

Sabana River (1222C) Recreational Use-Attainability Analysis Summary and Recommendation

A recreational use-attainability analysis (RUAA) was conducted on Sabana River (1222C) in the summer of 2016 to determine the appropriate recreational use and numeric criteria. Sabana River is an unclassified intermittent water body in Eastland and Comanche counties, TX, approximately 75 miles in length. It is currently listed on the 2018 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 that the presumed use of primary contact recreation 1 (PCR 1) for Sabana River 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, handfishing, and the following whitewater activities: kayaking, canoeing, and rafting).

During the field surveys, field staff did not observe any type of recreation occurring on the stream. Field staff interviewed 92 stakeholders and landowners. Seventeen instances of personal use PCR were documented in interviews (i.e. swimming, wading children, tubing). PCR was reported as an observed use in nine interviews and a heard of use in four interviews. Physical characteristics of the stream include an average thalweg of 0.48 meters (18.89 in), and 30 pools greater than one meter deep. At the time of the surveys flow ranged from no flow to high. At the time of the surveys, Sabana River had a Palmer Drought Severity Index of extremely moist. Public access to Sabana River is moderate. The river is accessible from twenty-six bridges.

Based on evidence collected during the RUAA study, the TCEQ recommends that Sabana River retain its primary contact recreation 1 use and corresponding *E. coli* geometric mean criteria of 126 colonies/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 Rising Star in Eastland County, in accordance with §307.4 (j) (1) of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards.