

Biloxi Creek (0604M) Recreational Use Attainability Analysis Summary and Recommendation

A recreational use attainability analysis (RUAA) was conducted on Biloxi Creek (0604M) in the summer of 2014 to determine the appropriate recreational use and numeric criteria. Biloxi Creek is an unclassified intermittent water body in Angelina County, TX, approximately 28 miles in length. It is currently listed on the 2014 Texas Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Impaired Water Bodies due to elevated bacteria levels. It was initially listed in 2004.

The RUAA identified that the presumed use of primary contact recreation (PCR) for Biloxi Creek is appropriate. PCR 1 is defined in §307.3 (a) of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards as activities that are presumed to involve a significant risk of ingestion of water (e.g. wading by children, swimming, water skiing, diving, tubing, surfing, and the following whitewater activities: kayaking, canoeing, and rafting).

During the field surveys, field staff did not observe any type of recreation occurring on the stream. Five instances of personal use PCR were documented in interviews (i.e. swimming, wading by children). None of the interviewees reported witnessing or hearing of PCR activities in Biloxi Creek. Evidence of PCR activity included a tree vine used as a rope swing by children (information from property owner). Physical characteristics of the stream include an average thalweg of 0.5 meters (19.68 in), 4 pools greater than one meter deep, and normal flow. At the time of the surveys, Biloxi Creek had a mid-range Palmer drought index. Public access to Biloxi Creek was described as moderate. A trail, 3 bridge crossings, a pavilion with a barbecue pit, and ATV/RV/vehicle tracks were observed by field technicians along the stream.

Based on evidence collected during the RUAA study, the TCEQ recommends that Biloxi Creek retain its primary contact recreation use and corresponding *E. coli* geometric mean criteria of 126 colonies/100mL for the entire segment, from the confluence with the Neches River southeast of Diboll to FM 325 east of Lufkin in Angelina County, in accordance with §307.4 (j) (1) of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards.