Choctaw and Iron Ore Creeks

Recreational Use Attainability Analysis
Summary of Findings

Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research
Stephenville, Texas

July 14, 2014
Project Partners

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

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

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

• Collect information that will:
  1. Confirm or deny primary contact recreation
  2. Document any evidence of recreational uses of Choctaw and Iron Ore Creeks

• Recreational Use Categories:
  1. Primary Contact Recreation
  2. Secondary Contact Recreation 1
  3. Secondary Contact Recreation 2
  4. Noncontact Recreation
How did we get here?

- Choctaw and Iron Ore Creeks are 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.
Texas 303 (d) List

– Requirement of the Clean Water Act
– 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.
Why we chose this approach

• Once on the 303(d) List, action is required by the state
• Viable candidate
• Cost Effective
• Non Regulatory approach
• State Led, Not Federal
Impaired Stream Segments

• Choctaw Creek (0202F)
  – 2010 Texas Water Quality 303(d) List
    • Bacteria

• Iron Ore Creek (0202K)
  – 2010 Texas Water Quality 303(d) List
    • Bacteria
RUAA Survey Sites Locations

Choctaw Creek and Iron Ore Creek Watersheds
- Segments 0202F & 0202K
- Major Streams
- Tributaries
- Lake or Pond
- Highways
- Other Roads
- City
- County

Map showing survey sites in the Choctaw Creek and Iron Ore Creek Watersheds with annotations for various water bodies and roads.
## RUAA Survey Sites Locations - Choctaw Creek

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TCEQ ID</th>
<th>Site ID</th>
<th>Site Description</th>
<th>Latitude</th>
<th>Longitude</th>
<th>Distance from Previous Site (mi)</th>
<th>Distance from Confluence (mi)</th>
<th>Access</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CH01</td>
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## RUAA Survey Sites Locations - Iron Ore Creek

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<th>Site Description</th>
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<th>Longitude</th>
<th>Distance from Previous Site (mi)</th>
<th>Distance from Confluence (mi)</th>
<th>Access</th>
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Findings for First RUAA Survey

- Choctaw Creek
- Conducted May 16th – 18th, 2014

- Summary
  - Limited water for recreation
  - No direct recreation observed
  - Limited public access, mostly private property
Choctaw Creek Photographs

Upstream CH01

Downstream CH01
Choctaw Creek Photographs

Beaver Track CH05

Fishing Tackle and Poison Ivy CH05
Choctaw Creek Photographs

Left Bank CH10

Right Bank CH10
Choctaw Creek Photographs

Steep Left Bank CH15

Steep Right Bank CH15
Findings for First RUAA Survey

• Iron Ore Creek
• Conducted May 17\textsuperscript{th}, 2014

• Summary
  – Limited water for recreation
  – No direct recreation observed
  – Limited public access, mostly private property
Iron Ore Creek Photographs

Downstream IO_01

Upstream IO_01
Iron Ore Creek Photographs

Left Bank IO_04  Right Bank IO_04
Iron Ore Creek Photographs

Upstream IO_05

Obstruction IO_05
Iron Ore Creek Photographs

Downstream IO_06

Upstream IO_06
Next Steps

• Interviews – on-going
  – Collecting feedback on current and past recreational uses of Choctaw/Iron Ore Creeks

Interview Forms can be requested from TIAER or found online at

http://tiaer.tarleton.edu/ruaa/index.html
Contact Information

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Questions?

Project Website:

http://tiaer.tarleton.edu/ruaa/index.htm

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