

**Nueces Basin Headwaters Stewardship Project**  
**Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and Nueces River Authority**  
**Project #04-16**

**Nonpoint Source Summary Page**

- 1. Title of Project:** Nueces Basin Headwaters Stewardship Project
- Project Goals/Objectives:** Using public education, this project will concentrate on water quality concerns, impairments, and threats to water quality and streambed conditions in five headwater stream segments of the Nueces River Basin. The objective is to raise the level of public knowledge so that protection of the Nueces Basin headwater streams is considered important and the public feels it has an ownership of the resource and responsibility for its preservation.
- 2. Project Tasks:** Task 1 – Project Administration  
Task 2 – Public Participation  
Task 3 – Public Education
- Measures of Success:**
  - Photo documentation of riverbeds, banks and river access points.
  - Testimonials from landowners, resource managers, river recreationists, students, teachers, and other members of the public.
  - Accomplishment of at least thirty public education activities or events during the project period with documentation included in quarterly progress reports.
- 3. Project Type:** Education
- 4. Waterbody Type:** Rivers
- 5. Project Location:** Upper Nueces River Basin, Stream Segments 2113, 2112, 2111, 2110, 2109
- 6. NPS Management Program Reference: State of Texas**  
Agricultural/Silvicultural Nonpoint Source Management Program, 2-25-2000.
- 7. NPS Assessment Report Status (TCEQ 2004 Assessment):**  
2113, upper Frio River – 303(d) list for depressed DO (TMDL underway)  
2112, upper Nueces River – meets all standards  
2111, upper Sabinal River – meets all standards  
2110, lower Sabinal River – 303(d) list for Nitrate/Nitrite (TMDL pending)  
2109, Leona River – 305(b) list concerns identified for Nitrate/Nitrite
- 8. Key Project Activities:** Administration, Education, and Public Participation
- 9. NPS Management Program Elements:** From “Texas Non-point Source Pollution Assessment Report and Management Program”
  - Coordination with federal, state and local agencies.
  - Commitment to technology transfer, technical support, administrative support and cooperation between agencies and programs for the prevention of NPS water pollution.
- 10. Project Costs: Federal – \$170,703    Non Federal – \$114,927**  
**Total Project – \$285,630**
- 11. Project Management:** Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board  
**Project Lead:** Nueces River Authority  
**Cooperating Entities:** Nueces-Frio-Sabinal SWCD, West Nueces – Las Moras SWCD, Upper Nueces-Frio SWCD, Wintergarden SWCD, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Texas Cooperative Extension, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station
- 12. Project Period:** September 1, 2004 through August 31, 2007

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**Problem Statement:** The headwater streams of the upper Nueces Basin are some of the last, relatively, pristine, aquatic resources in Texas. The function and integrity of these special rivers are being threatened by mechanical disturbance of the beds and banks, introduction and proliferation of non-native plant species by riverside land managers, litter and illegal dumping, and municipal and agricultural runoff. Many of these threats can be reduced through a public education program focusing on how these fragile streams are impacted by the activities of man.

The Nueces River Authority, under the public outreach component of its Clean Rivers Program (CRP), has been working to inform landowners and the public and educate the youth about activities that threaten the Nueces River, its tributaries, and the underlying aquifers to which they contribute. More can be done. CRP is a limited resource designed, primarily, to monitor water quality throughout the Nueces Basin and the adjoining coastal basins. It is not designed to accomplish a level of education needed to change human behavior. Environmental Protection Agency 319 program funding through the Texas Soil and Water Conservation Board is being requested to build a base of knowledge and awareness to allow citizens to recognize and respond to these water quality problems.

**Project Description:** The Nueces River Authority will design and implement a targeted education program around five Nueces Basin headwater stream segments to raise the level of public awareness of non-point source problems affecting these streams and to encourage protection of the streams from further degradation. The goals of this project are to **protect the fragile and unique riparian condition of the headwaters** and the aquifers that depend on their recharge and to **catalyze a return of water clarity and quality** in segments suffering impairment.

**Objectives:**

1. **Recognize Value** - To make the public aware of the unique water quality and biological significance of Nueces River basin headwater streams, their association with the underground aquifers including the Edwards and Carrizo aquifers, and their value to the community and region.
2. **Develop Accountability** - To create an awareness of the activities that threaten the natural integrity of the headwater streams and a conviction to assume responsibility for protection of these resources.
3. **Become Involved** – To empower landowners and the public, especially the youth, to actively preserve the natural integrity of these resources.

