



PRESS RELEASE

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UGRA Launches Water Enhancement Program

Kerrville, TX, January 28, 2010 – The Upper Guadalupe River Authority (UGRA) Board of Directors unanimously voted to approve a cost share program in Kerr County to promote water enhancement through brush management. “The launch of this program demonstrates UGRA’s commitment to supporting landowner practices that can improve our groundwater and surface water resources,” said Lana Edwards, UGRA President.

UGRA’s Water Enhancement Cost Share Pilot Program will be implemented in conjunction with the Natural Resources Conservation Service’s (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board’s (TSSWCB) Kerr County Guadalupe River Water Enhancement Project (WEP).

Numerous studies have indicated that brush control, primarily Ashe juniper removal, can help increase Edwards-Trinity Aquifer recharge, enhance springflow, and improve range and pasture land productivity. By working cooperatively, UGRA, NRCS, and Kerr County SWCD are helping landowners maximize the amount of acreage they can improve through brush management. To qualify for UGRA funding, participants must be enrolled in EQIP and/or WEP and the treated property must be within the priority watersheds of the North Fork, South Fork or Johnson Creek.

Currently, under EQIP and WEP landowners may be reimbursed for a portion of the costs associated with the removal of Ashe juniper. Under UGRA’s Water Enhancement Cost Share Pilot Program, landowners performing Ashe juniper removal may be reimbursed an additional amount for projects located in the North Fork, South Fork or Johnson Creek watersheds of the Upper Guadalupe River. UGRA reimbursement percentages for Ashe juniper removal are based on landowner payments and payable upon certified task completion.

UGRA also unveiled a video entitled “Water Enhancement through Brush Management: reclaiming resources” at Wednesday’s board meeting. The video was produced by Texas Pro Sound and Video of Kerrville and explores brush management as a method for affecting water supply. Brush removal methods are presented and experts explain the impact cedar has had on our landscape. “This documentary not only includes breathtaking images of the Guadalupe River but also compiles a wealth of information on the advantages of removing cedar and restoring native range plants,” said Karol Schreiner, UGRA Vice President and Water Enhancement Program committee chair. “We hope Kerr County residents will take advantage of both the Water Enhancement

Cost Share Pilot Program and the video to help enhance our water supply through land stewardship.”

Please contact UGRA for more information on the Water Enhancement Cost Share Pilot Program or stop by to pick up a brochure. The Water Enhancement video is available to view at UGRA and will soon be posted at ugra.org.

The Upper Guadalupe River Authority is the respected, efficient, responsive, and forthright steward of the Upper Guadalupe River and its tributaries.

Let's Keep *Our* River Clean