



**Texas Institute** *for*  
**Applied Environmental**  
**RESEARCH**  
TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

# Lower Prairie Dog Town Fork Red River

## Recreational Use Attainability Analysis Summary of Findings & Public Comment

Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research  
Stephenville, Texas

June 26 – 28, 2017



# Project Partners

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- Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)
- Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research (TIAER)



# TSSWCB

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- Provide state oversight
- Management and coordination of project activities
  - Project partners
  - Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
- Provide project funding



# TIAER

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- Project administration
- Develop & maintain stakeholder relations
- Perform RUAA survey activities
- GIS inventory
- Facilitate meetings
- Develop final technical reports



# The Texas 303 (d) List

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- Requirement of the Clean Water Act
- Texas 303 (d) List of Impaired Water bodies
  - Developed by TCEQ to summarize the condition of the state's surface waters, including concerns for public health, fitness for use by aquatic species and other wildlife, and specific pollutants and their possible sources.



# Bacteria Impairment

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- The Lower Prairie Dog Town Fork Red River is not meeting the water quality standard for primary contact recreation
  - Due to elevated levels of bacteria, *E. coli*.
  - Requires action to meet the standards that are set by the State of Texas and EPA.



# RUAA

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- One method of removing the Lower Prairie Dog Town Fork Red River from the impaired list for bacteria
  - Assess if the recreational standard is appropriate
    - Recreational use attainability analysis (RUAA)



# Purpose of RUAA

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- To determine if primary contact recreation is the correct use or if another recreational use category may be more appropriate.