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**Tasks, Objective, Schedules and Estimated Costs:**

**TASK 1 – Administration**

**Objective:** To plan, organize, direct, coordinate, and guide this education project.

- Produce informative and timely progress reports
- Participate in planning meetings and consultations with TSSWCB
- Prepare timely and accurate reimbursement forms and statements
- Maintain backup documentation to support allowable costs
- Manage subcontractors and procurement activities
- Monitor budget activity and perform cost accountability

**Schedule of Deliverables:**

- Quarterly progress reports submitted to TSSWCB by January 15<sup>th</sup>, April 15<sup>th</sup>, July 15<sup>th</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup> each year of the project. (2004 –2007)
- Quarterly reimbursement requests submitted to TSSWCB by January 15<sup>th</sup>, April 15<sup>th</sup>, July 15<sup>th</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup> each year of the project. (2004 –2007)

**Task 1 Budget:     Federal – \$12,530**  
**Non Federal – \$13,241**  
**Total Task – \$25,771**

**TASK 2 – Public Participation**

**Objective:** To coordinate with and receive guidance from local soil and water conservation districts, other natural resource and education organizations, and the public in the planning and implementation of this project.

- Meet annually with each cooperating soil and conservation district, NRCS field office staff and Texas Cooperative Extension, NRCS and Texas A&M Agricultural Experiment Station staff to coordinate and seek ideas.
- Discuss project activities and receive comments from Clean Rivers Program steering committees at their annual meetings.
- Participate in the meetings of groundwater management districts, school districts, local governments, landowner associations, civic organizations and other citizen groups, as appropriate and necessary, to inform and receive guidance in connection with this project.

**Schedule of Deliverables:**

- Include sign-in sheets, agendas, press releases, and other documentation of participation with quarterly progress reports submitted to TSSWCB by January 15<sup>th</sup>, April 15<sup>th</sup>, July 15<sup>th</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup> each year of the project. (2004 –2007).

**Task 2 Budget:     Federal – \$49,187**  
**Non Federal – \$11,288**  
**Total Task – \$60,475**

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**TASK 3 – Public Education**

**Objective:** Using public education, this project will concentrate on water quality concerns, impairments, and threats to water quality and streambed conditions in five headwater stream segments of the Nueces River Basin. The objective is to raise the level of public knowledge so that protection of the Nueces Basin headwater streams is held important and the public feels it has an ownership of the resource and responsibility for its preservation. These objectives may be accomplished through the following:

- Documentation of the natural quality and character of the Nueces Basin headwater streams and the activities that threaten them.
- Public service announcements, advertising, news stories, billboards, posters, fact sheets, and other printed materials.
- Organization of seminars and workshops for land managers, machinery operators, and decision makers.
- Design, construction, exhibition and demonstration of a plastic relief, scale model, of the Nueces Basin to demonstrate pathways of pollutants and instill a sense of backyard ownership of the local streams.
- Presentations to civic, landowner, school, and local government groups.
- Support educators in the incorporation of river education into existing curriculums.
- Development of multimedia curriculum and lesson support materials.
- Development or customization, publication, and distribution of a guide to Nueces headwater aquatic ecology and function with riparian management suggestions.
- Survey to determine need for implementation and types of Best Management Practices needed.

**Schedule of Deliverables:**

- Sign-in sheets, agendas, copies of press and printed materials, and photographs and other documentation of this task activity will be included in quarterly progress reports submitted to TSSWCB by January 15<sup>th</sup>, April 15<sup>th</sup>, July 15<sup>th</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup> each year of the project. (2004 –2007).

**Measures of Success:**

- Photo documentation of riverbeds, banks and river access points.
- Testimonials from landowners, resource managers, river recreationists, students, teachers, and other members of the public.
- Accomplishment of at least thirty public education activities or events during the project period with documentation included in quarterly progress reports.

**Task 3 Budget:**     **Federal – \$108,986**  
                              **Non Federal – \$90,398**  
                              **Total Task – \$199,384**

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**Coordination, Roles and Responsibilities:**

**Project Supervisor:**

Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board  
Kevin Wagner – NPS Leader  
P.O. Box 658  
Temple , Texas 76504  
254-773-2250 ext 238  
254-773-3311 (fax)  
kwagner@tsswcb.state.tx.us

**Project Lead:**

Nueces River Authority  
P.O. Box 349  
Uvalde, Texas 78802  
Phone: 830-278-6810  
Fax: 830-278-2025

**Project Director:**

Con Mims, Executive Director [cmims@nueces-ra.org](mailto:cmims@nueces-ra.org)

**Project Manager:**

Sky Lewey, Resource Protection and Public Education Associate [slewey@nueces-ra.org](mailto:slewey@nueces-ra.org)

**Financial Manager:**

Debbie White, Director of Finance and Staff Services [dwhite@nueces-ra.org](mailto:dwhite@nueces-ra.org)

