
 - Number of animals removed

Landowner Report

Landowner Report - Plum Creek Watershed Partnership - Mozilla Firefox

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http://pcwp.tamu.edu/FeralHogs/LandownerReport.aspx

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Contact Us

- Project Overview
- Meetings
- Feral Hog Project
 - Public Report
 - Landowner Report
 - Calendar
 - Feral Hog Links
 - Capture Techniques
 - Map
 - Trapping Effort
- Water Quality
- Outreach and Education
- Publications
- Watershed Protection Plan
- Links
- Partners



Landowner Report

Information is confidential and will only be accessed by project staff for feral hog management purposes

Select a report month and year.

September 2009

Have you observed feral hogs on your property this month?

Yes No

Please mark all of the areas in which feral hogs had negative impacts on your property in the past month.

<input type="checkbox"/> Growing or planting commodity crop losses	<input type="checkbox"/> Fences, water troughs, or other improvements
<input type="checkbox"/> Growing or planting specialty crop losses	<input type="checkbox"/> Equipment or vehicles
<input type="checkbox"/> Stored Commodities	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal injuries
<input type="checkbox"/> Pastures	<input type="checkbox"/> Owner or employee time
<input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/> Loss of land value
<input type="checkbox"/> Livestock (injury, deaths, diseases)	<input type="checkbox"/> Loss of lease value, damage to food plots/feeders

Please estimate your total economic losses due to feral hogs in the past month on all your property(s). This includes items marked in the question above.

\$ (Dollars only)

Please mark all of the control methods you used on your property(s) this month and the number of hogs taken using each.

Control method	Number of hogs
<input type="checkbox"/> Trapped and destroyed	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Trapped and sold	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Lease hunting	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Trapped and moved from premise	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Owner/Employee hunting	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Use of dogs	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (snares, aerial gunning)	<input type="text"/>

Done

start Microsoft PowerPoint Plum Creek - ArcMap Landowner Report - ... 6:43 AM

General Public Report

- Made more for incidental sightings/or for nonlandowners
- Report:
 - Location
 - Date
 - Type of damage
 - Number of animals seen
 - Closest waterway

General Public Report

Public Report - Plum Creek Watershed Partnership - Mozilla Firefox

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http://pcwp.tamu.edu/FeralHogs/PublicReport.aspx

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Project Overview

Meetings

Feral Hog Project

- Public Report
- Landowner Report
- Calendar
- Feral Hog Links
- Capture Techniques
- Maps
- Trapping Effort

Water Quality


Outreach and Education

Publications

Watershed Protection Plan

Links

Partners



Information is confidential and will only be accessed by project staff for feral hog management purposes


Your name:

Your phone number:

Your email address:

When did you observe feral hogs?
 Tip: format date as MM/DD/YYYY, or select from the calendar.

In which county did you observe feral hogs?
ANDERSON

What was the nearest intersection to the feral hogs?
Zoom then click a point on the map below, or enter the latitude and longitude coordinates:

Lat:
Lon:

What was the nearest stream or waterway?

Number of feral hogs observed.

Juveniles:

Adults:

Describe the damage.

Done

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Available resources

- <http://pcwp.tamu.edu/FeralHogs/>
- Publication links
 - Recognizing Feral Hog Sign
 - Snaring Feral Hogs
 - Building a Feral Hog Snare
 - Placing and Baiting Feral Hog Traps
 - Box Traps for Capturing Feral Hogs
 - Corral Traps for Capturing Feral Hogs
 - Door Modifications for Feral Hog Traps
- Site visits for landowners
- Presentations for groups



Box Traps for Capturing Feral Hogs

Chancey Lewis, Matt Berg, James C. Cathey, Jim Gallagher, Nikki Dictson, and Mark McFarland
Texas AgriLife Extension Service
The Texas A&M University System

Rising feral hog numbers pose a threat to agriculture and water quality in the Plum Creek Watershed and across the state. As part of the toolbox for feral hog management, box traps should be considered among approaches to reducing feral hog numbers and impacts. While they are not the best choice to remove large numbers of animals at a time, box traps are useful as a pinpoint control effort – a tool to remove a small number of hogs or to focus on a relatively small, defined area – and can be a first strike in combination with larger traps and other techniques.

Trap Placement

When deciding where to locate a box trap for capturing feral hogs, identify creeks, ponds, and other watering locations, particularly if these are near bedding or feeding areas. Feral hog trails are ideal locations for trap placement. Set the trap upwind of an area frequented by hogs so animals will be attracted to bait in the trap. A game camera can help determine hog behavior in the area and identify optimal locations for trap placement.

Trap Dimensions and Gate Styles

Box traps come in a variety of designs and shapes. Most are constructed of livestock panels with steel pipe or angle iron frames. Most traps are built by the user, and consequently there exists a tremendous variety of traps that differ in size, portability, door configuration, flooring and roofing. In some areas, ready-to-use box traps and different styles of head gates are available for purchase.

A common design is the 4' x 8' heavy duty cage (Fig. 1). Trap height is typically between 3' and 4', and a top is recommended to prevent hogs from crowding in the corners and climbing out. Fully enclosed traps with a top and a floor may allow the trapper to transport a live hog without removing it from the trap. However, all box traps, particularly those without floors, require T-posts to anchor the trap, adding materials that may dissuade a hog from entering and driving up the total cost of the trap.



Figure 1. Box traps vary in both size and construction. A common design includes a 4' x 8' cage built with durable materials (A). The best box traps are both effective and low in cost. Many box traps are fashioned with materials readily available to the landowner (B).

Project Funding

- Provided through a Clean Water Act §319(h) nonpoint source grant from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



Questions?



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