

For Immediate Release

Healthy Creeks Initiative Online Information Session planned for April 13th

(March 30, 2022) – On Wednesday, April 13th, from 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm, community members can learn about non-native, invasive plants that are encroaching on local creek banks as well as some resources available to landowners for controlling these plants effectively to improve creek and river health.

Since 2016, the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Hill Country Alliance (HCA), and other organizations have partnered with volunteering landowners through the Healthy Creeks Initiative to enhance the creek-side (or riparian) habitat along Barons Creek, Town Creek, and other portions of the Pedernales River Basin.

Controlling Arundo, commonly called giant reed or carrizo cane, has been a major focus of the Healthy Creek Initiative. Arundo, which has a cane-like stem that looks similar to bamboo, is a highly invasive, non-native grass that can grow more than 25 feet tall.

Daniel Oppenheimer, Land Program Manager at Hill Country Alliance, notes, “Landowners should not cut, mow, or bulldoze Arundo. These mechanical methods are likely to spread Arundo infestations to downstream neighbors through small fragments of the cane or root material.”

Arundo has the potential to significantly damage the health of Hill Country streams and rivers by affecting water quality and quantity, worsening flooding, displacing native plants, destabilizing banks, contributing to erosion, degrading fish and wildlife habitat, and increasing fire risk.

Over the past three years, more than 100 landowners have volunteered to participate in the Healthy Creeks Initiative to control Arundo in the Pedernales River Basin using targeted, aquatic-approved herbicide application. This control method has the least impact on the stream ecosystem and is currently being provided at no cost to the landowners.

On April 13th, community members can learn more best practices for controlling Arundo and resources available to landowners for restoring habitat along Hill Country creeks and rivers. To learn more and register for this Zoom-based webinar, please go to <https://bit.ly/HCIWebinar22> or visit the Events Calendar on hillcountryalliance.org.

The Hill Country Alliance is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to raise public awareness and build community support around the need to preserve the natural resources and heritage of the Central Texas Hill Country. Visit us at www.hillcountryalliance.org.

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