**Information Coordinator:**

Jew-lee Lann, Information Systems Coordinator [jlann@nueces-ra.org](mailto:jlann@nueces-ra.org)

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**Project Budget:**

04-16 Headwaters Stewardship  
Project  
Budget Revision 11/12/2007

<u>Object Class Category</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Non- Federal Match</u>	<u>Total Costs</u>
<b>1 Personnel</b>			
<b>Subtotal Personnel</b>	\$138,796	4,573	\$143,369
<b>Fringe @ 21.48%</b>	<u>\$31,907</u>	<u>\$982</u>	<u>\$32,889</u>
<b>Travel</b>	\$0	\$9,000	\$9,000
<b>Equipment (basin model)</b>	\$0	\$12,000	\$12,000
<b>2 Supplies</b>	\$0	\$7,705	\$7,705
<b>3 Contractual</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>4 Construction</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>5 Other (rent, printing, advertising, communication and other services)</b>	\$0	\$77,060	\$77,060
<b>6 Miscellaneous</b>	\$0	\$3,607	\$3,607
<b>7 Total Direct Costs</b>	\$170,703	\$114,927	\$285,630
<b>8 Indirect Costs</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<b>9 Total Project Costs</b>	<b>\$170,703</b>	<b>\$114,927</b>	<b>\$285,630</b>

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**Itemized Budget Justification**

**Personnel**

The Nueces River Authority is a small governmental organization with a large territory. Our jurisdictional area encompasses more than 17,000 square miles. We have two offices and each of our six staff members have multiple job responsibilities. We do not have an audited indirect cost rate, nor at this time do we have a federal cognizant agency to approve one. This application does not use an indirect cost rate. The Uvalde office staff, Con Mims, Debbie White and Sky Lewey will participate directly in the project, as will Jew-Lee Lann of the Corpus Christi office staff.

Mr. Mims, the executive director, has primary responsibility for Task 2, public participation. He will meet annually with cooperating soil and water conservation districts and other natural resource and education organizations to seek their guidance and input on the project's education activities. He may also participate in the meetings of groundwater conservation districts, school districts, local governments, landowner associations, civic organizations and other citizen groups, as appropriate and necessary, to inform and receive guidance in connection with this project. 10% of Mr. Mims time is budgeted toward Task 2.

Sky Lewey, resource protection and public education associate, will be the project leader coordinating all project tasks and having primary responsibility for Task 3, public education. Ms. Lewey will develop public service announcements, advertising, news stories, billboards, posters, fact sheets, and other printed materials. She will organize seminars and workshops and will oversee the design, construction, exhibition and demonstration of a plastic watershed model of the Nueces Basin. She will make presentations to educators and will support their efforts. She will arrange for the creation and distribution of a guide containing Nueces Basin headwater aquatic ecology and function and riparian management suggestions. She will also be responsible for conducting a survey to determine the need for future implementation of best management practices. She will also participate in Task 1 and Task 2 activities. Ms. Lewey is the recipient of the EPA sponsored 2004 National Wetland Award for Outreach and Education. 65% of Ms. Lewey's time is budgeted toward the project.

Debbie White, NRA's Director of Finance and Staff Services, will carry out the financial administration of the project. She will develop reimbursement requests, maintain and provide financial documentation and will be responsible for cost control and budget management. 10% of Ms. White's time is budgeted toward the project under Task 1.

Jew Lee Lann, Information Systems Coordinator, will provide the technical computer and multimedia support for the project. Her work will support Task 3, public education as much of the education effort planned will be produced and/or distributed via computer network or compact disk. 20% of Ms. Lann's time is budgeted toward the project.

The budget for full time salaries includes a 3% annual cost of living increase.

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It is envisioned that part of the education effort under Task 3 will require manpower over and above that available within the NRA staff. Part-time employee(s) are budgeted to fill this need. 100% of their efforts will be toward the implementation of Task 3 of this project.

**Fringe Benefits**

Nueces River Authority provides fringe benefits to its employees. Our fringe rate is currently 21.48%. No change in the fringe rate is projected over the project period.

**Travel**

Staff travel for Task 2, public participation and Task 3, public education is budgeted at \$9,000 over the project period. This includes mileage reimbursement and direct meal costs for travel by staff.

**Equipment**

A custom-made, molded plastic relief model of the Nueces Basin is budgeted as equipment for Task 3. The model will be used to demonstrate non-point source runoff.

**Supplies**

The budget for supplies field and classroom demonstration equipment, software, projection screen and supplies for demonstrating the watershed model for Task 3 education activities. This category also contains office supplies to support Task 1, 2, and 3.

**Construction**

No construction is budgeted for this project.

**Other**

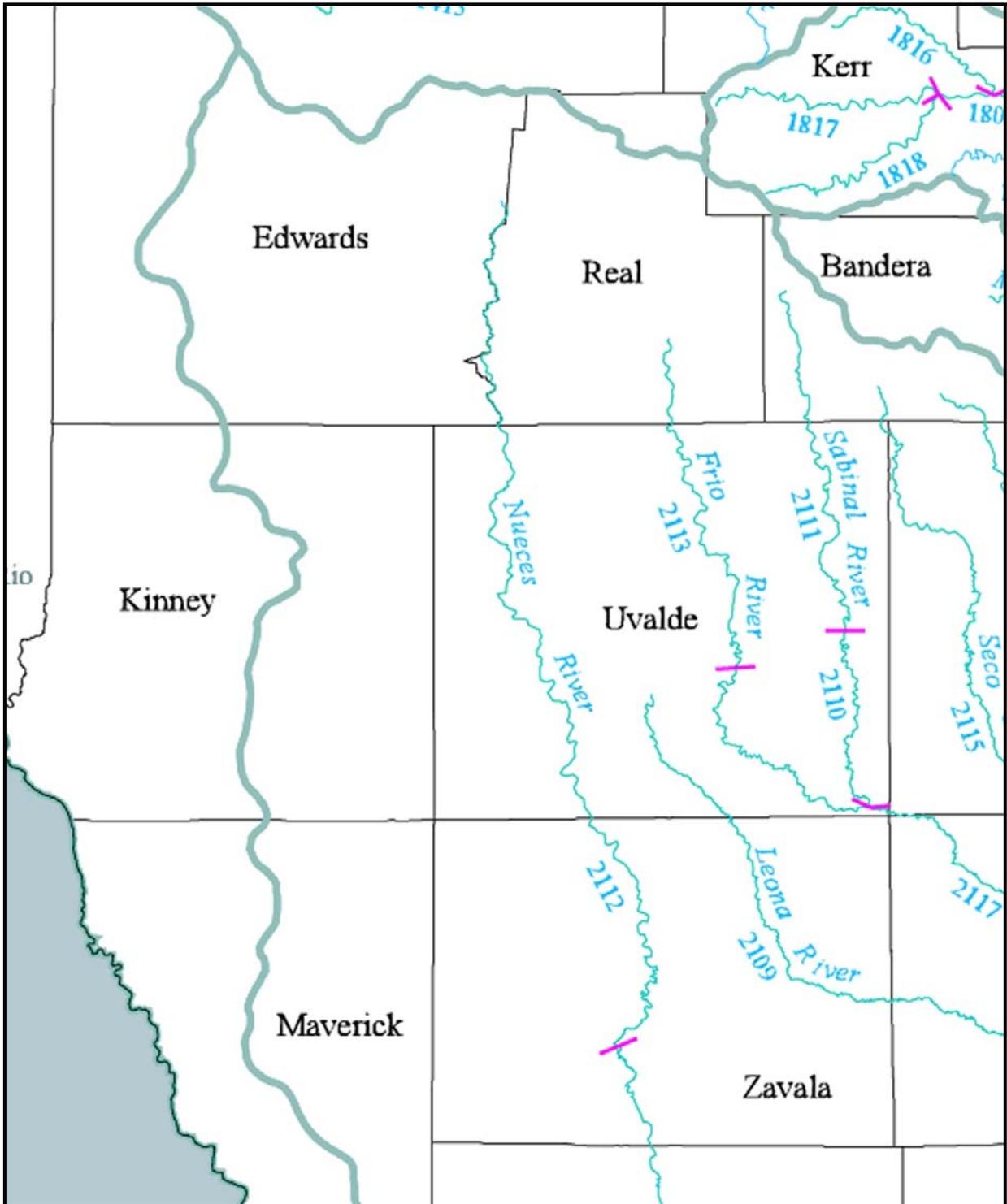
This budget category contains a large portion of the non-federal costs associated with Task 3. It includes printing, advertising, designing and producing education materials, distributing educational messages and other required services. This category includes billboard advertisement design, production and rental, production of a natural resource guide, and seminars for public and private sectors.

As non-federal match, NRA will contribute the cost of office space rent and communications needed to support the staff that will be working on this project. These costs are budgeted based on 2003 actual costs prorated to each staff member based on the percent of that staff member's participation in this project. These costs will support Task 1, 2 and 3.

**Miscellaneous**

This budget category covers unanticipated expenses.

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**Nueces Headwaters Stewardship Project Area**

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**Nueces Basin Headwater Watersheds**