Texas Instream Flow Program
Middle & Lower Brazos River Update Meetings
Bryan, TX - June 11, 2008
Rosenberg, TX - June 12, 2008

Small Group Break-out Sessions Responses:

- Input from each breakout group is summarized below, grouped according to topic (topics were generated by agency staff after grouping responses with similar ideas).
- Duplicate and similar ideas have been summarized and recorded only once.

Question posed: What do you value about the Brazos?

Natural beauty and aesthetics
Beauty and aesthetic value

Maintenance of the natural environment in and along the river
Habitat for wildlife, fish, and plants
Soil, sediment and banks of the river
Exchange of nutrients between river and floodplain, upstream and downstream
Stream bank stability
Keep river natural
Maintain riparian and other flood prone areas
Erosion/riparian corridor/buffers
Ecosystems and eco-balance

Maintenance of the natural environment along the coast
Effect on bay and estuaries
Sediment transport downstream to beaches
Freshwater inflows/saltwater intrusion - mix of water to support diverse ecosystem

Features of water flow
Flow/flood control
Drainage of river to prevent flooding
Tributaries – their value to the Brazos
Flow to control saltwater intrusion
Quantity of water

Recreation
Water for recreational use
Fishing
Hunting including duck hunting
Boating and canoeing,
Access to river

Water for humans and economic development
Surface water rights
Water for human uses including the following uses

- Irrigation
- Industrial and commercial
- Drinking water
- Livestock watering
- Electricity generation

Resource for future
Ecotourism
Economic value, jobs and growth
Physical resources – sand and gravel
Essential for drainage
Resource for teaching and research

<u>Ecosystem Services</u>
Cleanliness, water quality
Flood control
High water quality
Conveyance for wastewater

<u>Historical/cultural resource</u>
Historic/culture resources
Historical significance
Family heritage
Emotional and spiritual renewal

<u>Connectivity with Groundwater</u>
Alluvial flow (underground flow) – connectivity to water supply
Groundwater recharge
Control subsidence and groundwater reduction

Concerns Identified by Small Group Participants

Although not tasked specifically to do so, some participants also identified concerns related to the river. These are recorded below for your information:

Source of nutrient input – agriculture
Dams and dam management, need more opportunities for silt flow
Illegal trash dumping [is a hindrance to maintaining the natural environment]
Erosion control and sediment deposition e.g. blocking San Bernard
Development in flood prone areas
Conservation, not wasting this valuable resource
Preservation of the resource for future
Loss of property
River safety (undertow/currents)
Flood avoidance – floods are a danger to people and environment, cause erosion