

## Rush-Copperas Creek (1222B) Recreational Use Attainability Analysis Summary and Recommendation

A recreational use-attainability analysis (RUAA) was conducted on Rush-Copperas Creek (1222B) in the summer of 2012 to determine the appropriate recreational use and numeric criteria. Rush-Copperas Creek is an unclassified intermittent water body in central Texas, approximately 32 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 2006.

The RUAA identified evidence indicating the designated use of primary contact recreation (PCR) for Rush-Copperas 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 10 individuals interviewed for the study identified PCR as a personal use and four had observed swimming on the stream. Five individuals had heard of PCR on the Rush-Copperas Creek and an inner tube and a child's toy were found on the bank. Physical characteristics of the stream include an average thalweg of 0.52 meters (20.47 in) and 11 pools greater than one meter deep. Public access is described as moderate with two publicly owned recreational areas on the stream.

Due to evidence collected during the RUAA determining that PCR is an existing use, the TCEQ recommends Rush-Copperas Creek retain its PCR use and corresponding geometric mean criteria of 126 colonies *E. coli*/100mL for the entire segment, from the confluence of Proctor Lake northeast of Comanche in Comanche County to the upstream perennial portion of the stream northwest of Comanche in Comanche County. This recommendation is in accordance with §307.4 (j)(1) of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards.