JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2009

Sampling, testing begins on Lake Columbia watershed

ANRA staff began collecting stream samples in January for the most extensive water quality sampling and testing program ever conducted on the Lake Columbia watershed. The yearlong program is being paid for with a research grant from the Texas Water Development Board. The program is designed to take a very detailed look at the quality of the water that will become Lake Columbia. This research project will determine the possibility of relative threats to drinking water sources prior to treatment. This will provide a better understanding of how to optimize the treatment process in order to produce the best quality drinking water possible. This also allows ANRA to address potential sources of contamination, if necessary, prior to reservoir construction.

The project provides ANRA the following opportunities:

- Establish baseline water quality conditions in Mud Creek for a variety of constituents important to human health and aquatic life.
- Identify and address non-point and point source contamination if necessary, prior to the impoundment of reservoir waters.
- Evaluate the effects of urbanization in the upper watershed on water quality in Mud Creek.
- Identify and plan for processes to treat the raw water from Lake Columbia to meet drinking water standards (this is applicable to ANRA and others who might be responsible for treating raw water from Lake Columbia).
- Develop a water quality protection strategy that will benefit all users of Lake Columbia.

Matt Romig, ANRA's Clean Rivers Project Manager, collects a water sample on the Lake Columbia watershed.

Seven sampling sites have been selected to best represent the major inflows into what will become Lake Columbia. This will capture stream flows from urban areas such as the City of Tyler, as well as the surrounding rural and agricultural areas.

The sampling program tests for many components that may affect drinking water quality. These include: nutrients, herbicides, pesticides, metals, organics and petroleum byproducts, and many others. The sample sites are being tested monthly for one year. The project will look at the water quality throughout the year and how it may change depending on the season and periods of rain.

The sample sites are located on Mud Creek, as well as West Mud Creek and Kickapoo Creek (direct tributaries to Mud Creek), in Cherokee and Smith Counties. The results of this study will be submitted to the Texas Water Development Board as well as the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and posted on the ANRA website.

Holcomb serving at Interim General Manager

Kelley Holcomb, ANRA's Planning and Operations Manager, was named by the Board as the agency's interim General Manager following the retirement of Kenneth Reneau from the General Manager's position, late last year.

Holcomb began his career with ANRA in February 1991. Since that time, he has served in increasing roles of responsibility including planning for and directing the activities of ANRA's water, regional wastewater and regional compost operations. He currently serves on the Basin and Bay Area Stakeholders Committee for the Sabine and Neches Rivers and Sabine Lake.

Holcomb also is the Chair of the Region I East Texas Regional Water Planning Group, which is responsible for water planning throughout the 20 county planning area in East and Deep East Texas.

Reneau will continue working with the agency in the capacity as the Lake Columbia Project Manager.

Kelley Holcomb

Kenneth Reneau
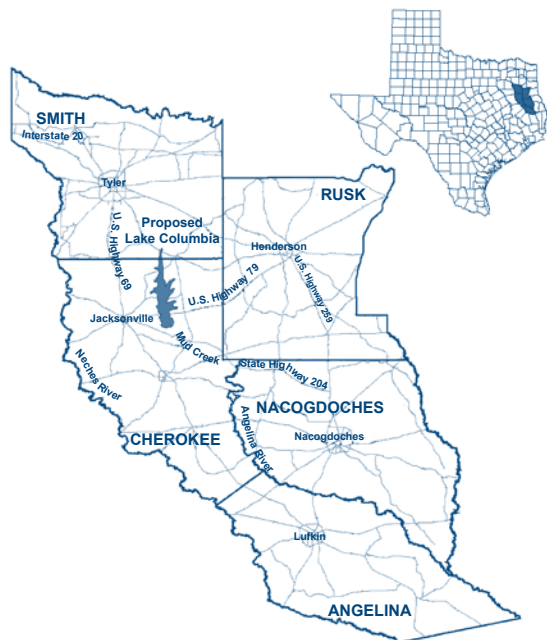
Lake Columbia Participants

City of Alto	City of New London
Afton Grove WSC	City of New Summerfield
City of Arp	North Cherokee WSC
Blackjack WSC	City of Rusk
Caro WSC	Rusk Rural WSC
Cherokee County	Stryker Lake WSC
Jackson WSC	Temple-Inland, Inc.
City of Jacksonville	City of Troup
City of Nacogdoches	City of Whitehouse