

Pond Creek (1242F) Recreational Use Attainability Analysis Summary and Recommendation

A recreational use-attainability analysis (RUAA) was conducted on Pond Creek (1242F) in the summer of 2012 to determine the appropriate recreational use and numeric criteria. Pond Creek is an unclassified perennial water body in central Texas, approximately 28 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 2010.

The RUAA identified evidence indicating the designated use of primary contact recreation (PCR) for Pond Creek is appropriate. PCR 1 is defined in §307.3 (a) 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 four individuals interviewed for the study identified PCR as a personal use and two had observed PCR on the stream. Two individuals had also heard of PCR on Pond Creek. Physical characteristics of the stream include an average thalweg of 0.29 meters (11.42 in) and nine pools greater than one meter deep. Although no publicly owned recreational areas were found on the stream public access is described as moderate.

Due to evidence collected during the RUAA determining that PCR is an existing use, the TCEQ recommends the Pond Creek retain its PCR use and corresponding geometric mean criteria of 126 colonies *E. coli*/100mL for the entire segment, from the confluence with the Brazos River in Milam County up to the confluence with Live Oak Creek in Falls County. This recommendation is in accordance with §307.4 (j)(1) of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards.