



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Upper Guadalupe River Authority
(830) 896-5445

Taking the Fight to an Insidious Invader

The Upper Guadalupe River Authority (UGRA) is partnering with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) to manage and control a non-native, invasive plant, *Arundo donax* at no cost to landowners through a program called the Healthy Creeks Initiative.

Arundo is highly invasive and devastating to the health of Hill Country streams and rivers by worsening flooding, displacing native plants, destabilizing banks, contributing to erosion, increasing fire risk, and harboring other invasive species such as feral hogs.

The Healthy Creeks Initiative is a voluntary partnership with landowners to protect and improve water quality and habitat health along rivers and creeks in the Guadalupe River watershed. Interested streamside landowners can grant permission for TPWD to coordinate targeted, aquatic-approved herbicide application to *Arundo* on their property. This control method has the least impact on the stream ecosystem.



Landowner Harold Buell and Monica McGarrity (TPWD) discuss the large *Arundo* infestation on his property along Town Creek. "I used to be able to get down to my creek to enjoy the wildlife and beauty--I'm looking forward to seeing the creek recover," said Buell.



UGRA Natural Resources Technician, Travis Linscomb, discusses technique with the contractor treating a stand of *Arundo* along the Guadalupe River in Kerrville.

"We currently have 26

landowners and three public entities signed up for the program. We've begun treatment of those properties and will continue into the fall. This will be a multi-year program to address *Arundo* along waterways throughout Kerr County, so we encourage interested landowners to sign up for the program any time of year. Those who sign up this summer should receive treatment this year, and those who sign up later will be added to the list for treatment during summer 2019," said Tara Bushnoe, UGRA Natural Resources Coordinator.

This invasive cane is a widespread threat to our river and streams, but by working together we can help restore

healthy stream function and improve habitats in the Upper Guadalupe River watershed. To learn more about the Healthy Creeks Initiative, contact UGRA (tbushnoe@ugra.org; (830) 896-5445; <http://www.ugra.org/major-initiatives/healthy-creeks-initiative>).

Let's Keep Our River Clean