



## ABSTRACTS

Public opinion of potential new in-channel dam on the Colorado River upstream from  
Timberlake Biological Field Station

Karissa Fickle<sup>a</sup> and Robert Cavazos<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Sociology, Tarleton State University, Stephenville, TX 76402

Dams provide a variety of functions from flood control to managing the distribution of water. The purpose of this project is to determine the public opinion regarding the Colorado River Dam. The research conducted included a survey and involved the interaction between a river and its ecosystem, water law, water rights, the difference between surface water and groundwater, water conservation, the Endangered Species Act, and other topics. The relationship between the river and its ecosystem not only involved plants and animals, but also the individuals surrounding the river. Individuals are aware of how the river interacts with its surrounding environment on a daily basis. Participants of the survey were property owners, and local residents of the community. The survey yielded results in regard to authority over local water conflicts 58% agreed with state authority, 24% chose federal authority, and 18% decided on local authority. The survey also revealed that there was a unanimous decision regarding the importance of water conservation in Texas, with 100% of participants indicating water conservation to be extremely important. The survey demonstrated an abundance of people who are aware of the negative impacts that a dam has on a river. Individuals were revealed to be well informed of the legal proceedings regarding the potential Colorado River Dam.