

Contact Recreation Uses and Recreational Use-Attainability Analyses (RUAAAs)

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Proposed Contact Recreation Uses

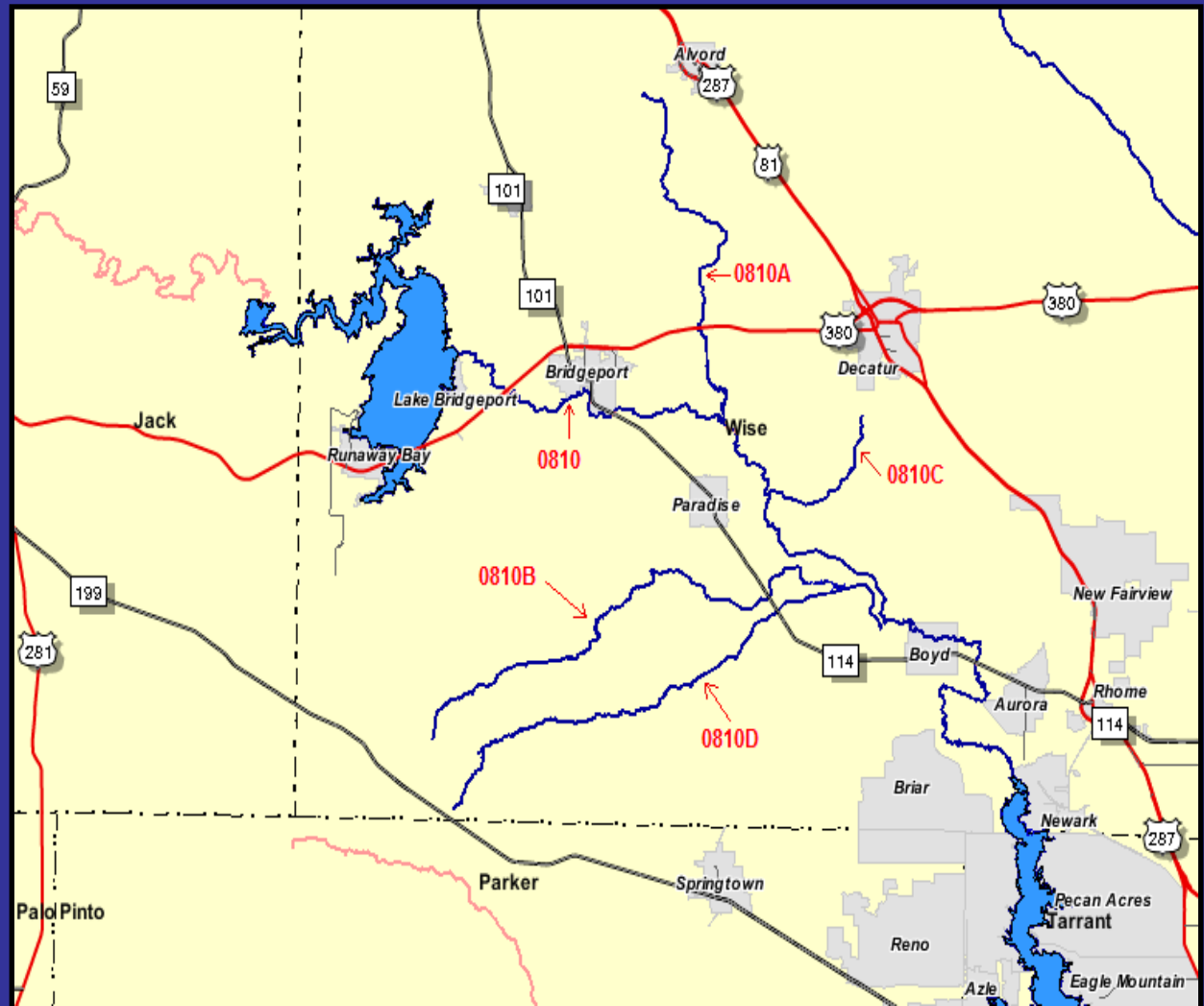
Category	Definition Summary
Primary Contact*	Significant risk of ingestion (immersion activities) – swimming, diving, water skiing, etc.
Secondary Contact - 1	No significant risk of ingestion (non-immersion activities) – wading, fishing, etc. Generally, stream depth < 0.5 meters
Secondary Contact - 2	No significant risk of ingestion; recreational activities occur less frequently because of physical characteristics or limited access
Non-Contact*	Contact recreation should not occur because of unsafe conditions – heavy ship traffic, waterfowl area, etc.

* Current WQS (2000) Contact Recreation Uses



Segment*/Description

0810	West Fork Trinity River Below Bridgeport Reservoir
0810A	Big Sandy Creek
0810B	Garrett Creek
0810C	Martin Branch
0810D	Salt Creek



*All streams are on the Texas 2008 303(d) List for not meeting their contact recreation uses due to exceedances of indicator bacteria (*E. coli*) criteria.



Why RUAAAs?

- Standardized mechanism for capturing information on the types of recreational uses occurring in a water body.
- Document physical stream characteristics that affect recreational uses.
- Document observed, historical, and anecdotal recreational uses.
- Data used for regulatory decision-making about recreational use characterization.



How to Achieve the Best RUAAAs?

- Work with local experts and stakeholder groups to identify all locations along the stream where recreation occurs.
- Photographic documentation, user interviews, and historical reviews to adequately and completely capture the types of recreational uses at each site.
- Extensive documentation of physical site characteristics and accessibility to describe suitability for recreational uses.



Outcomes

- Early identification of obvious primary contact recreation on impaired water bodies (helps to prioritize TMDL activity).
- Completed RUAAs used by TCEQ Water Quality Standards to assign updated recreational uses, if appropriate, in the 2013 Standards revisions.
- EPA must approve revisions to WQS.
- Future WQ assessments (2014?, 2016?) identify impairments based on updated uses and criteria.

