

Recreational Use Attainability Analysis for Mud Creek

Website: <http://tiaer.tarleton.edu/ruaa>

Mud Creek

Mud Creek is a tributary of the Red River, and flows 35.5 miles east from 2 miles east of the community of Avery to the confluence with the Red River 3 miles southeast of the Arkansas/Oklahoma border. The watershed includes approximately 54,400 acres. Mud Creek is one of many rural waterbodies listed on the *Texas 303(d) List* due to elevated levels of *E. coli*, indicator bacteria found in warm-blooded animals. These indicator bacteria are used to assess the possible presence of pathogens that would limit the contact recreation use of a waterbody. Mud Creek is also listed as impaired for depressed dissolved oxygen with concerns for elevated chlorophyll-a and ammonia.

The Mud Creek watershed is mostly rural. Land-use is predominantly cropland, woodland, and pastureland. The City of DeKalb is the only city within the watershed, and has an estimated population of 1,699. Mud Creek was first listed as having a bacteria impairment for contact recreation on the *2002 Texas 303 (d) List*, and remains on the *2012 Texas 303 (d) List*.

Funding

Funding for this project is provided through a State Nonpoint Source Grant from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board. The Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research at Tarleton State University is the managing entity for this recreational use attainability analysis. The project period extends from November 1, 2013 through October 31, 2015.

Public Participation

Local landowner cooperation and input from the public is crucial to identify and provide access to sampling locations and areas most likely used for contact recreation and providing historical information. Local city/county officials, landowners, as well as the general public will be consulted on their knowledge of how the stream is being used. Public meetings will be held during the project to allow stakeholders to provide input and acquire information as the study moves forward.

Project Objectives

- Conduct a Recreational Use Attainability Analysis to document factors that support or hinder recreational use and the actual level, if any, and types of recreational use occurring
- Facilitate public participation and involvement throughout project activities so that stakeholders make informed decisions about the future of their watershed



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