

## Brazos River Above Possum Kingdom Lake (1208) Recreational Use Attainability Analysis Summary and Recommendation

A recreational use-attainability analysis (RUAA) was conducted on the Brazos River Above Possum Kingdom Lake (Segment 1208) in the summer of 2010 to determine the appropriate recreational use and numeric criteria. The Brazos River Above Possum Kingdom Lake is a classified perennial water body in north central Texas, approximately 189 miles in length. It is currently listed on the 2010 Texas Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Impaired Water Bodies due to elevated bacteria levels, and was initially listed in 2008.

The RUAA identified evidence indicating the designated use of primary contact recreation (PCR) for the Brazos River Above Possum Kingdom Lake is appropriate. PCR is defined in §307.3 (a) (47) 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 contractors observed two individuals swimming and five individuals tubing. Interviews of residents in the watershed identified 25 personal instances of people engaging in PCR activities, with wading by children and swimming (children and adults) being the most abundant. In addition, interviewed individuals had personally witnessed 19 instances of PCR activities in the river, and had heard about 17 instances of PCR activities. Physical characteristics of the river include an average thalweg of 0.7 meters (27.56 in), presence of pools greater than one meter deep, and an average flow of 331 cubic feet per second. General public access was described as moderate, with 20 bridge crossings and three unimproved parking lots located along the 189 mile segment.

Due to evidence collected during the RUAA determining that primary contact recreation is an existing use, the TCEQ recommends the Brazos River Above Possum Kingdom Lake retain its primary contact recreation use and corresponding Enterococci geometric mean criteria of 33 colonies/100mL for the entire segment, from a point immediately upstream of the confluence of Cove Creek at Salem Bend in Young County to the confluence of the Double Mountain Fork Brazos River and the Salt Fork Brazos River in Stonewall County in accordance with §307.4 (j) (1) of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards.