

Subsistence Flow Question

Will a sound environment be protected at sites below if we substitute the flows shown below (usually the flow exceeded 95% of the time) for the TCEQ critical flow value which we used in our environmental flow regime recommendation?

The proposed subsistence flow is usually the flow exceeded 95% of the time. Values are highlighted in yellow if I applied the rounding rules we used in our analysis or the rule that would set the minimum subsistence flow to 1 cfs.

Considerations in the BBEST's deliberation.

1. Agreeing that the change in subsistence flow will protect a sound environment will not change the BBEST report.
2. If the BBEST and stakeholders agree that the subsistence flows shown in the tables below will protect a sound environment, the TCEQ might set the environmental flow standard for subsistence flow equal to the value that the BBEST and stakeholders agree on.
3. The TCEQ might set the environmental flow standard for subsistence flow equal to the flow that was exceeded 95% of the time (or close to that value) regardless of what the BBEST and stakeholders recommend.
4. General opinion appears to be that if the BBEST and stakeholders can agree on a value and provide technical support for a value, that value has the highest probability of being adopted by the TCEQ in the environmental flow standards.
5. Critical to BBEST support: Implementation guidance suggested by BBEST is followed.
 1. If instream flow is less than the subsistence flow, no instream flow could be diverted or impounded.
 2. If instream flow is less than the low base flow, no instream flow could be diverted or impounded.
 3. During exceptionally dry conditions, a drought contingency hydrologic trigger would allow flows that are lower than the low base flow but higher than the subsistence flow, to be diverted down to the subsistence flow but no flows below the subsistence flow could be diverted or impounded.

Llano River

Subsistence value	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
BBEST environmental flow regime value (equals the TCEQ critical flow)	55	55	55	55
Proposed subsistence flow	44	35	3 (3.3)	20

Navidad River at Strane Park

Subsistence value	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
BBEST environmental flow regime value (equals the TCEQ critical flow)	4	4	4	4
Proposed subsistence flow	1 (0.85)	3 (2.8)	1 (1.2)	2 (2.2)

Tres Palacios Creek

Subsistence value	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
BBEST environmental flow regime value (equals the TCEQ critical flow)	7	7	7	7
Proposed subsistence flow	2	3 (2.5)	1 (0.75)	1 (0.78)

Pecan Bayou

Subsistence value	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
BBEST environmental flow regime value (equals the TCEQ critical flow)	2	2	2	2
Proposed subsistence flow	1 (0.25)	1 (0.37)	1 (0)	1 (0)

San Saba River

Subsistence value	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
BBEST environmental flow regime value (equals the TCEQ critical flow)	22	22	22	22
Proposed subsistence flow	29	22	3 (3.2)	13

Pedernales River

Subsistence value	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
BBEST environmental flow regime value (equals the TCEQ critical flow)	7	4	4	4
Proposed subsistence flow	7 (7.2)	4 (4.4)	1 (0)	1 (0)