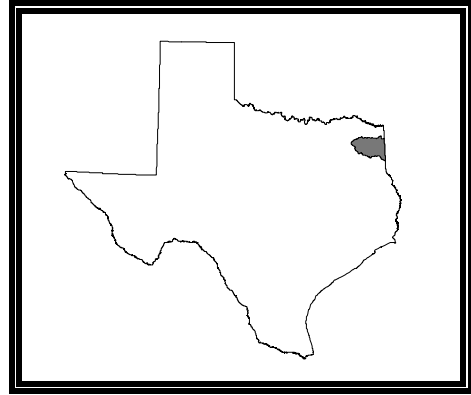


Basin 04

Cypress Creek



Cypress Creek Basin Narrative Summary

Located in northeast Texas, Cypress Creek originates in Hopkins County and flows southeast to Caddo Lake on the Texas-Louisiana state line. The total basin drainage area in Texas is 2,812 square miles.

The economy of the area is based on agriculture, paper and wood products, and steel production. Lignite and iron ore mining and oil and gas production are mineral activities occurring in the basin.

The Cypress River Basin has been divided into nine segments which consist of 181 stream miles and four major reservoirs that encompass 58,394 acres. Fifty-seven surface water monitoring stations are maintained in the basin. Major tributaries to Cypress Creek are Black Bayou, James (Jims) Bayou, and Little Cypress Creek.

Streams in the Cypress Basin periodically exhibit low dissolved oxygen concentrations. Many of the streams in this basin have sluggish flow characteristics, receive significant natural organic loads, and are heavily shaded by riparian tree cover. The discharge of treated domestic and industrial wastewaters compound these natural problems in some streams. The contact recreation use is supported in all water bodies except two. The concentration of toxic substances in sediment are a concern in four segments. Elevated concentrations of nutrients are a concern in six water bodies in the basin. Low pH is also found in several water bodies in the basin and may be partially attributed to natural conditions. Toxicity in water is a concern in Little Cypress Bayou.

The Texas Department of Health (TDH) has issued restricted-consumption advisories for Caddo Lake, Big Cypress Creek below Lake O' the Pines, and a portion of Black Cypress Bayou known as Pruitt Lake due to elevated levels of mercury in fish tissue. The advisories apply to large-mouth bass and freshwater drum in Caddo Lake and Big Cypress Creek and to all fish in Pruitt Lake. TDH has also issued a restricted-consumption advisory for Welsh Reservoir due to elevated levels of selenium in fish tissue. The advisory applies to all fish. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has recorded two fish kills in Lake Monticello.