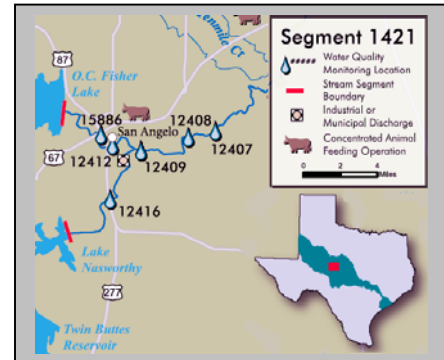


## Nonpoint Source Pollution Water Quality Project Fact Sheet

Title:	<b>Concho River Aquatic Research &amp; Education Center</b>
Water Body:	<b>Concho River Basin SS 1421</b>
Location:	<b>N. Concho River, San Angelo</b>
River Basin:	<b>Upper Colorado River Basin (14)</b>
Contractor:	<b>Upper Colorado River Authority</b>
Project Period:	<b>11.16.07 to 8.31.10</b>

### Project Summary

The Upper Colorado River Authority has developed an aquatic research and education center as recommended in the Concho River Basin Watershed Protection Plan. The research and education center is located in the highly visible downtown area. The center will help organize nonpoint source (NPS) water quality stakeholder activities and will utilize the adjacent river and BMPs to demonstrate various aquatic habitats. The center will also host various NPS workshops for teachers, elected officials, and other stakeholders as well as serve as an education center for area students, parents and school groups.



### Project Description

The Upper Colorado River Authority (UCRA) has been actively involved in watershed planning, structural BMP implementation and comprehensive NPS public outreach since 1993. Activities initially focused on urban NPS issues surrounding the severely impacted North Concho River through San Angelo. UCRA is currently focusing on basin wide NPS issues on the completion of a Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) for the entire Concho River basin. Initial findings associated with development of the watershed plan indicate that the basin is impacted or can be potentially impacted from a multitude of existing and emerging NPS sources. It is clear, however, that urban stormwater runoff from the San Angelo metropolitan area will continue to have a major impact on water quality, particularly in Segment 1421, within and downstream of the city.

Experience with the multifaceted NPS program in San Angelo has resulted in the realization that implementation of the program continues to exist through public outreach efforts. Without the development and maintenance of active partnerships, an engaged stakeholder group, highly visible BMPs, on-going contact with public officials, and continual effort to inform the public, the success of the San Angelo NPS program to date, would not have been possible.

This project has been developed to provide a workable implementation strategy for the Concho River Watershed Protection Plan. The concept was to construct an Education Center that will serve as a central meeting place and be an informational hub for the community. The center provides education and outreach, general information and a place for stakeholders and other agencies to come together and develop ideas to implement the basin wide WPP.

The Concho River Basin Aquatic Education & Research Center, locally referred to as "The Center", completed in October 2008, is fully operational and meeting the needs of the community. The finishing touches are being made on the newer displays and signage for the demonstration pond area and the Center.

The UCRA is proud of the partnerships formed with its Stakeholder Group, the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts (SAMFA), San Angelo Independent School District (SAISD), City of San Angelo (COSA) and its junior stakeholder group, "The Aqua Squad". The consistent involvement and commitment from the groups and individuals represented has proved useful in reiterating the necessity for public involvement into any successful program.

Some of the activities in the last year have included but are not limited to the following:

- Planning meetings with City of San Angelo, San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts, SAISD
- Stakeholder Meetings
- Public Forum
- Water Related Art Exhibits
- Family Days
- Teacher Workshops
- Special Student Projects
- TAKS Student Workshop
- Center Tours
- Hands on Kid Friend Activities
- School Groups

The numbers reached in the last year through the Education Center and partnerships formed are indicative of the desire of the community to protect its watershed. Numbers served since October 2008 are as follows:

- 250 students participated in tours of ponds, and center programs
- 275 middle schools students participated in 20 minute sessions which included detailed discussion of center mission, pond tour and explanation of NPS filtration systems during TAKS boot camp
- 340 adults and students participated in outreach programs
- 1350 citizens walked through center during Family Day, Art Walks, Eco Fair & General Visits
- 170 Professionals attended general meetings and grant planning meetings
- 135 Presentations were made to Boards and Professional organizations.

## Partners & Funding

Total Project Costs:	\$524,676
Federal Funds:	\$314,806
State/Local Match	\$209,870

*Clean Water Act Section 319(h) Federal dollars provided through the U.S, Environmental Protection Agency and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality paid for labor costs, contractor fees associated with the construction of the Center, supplies and funding for the day to day operations of the center.*

*Match Dollars & In-Kind Services were provided through the Upper Colorado River Authority, City of San Angelo, San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts, The Institute of Museum and Library Services, Wal-Mart Water For Texas and the San Angelo Cultural Affairs Council. Match funding has helped to provide building renovations, in-kind labor and supplies for the Center.*

**Last Updated: September 15, 2009**

**Related website(s): [www.ucratx.org](http://www.ucratx.org)**



### For More Information Contact:

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