



## Proposed study of the **Neches River Wild & Scenic Initiative**

Flowing through the heart and history of East Texas, the beautiful Neches River is one of our last wild rivers. Home to many kinds of Wildlife, the Neches and its bottomland forests draw tourists from across the state and around the world.

Supporters of this study hope that city and county officials, local governing boards, and community leaders will take the time to study this issue before we pass on an opportunity that will protect the crucial water flows from upstream on the Neches into Jefferson County. We also believe that the Wild & Scenic River designation will be great marketing tool for tourism and growth for Southeast Texas.

The Texas Water Development Board has sided with Dallas and North Texas to divert water from the Neches River Basin into the Dallas area. The only thing hindering this transfer of water is the protection that is offered by the creation of the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge on the upper Neches. If Southeast Texas wants to keep a maximum flow water south, we can not look to the State of Texas for protection on this issue. A National Wild and Scenic designation of the Neches River would provide the protection Southeast Texans need to insure our own water needs in the future.

What is being proposed at this time is a *study* of the Neches for its suitability as a Wild and Scenic River. The value of a study is to give a thorough look at questions which have been raised about the impacts and benefits of naming the Neches a Wild and Scenic River.

In response to the misinformation circulating about what designating the Neches as a Wild and Scenic River would do, Texas Conservation Alliance has carefully researched the issues that have been brought up, including extensive conversations with members of the Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council. We have put together the attached set of papers, each designed to address an issue that has been raised. The papers are brief; most are a page or less, a few two pages. But they represent careful research.

**Please join us in protecting this true Texas treasure.**

**Texas Conservation Alliance is the State Affiliate** of the National Wildlife Federation.  
[www.NWF.org](http://www.NWF.org) / [South Central Resource Center](#)