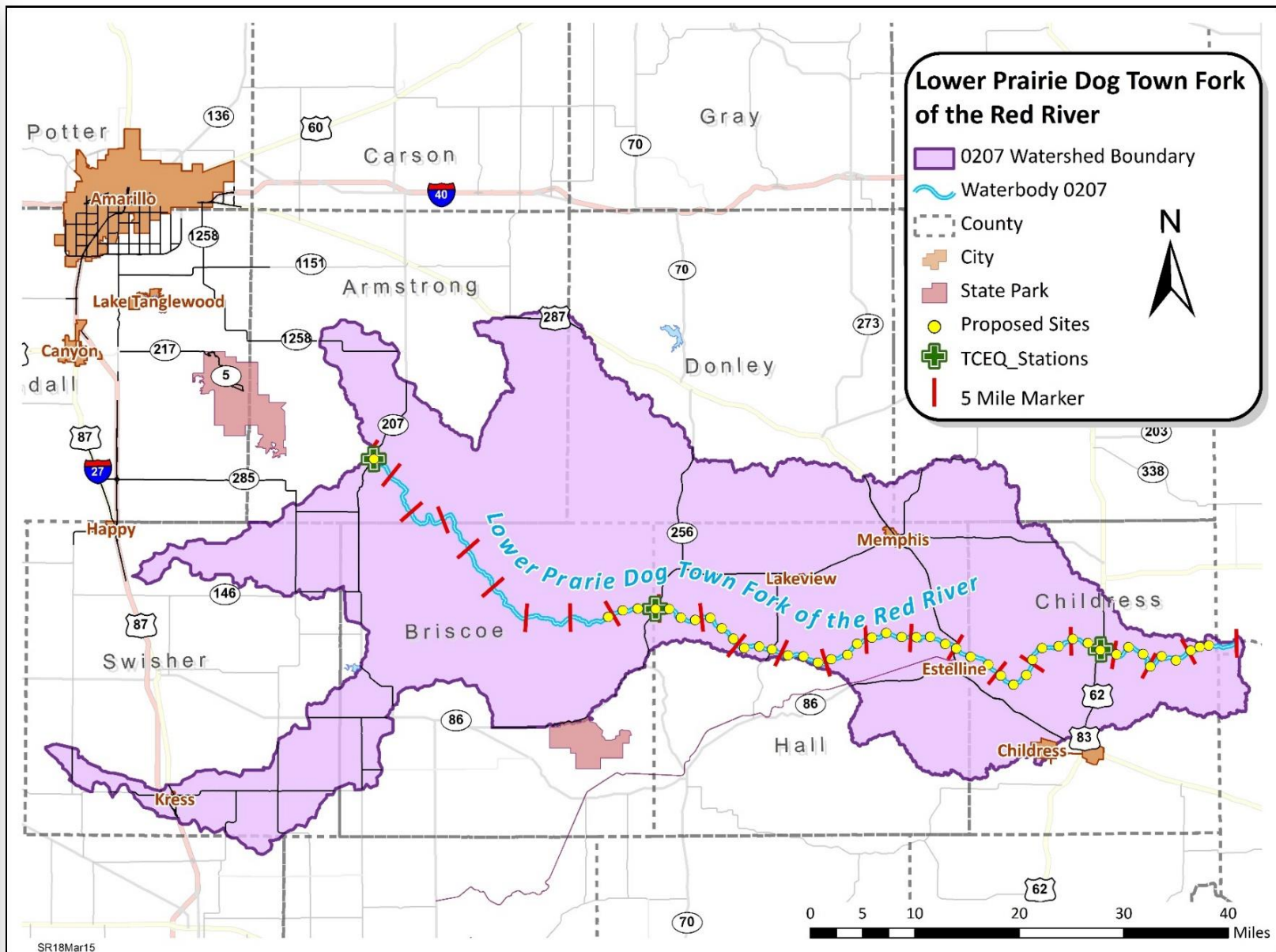


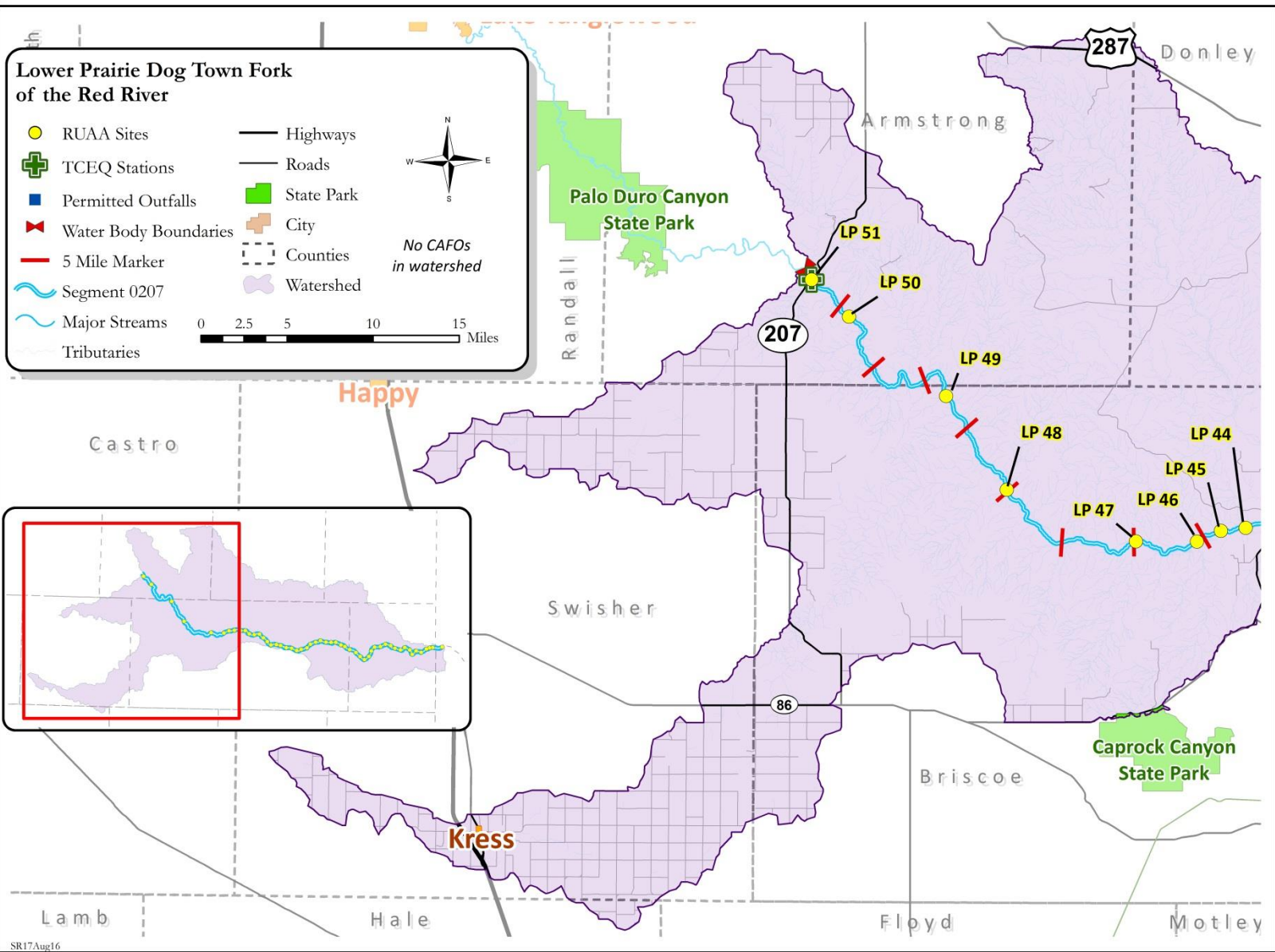
# Why we chose this approach

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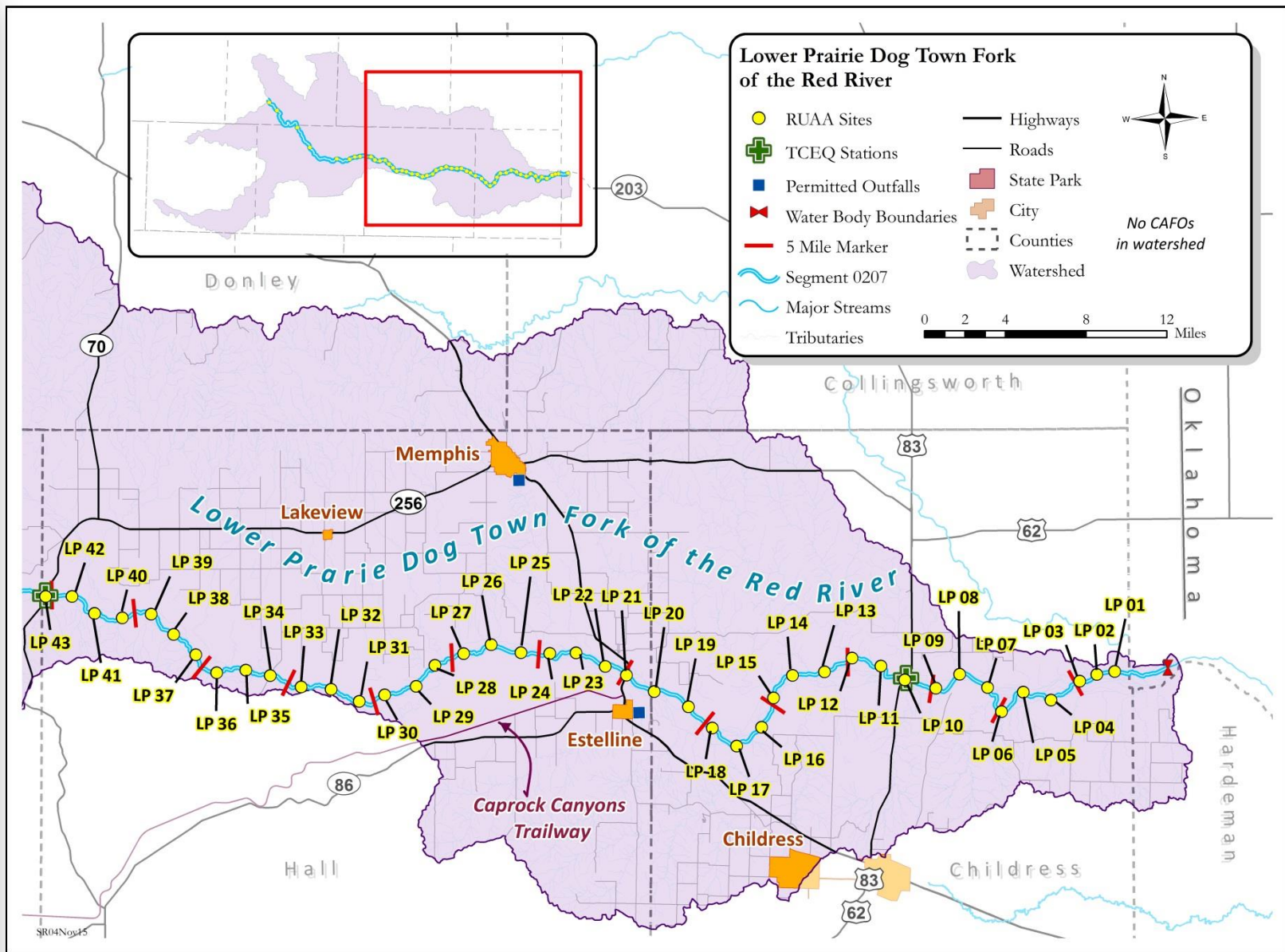
- Once on the 303(d) List, action is required by the state
  - Viable Candidate
  - The Most Cost Effective
  - Non Regulatory Approach
  - State Led, Not Federal











