

Honey Grove Creek (0202L) within the Red River Basin Recreational Use-Attainability Analysis Summary and Recommendation

A recreational use-attainability analysis (RUAA) was conducted on Honey Grove Creek (0202L) in the summer of 2021 to determine the appropriate recreational use and numeric criteria. Honey Grove Creek is an unclassified intermittent water body in Fannin County, TX, approximately 11 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 Honey Grove 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 three interviews were conducted with stakeholders and landowners, in which no recreation occurring on the stream was reported.

Honey Grove Creek's public access is limited to only alternate public access location such as public road crossings. One site was flooded and unable to be surveyed due to the creation of Bois d'Arc Lake. Bois d'Arc Lake opened in 2024 for recreational water activities to include primary contact recreational activities such as water skiing and swimming. Honey Grove Creek had an average stream thalweg of 0.34 meters (13.4 inches) during the first survey and 0.13 meters (5.12 inches) during the second survey. Honey Grove Creek had no substantial pools. Stream flow was considered normal at all sites during both surveys. The Palmer Drought Severity Index was considered mid-range during both surveys. Stream bank access was rated moderately difficult to difficult, due to steep banks and thick vegetation.

Due to Honey Grove Creek having low water depths and no reported primary contact recreational activities but flowing into Bois d'Arc Lake that has known PCR activities, this evidence supports a reclassification of the creek 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 Honey Grove Creek, from the confluence of Bois d'Arc Lake upstream to the headwater east of Honey Grove. This reclassification is appropriate due to "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 Honey Grove 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.