River Access and Conservation Areas
Program Updates

NETX Conservation Delivery Network
Committee Meeting
September 15, 2020
River Access & Conservation Areas (RACA)

- 18 leased access fishing sites
- Access to ~200 river miles
- Improved access or habitat conservation project at 9 sites

**PUBLIC LEASE ACCESS FISHING SITE**

Supported by:

- Texas Parks & Wildlife
- USDA
- Texas Parks & Wildlife Foundation

**Texas River Access Sites**

**Nueces River**
1. Camp Pamoque

**Guadalupe River**
2. Camp Huaco Springs

**San Marcos River**
3. San Marcos River Retreat

**Colorado River**
4. WJF River Access
5. Hidden Shores
6. Texas River School

**Llano River Basin**
7. Kingsland Slab RV
8. HR Seventh Heaven
9. Castell Crossing
10. Maso Llan Rd Access
11. Pete’s Pecan Patch
12. CR 150, Junction

**Brazos River**
13. Spivey Crossing RV Park
14. Dick’s Canoes

**Neches River**
15. Chandler River Park

**Sabine River**
16. Grand Bluff Boat Ramp

**Devils River** *Not pictured*
- Mile 12 Paddler Camp
- Mile 20 Paddler Camp
RACA Funding

- Sport Fish Restoration Act – Boating Access Grant
  - Grant award of $270,000 for 2021 - 2023
- Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP)
  - Combined grant award of $1,830,995 with Public Hunting Access
  - RACA portion of $824,600 for 2021 - 2024
- Texas River Conservation License Plate sales
  - Typically ~$20,000 for river access or habitat improvement projects
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation
Anticipate adding 20-25 new RACA sites over the next 3-4 years

Considering properties statewide

Lacking sites in East and North Texas

Recent Request for Applications (RFA)
Request for Applications (RFA)

- Establishing Lease Agreements with Private Landowners to Expand Public Access to Fishing and Paddling on Texas Rivers

- Open through Sept. 30, 2020 for FY21 funding
  - However, RFA is open-ended. We will accept applications year-round

- Offering lease rates between $6,000 - $15,000 per year

- Describes what we are looking for and who to contact
Site Selection

- Locations that offer a unique wilderness setting with intact instream and riparian habitats,
- Offer high-quality paddling and river fishing experiences, and access to other nature-oriented uses such as wildlife viewing,
- Currently limited public river access,
- Strategically positioned to connect with other upstream or downstream river access areas, and
- Located near an urban population center.
Conservation Delivery

- Native riparian vegetation plantings
- Seed dispersal
- Access improvement
- Kiosk install
Game Camera Surveys
Future Collaboration Opportunities

- Cooperation on initial site visits
- Identify additional potential RACA sites
- Help identify priority river reaches to improve access
- Improved user surveys
- Coordination of conservation projects / volunteers
- Other?
Questions?