



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
September 6, 2024

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UGRA and LCRA Target Waterway Polluters

The Upper Guadalupe River Authority (UGRA) is pleased to announce that once again the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) has provided funding to help offset the bounty costs of hogs harvested in the Llano River drainage in northwest Kerr County. “Management of feral hogs in Kerr County is important to help protect the quality of our land and water and LCRA is pleased to participate in this effort with UGRA and Kerr County,” said Mike Allen, a member of the LCRA Board of Directors. The \$2,500 grant from LCRA is its fifth annual contribution to continue UGRA’s and Kerr County’s water quality protection program to slow the spread of feral hogs.



Pictured L-R: Mike Allen, member of the LCRA Board of Directors; Don Harris, Kerr County Commissioner, Precinct 4; and Aaron Bulkley, member of the UGRA Board of Directors.

“UGRA and Kerr County appreciate the support from LCRA to further our efforts to manage the abundance of feral hogs in Kerr County. These hogs increase their populations quickly and cause significant damage to the quality of the watershed. Since 2017, the Feral Hog Management Program has assisted Kerr County ranch owners in the removal of nearly 13,000 feral hogs,” said Aaron Bulkley, a member of the UGRA Board of Directors.

Feral hogs seek out areas along waterways to wallow in the mud and shallow water. As a result, feral hogs heavily use riparian areas, the dense band of vegetation along rivers and creeks, as travel corridors. Research has demonstrated that the loss of riparian vegetation due to rooting and trampling by feral hogs leads to increased stormwater runoff and erosion. This increased runoff in turn carries sediment into the waterway along with bacterial contamination and nutrients from hog feces. In some areas, hogs are contributing to water quality degradation so severe that the waterbody cannot support healthy recreation or aquatic life.



Feral hogs trample and root in riparian vegetation causing erosion and poor water quality.

Since 2017, UGRA and Kerr County have proactively partnered to offer competitive bounties for feral hogs and trapping assistance to encourage reduction in the feral hog population. To request a bounty payment, bring your hog tails to Kerr County Animal Services at 3600 Loop 534 in Kerrville or call (830) 257-3100. For more information, visit www.ugra.org/major-initiatives/feral-hog-management

If you would like to learn more about feral hog management, join us for the Lone Star Healthy Streams Program on September 20th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Hill Country Youth Events Center. UGRA along with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension are hosting this seminar to discuss feral hogs, watershed stewardship, small acreage conservation, and weed management. We encourage both land management professionals and rural landowners to attend. Attendance is free of charge and includes lunch sponsored by Kerr County Farm Bureau. Seating is limited so registration is required. Visit our website to register www.ugra.org/public-information/education/blog/seminar-2024.

Let's Keep Our River Clean