

Leon River Below Leon Reservoir (1223) Recreational Use Attainability Analysis Summary and Recommendation

A recreational use-attainability analysis (RUAA) was conducted on the Leon River Below Leon Reservoir (1223) in the summer of 2009 to determine the appropriate recreational use and numeric criteria. The Leon River Below Leon Reservoir is a classified perennial water body in north central Texas, approximately 35 miles in length. It was identified in the 2012 Texas Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Impaired Water Bodies due to elevated bacteria levels. It was initially identified as impaired in 2006.

The RUAA identified evidence indicating the designated use of primary contact recreation (PCR) for the Leon River Below Leon Reservoir 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 three of nine individuals interviewed for the study identified PCR as a personal use and one had witnessed PCR. The average thalweg of the stream was 0.26 meters (10.24 in) and no pools greater than one meter deep were found. General public access is very limited as the creek flows primarily through private land but does have nine bridge crossings.

Due to evidence collected during the RUAA determining that PCR is an existing use, the TCEQ recommends the Leon River Below Leon Reservoir retain its PCR use and corresponding geometric mean criteria of 126 colonies *E. coli*/100mL for the entire segment, from a point immediately upstream of the confluence of Mill Branch in Comanche County to Leon Dam in Eastland County. This recommendation is in accordance with §307.4 (j)(1) of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards.