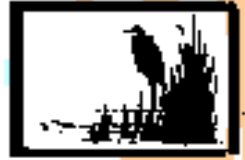


RIO BOSQUE NEWS

A newsletter reporting on events at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park

Center for Environmental Resource Management
University of Texas at El Paso



No. 42

April 2012

WATER NEWS

The rhythms of deluge and drought are instrumental in shaping Southwestern ecosystems. In wet years, plant and animal communities prosper. In dry years, they are challenged and tested.

We're now experiencing how drought affects the land at Rio Bosque. Last year was difficult. This year will likely be even more so.

The park received water for only 2.5 months this past fall and winter, and the volumes were not enough to flood many areas we normally flood. Less water at the site meant less groundwater recharge. Mid-winter groundwater levels at Rio Bosque were the lowest we've seen at that time of year since groundwater monitoring began at the park in 2001.

Now, another long, hot summer looms. Once again, instead of working to establish a functioning riparian ecosystem at Rio Bosque, we anticipate struggling

rowing season.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.riobosque.org

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The new turnout will give El Paso No. 1 the capability to deliver irrigation water to the park. For Rio Bosque to actually receive such water, we will need to develop agreements with water-rights holders who are willing to donate or sell some or all of their irrigation water for use at the park. If you fit this description, or know someone who might, we would love to discuss the possibilities with you. Please contact John Sproul (contact info to right).

Currently, the only water reliably available to the park during the growing season is the limited amount we produce from the park's well. When the well came online in 2009, its operation immediately became the park's largest single operating expense. Thanks go to the City of El Paso for providing the funds needed to operate this well.

Now, if we are successful in securing irrigation water for Rio Bosque, we can expect our water-supply costs to again increase significantly. Rio Bosque will be a customer of El Paso No. 1, and we will be paying the applicable annual taxes and water-delivery fees.

How can you help us meet these costs and bring additional water to the park? One avenue is through a tax-deductible contribution to the Rio Bosque Gift Fund. Checks, payable to UTEP, can be sent to: Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, CERM – UTEP, 500 W. University Ave., El Paso, TX 79968-0684. Please note on the check that your donation is for the Rio Bosque Gift Fund – Water. Many thanks for any support you can provide. ✎