

## Woodhollow Branch (1255G) Recreational Use Attainability Analysis Summary and Recommendation

A recreational use-attainability analysis (RUAA) was conducted on Woodhollow Branch (1255G) in the summer of 2009 to determine the appropriate recreational use and numeric criteria. Woodhollow Branch is an unclassified intermittent water body in north central Texas, approximately 4 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 Woodhollow Branch should be revised to secondary contact recreation 2 (SCR 2). 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 2 applies to water bodies where water recreation activities do not involve a significant risk of ingestion and where activities occur less frequently than for secondary contact recreation 1 due to physical characteristics of the water body or limited public access.

During the field surveys, field staff did not observe any type of recreation occurring on the stream, nor did they find any evidence of recreation. Landowners interviewed had not seen nor heard of any recreation occurring on the stream, and one stated it had been dry since 1998. All others interviewed did not know of any recreation occurring on the stream. Physical characteristics of the stream include an average thalweg of 0.01 meters (0.39 in), no substantial pools, and no flow. Public access is very limited. There are three road crossings and the stream flows predominately through private lands.

Naturally low water levels and limited accessibility decrease the likelihood of PCR use. Woodhollow Branch is extremely shallow and has few public road crossings, supporting reclassification to SCR 2. In accordance with §307.4 (j)(3)(C) of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards, the TCEQ recommends a reclassification from PCR to SCR 2 with the corresponding geometric mean of 1030 colonies *E. coli*/100mL for all of Woodhollow Branch, from its confluence with the South Fork of the North Bosque River, 6 miles northwest of Stephenville, upstream to its headwaters, 1.5 miles north of FM 219 in Erath County, excluding SCS site 9 reservoir. 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 Woodhollow Branch 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.