# Findings from the RUAA Survey

- Lower Prairie Dog Town Fork Red River (0207)
- Conducted:
  - **March 27, 2017: Sites LP10, LP21, LP34, LP43, and LP51**
  - **May 2 – 4, 2017: private property sites**
- Summary
  - Insufficient water for swimming, boating, and/or fishing
  - Dominant substrate is sand with many areas of quicksand
  - Many deposits of salt were observed on the streambed
  - Evidence of recreation only included that with ATVs



# Lower Prairie Dog Town Fork Red River Photographs

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**TIAER ATV stuck in quicksand during a reconnaissance trip**



**TIAER ATV stuck in quicksand while traveling with a landowner to an RUAA site**



# Lower Prairie Dog Town Fork Red River Photographs

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300 m upstream at LP10



Lower Prairie Dog Town Fork Red River on private property near LP17 – across the stream view

# Lower Prairie Dog Town Fork Red River Photographs

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Lower Prairie Dog Town Fork Red River on private property near LP20 – across the stream view



Right bank view at LP21 300 – m transect



# Lower Prairie Dog Town Fork Red River Photographs

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Lower Prairie Dog Town Fork Red River on private property above LP26 – downstream view



Lower Prairie Dog Town Fork Red River on private property at LP28 – downstream view

# Lower Prairie Dog Town Fork Red River Photographs

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Lower Prairie Dog Town Fork Red River on private property above LP29 – upstream view



Lower Prairie Dog Town Fork Red River on private property below LP33 – across the stream view

# Lower Prairie Dog Town Fork Red River Photographs

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Upstream view of LP on private property  
below site LP43



0 m downstream at LP43



# Lower Prairie Dog Town Fork Red River Photographs

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Left bank view at the 300 – m transect  
of LP43



150 m downstream at LP51

# Next Steps

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- Public Comment Period
  - Open from NOW – July 26, 2017
    - Please take this opportunity to review the Lower Prairie Dog Town Fork Red River RUAA Report
    - Provide comments
    - Report can be viewed:  
<http://tiaer.tarleton.edu/ruaa/lower-prairie-dog-town.html>



# Contact Information

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# Questions?

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## Project Website:

<http://tiaer.tarleton.edu/ruaa/lower-prairie-dog-town.html>

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Leah Taylor

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