

Plum Creek (1221E) Recreational Use Attainability Analysis Summary and Recommendation

A recreational use-attainability analysis (RUAA) was conducted on Plum Creek (1221E) in the summer of 2009 to determine the appropriate recreational use and numeric criteria. Plum Creek is an unclassified perennial water body in central Texas, approximately 26 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. It was initially listed in 1996.

The RUAA identified evidence indicating the designated use of primary contact recreation (PCR) for Plum Creek 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).

Three out of four interviews with landowners identified PCR activities as a personal use. In addition, one landowner had also witnessed and heard of swimming on the creek. A rope swing was also found on the creek indicating PCR activity. Physical characteristics of the stream include an average thalweg of 0.43 meters (16.93 in) and presence of pools greater than one meter deep. Public access is limited to eight bridge crossings, however interviews indicate the stream is used frequently by streamside landowners.

Due to evidence collected during the RUAA determining that PCR is an existing use, the TCEQ recommends the Plum Creek retain its PCR use and corresponding geometric mean criteria of 126 colonies *E. coli*/100mL for the entire segment, from its confluence with the Leon River in Coryell county, upstream to its headwaters 2.4 miles east of US Hwy 281 in Hamilton County. This recommendation is in accordance with §307.4 (j)(1) of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards.