

RESEARCH AT RIO BOSQUE

No, we're not subdividing and developing Rio Bosque. Those clusters of plastic pipes sticking out of the ground and the stakes and flagging at various locations are all connected with research UTEP faculty and students currently are conducting at the Park. Now in progress:

- Geological Sciences grad student Salma Khatun is investigating how saltcedar affects soil characteristics and structure.
- Biological Sciences grad student Ursula Sherrill is studying litter decomposition rates and bacterial community composition beneath stands of native (seepweed) and exotic (Russian thistle) early-successional vegetation.
- Drs. Vanessa Lougheed and Craig Tweedie in Biological Sciences and Rip Langford in Geological Sciences are conducting studies that will culminate in a comprehensive water budget for the Park and an interactive model capable of assessing how changes in management practices affect that budget.

Rio Bosque has great value as a research site, and that research helps us do a better job caring for the Park. By strengthening our understanding of the Park's ecosystems, it improves our ability to integrate our habitat-restoration activities with



BOSQUE BANTER

June was a good month for Eagle Scout service projects at Rio Bosque. On June 10, **Bryan Ochoa** and fellow scouts in Troop 2 installed benches along the Bosque Trail. On June 17 and 24, **Benton Leachman** and Troop 59 installed an interpretive-display panel next to Wetland Cell 2 and Wood Duck nest boxes at suitable locations in the Park.