



## Neches Wild and Scenic River Initiative

### TRIBUTARIES

Designating the Neches as a Wild and Scenic River would have no effect on tributaries unless they are also designated as segments within the Wild and Scenic River.

The state has the authority to enforce water quality standards whether a Wild and Scenic River is in place or not. This is done through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The federal managers of the Wild and Scenic River would have *no enforcement authority* for water quality.

Designation as a Wild and Scenic River would not change the water quality standards of the river. During the study phase, the study team would look at whether existing state water quality standards are being maintained. If they are not, the study would conclude that the river is not suitable for designation as a Wild and Scenic River.

If the river were designated as a Wild and Scenic River and someone upstream later began violating the existing state water quality standards, the federal managers of the Wild and Scenic River can approach the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and request the agency to enforce existing laws. As stated above, the Wild and Scenic River managers would have no direct enforcement authority.

*Source of information: Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council, composed of representatives of the federal agencies which manage Wild and Scenic Rivers System*