

## Wasp Creek (1246E) Recreational Use Attainability Analysis Summary and Recommendation

A recreational use attainability analysis (RUAA) was conducted on Wasp Creek (1246E) in the summer of 2009 to determine the appropriate recreational use and numeric criteria. Wasp Creek is an unclassified intermittent water body in Williamson County, TX, approximately 22 miles in length. It is currently listed on the 2012 Texas Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Impaired Water Bodies due to elevated bacteria levels. It was initially listed in 2002.

The RUAA identified that the presumed use of primary contact recreation (PCR) for Wasp Creek should be revised to secondary contact recreation 1 (SCR 1). SCR applies to water bodies where water recreation can occur, but the nature of the recreation does not involve a significant risk of ingestion. SCR 1 applies to intermittent and perennial freshwaters where site-specific information demonstrates that primary contact recreation has little to no likelihood of occurring due to physical characteristics of the water body such as shallow depths or lack of pools.

During the field surveys, field staff did not observe any type of recreation occurring on the stream. Interviews with water resource professionals familiar with the watershed could not confirm any type of recreation that occurs on the stream. One game warden stated that there was a park on the stream and people use it but it appears that he was referring to Tonk Creek (Segment 1246D), the stream Wasp Creek flows into. According to aerial photos and GIS, Tonkawa Falls Park is located on Tonk Creek, just upstream of the confluence with Wasp Creek. No park on Wasp Creek could be documented through research or aerial photos. Physical characteristics of the stream include an average thalweg of 0.39 meters (15.35 in) and pools greater than one meter deep. Public access is described as very limited with the stream flowing through private land in a rural area.

Naturally low water levels decrease the likelihood of PCR use. Wasp Creek has a shallow average depth and no evidence of PCR, supporting reclassification to SCR1. In accordance with §307.4 (j)(3)(C) of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards, the TCEQ recommends a reclassification from PCR to SCR1 with the corresponding geometric mean of 630 colonies *E. coli*/100mL for all of Wasp Creek, from the confluence with Tonk Creek in Crawford in McLennan County, upstream to the headwaters in Coryell County, 0.15 mile east of FM 185. This reclassification is appropriate due to “natural, ephemeral, intermittent low flow conditions or water levels” in accordance with reasons specified in 40 CFR §131.10(g)(2).

Prior to changing the currently assigned recreational use of Wasp Creek in the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards, the TCEQ would provide additional public notice and opportunity for public comment. In addition, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency would review this proposed change under the provisions of the federal Clean Water Act.

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