

Lilly Creek (0409A) within the Cypress Creek River Basin Recreational Use-Attainability Analysis Summary and Recommendation

A recreational use-attainability analysis (RUAA) was conducted on Lilly Creek (0409A) in the summer of 2021 to determine the appropriate recreational use and numeric criteria. Lilly Creek is an unclassified intermittent with pools water body in Upshur and Camp Counties, TX, approximately 20 miles in length. It is currently listed on the 2024 Texas Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Impaired Water Bodies due to elevated bacteria levels. It was initially listed in 2016.

The RUAA identified that the presumed use of primary contact recreation 1 (PCR1) for Lilly Creek should be revised to primary contact recreation 2 (PCR2). PCR2 applies to where site-specific information demonstrates that water recreational activities such as swimming or wading by children can occur, but it occurs less frequently than PCR1 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. A total of four interviews were conducted with stakeholders and landowners. Four interviews reported that they have used the stream personally, seen or have heard of others use the stream for hunting and/or fishing. One interview stated there were possible rumors of swimming in the early 1990's but was not able to substantiate this claim since interviewee stated they did not believe this to be true, therefore was not considered PCR evidence.

Lilly Creek's public access is limited to only alternate public access sites such as public road crossings. It had an average stream thalweg of 0.59 meters (23.2 inches) during the first survey and 0.34 meters (13.4 inches) during the second survey. Lilly Creek had 1 persistent pool ≥ 1 meter deep at a public road crossing site that was present during the first and second survey, and it had a temporary pool ≥ 1 meter deep at two other public road crossing sites that were only present during the first survey. Stream flow was considered normal at all sites during the first survey then low to no flow during the second survey. The Palmer Drought Severity Index was moderately moist during the first survey and very moist during the second survey. Stream bank access was rated moderately easy to moderately difficult in many locations, due to steep banks and thick vegetation.

Due to having no primary contact recreational activities reported but has public access at only public road crossings with sufficient water depths, this evidence supports a reclassification to PCR2. In accordance with §307.4(j)(3)(C) of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards, TCEQ recommends a reclassification from PCR1 to PCR2 with the corresponding geometric mean of 206 colonies *E. coli*/100mL for all of Lilly Creek, from the confluence with Little Cypress Creek to the Camp County line near Lawton in Upshur County. This reclassification is appropriate due to "Natural, ephemeral, intermittent or low flow conditions or water levels prevent the attainment of the use" in accordance with reasons specified in 40 CFR §131.10(g)(2).

Prior to changing the currently assigned recreational use of Lilly Creek in the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards, 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.