



RECREATIONAL USE ATTAINABILITY ANALYSES



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MEETING PURPOSE



Review preliminary results of the Recreational Use Attainability Analyses (RUAAAs) survey for the San Bernard River, West Bernard Creek, and Gum Tree Branch



RUAA PURPOSE

- RUAAAs are a tool to provide information on the type of recreational use occurring in a water body and document the physical stream characteristics that affect recreational uses.
- The goal is to ensure the appropriate recreational use (or, water quality standard) is assigned to a particular water body.



WATER QUALITY STANDARDS FOR CONTACT RECREATION

Contact recreation: generally defined as any activity that involves coming into contact with water.

In 2010, TCEQ adopted changes to the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards that added two new categories of recreational use.

- Primary contact recreation

- Secondary contact recreation 1

- Secondary contact recreation 2

- Noncontact recreation

In order to determine which of the above categories is appropriate for a water body, we conduct RUAs.



HOW TO ACHIEVE THE BEST RUAAS?

- Work with local experts, landowners and stakeholder groups to identify places along the stream where recreation occurs. (SITES)
- Photographic documentation and user interviews to adequately capture the types of recreation occurring. (USERS)
- Extensive documentation of physical site characteristics and accessibility to describe recreational suitability. (STREAMS)



METHODOLOGY

Site visits were conducted on weekends and holidays (when possible) to capture recreational activities.

Full stream coverage (3 sites per 5 miles)

Surveys Include:

- Stream measurements
- Flow conditions
- Physical site conditions
- Recreational activities observed
- Site photographs
- Interviews with users





COORDINATION WITH LOCAL EXPERTS

- Local Water Quality Experts
- Landowners
- General Public
- On-site users interviewed





OUTCOMES & NEXT STEPS

- Incorporate additional public observations received at this meeting into draft report.
- Submit draft report to the TCEQ Water Quality Standards (WQS) group for review.
- WQS will release report online for public comment period.
- WQS will determine appropriate use and submit changes to EPA if needed. EPA must approve any revisions to the water quality standards.
- Future identification of impairments will be based on assigned uses.



QUESTIONS?

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