

Your Input Matters

You can help shape the way Texas rivers are managed - for human and environmental uses.

Local knowledge and familiarity with the river can assist the program to:

- Understand your values and how you envision the river in the future
- Define healthy conditions for your river
- Identify unique and important features of the river
- Prioritize resources for conducting studies

How to Get Involved

A series of meetings including workshops to develop study designs for each river are scheduled for 2008.

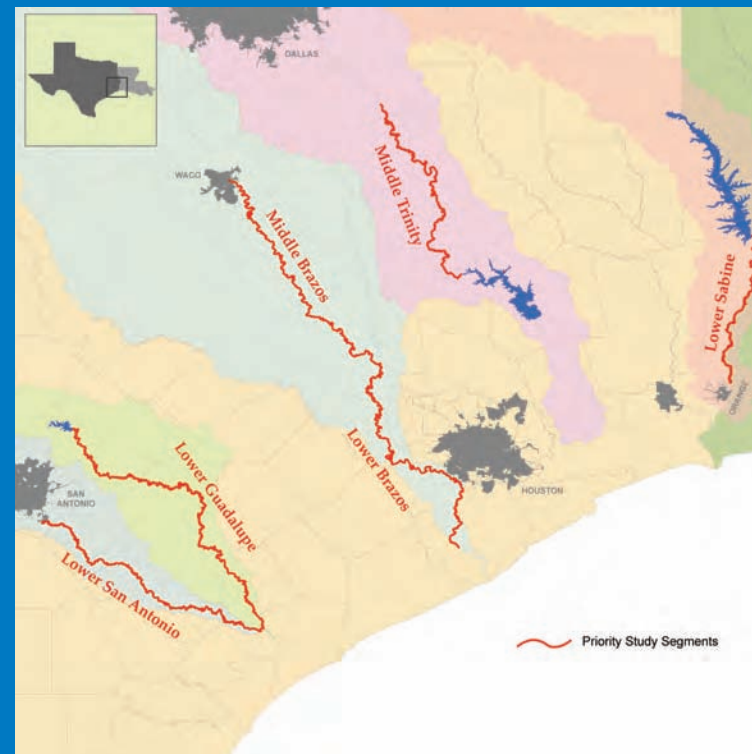
- **An initial public meeting** in each river basin at the beginning of the study design process will:
 - Explain the upcoming studies and workgroup meetings
 - Consider what you value in the rivers
 - Let you know how you can participate further
- **Study design workgroup** participants will collaborate on:
 - Goals and objectives of the studies
 - Definition of a healthy environment
 - Study design details
- **Ongoing opportunities for involvement** will be offered

Sign up at the initial public meeting or on the website:
www.twdb.state.tx.us/instreamflows/

Send comments

- **E-mail:** tifp@twdb.state.tx.us
- **Postal mail:**
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 Austin, TX 78711-3231
- **Phone:** 512.936.0817

Texas Instream Flow Program Priority River Segments



Source: Texas Instream Flow Studies Programmatic Work Plan, 2002.

What is an Instream Flow?

An instream flow is an amount of water running in a river, usually measured by the volume moving down the channel in a specified amount of time (discharge). A variety of instream flows are required to maintain a healthy river.



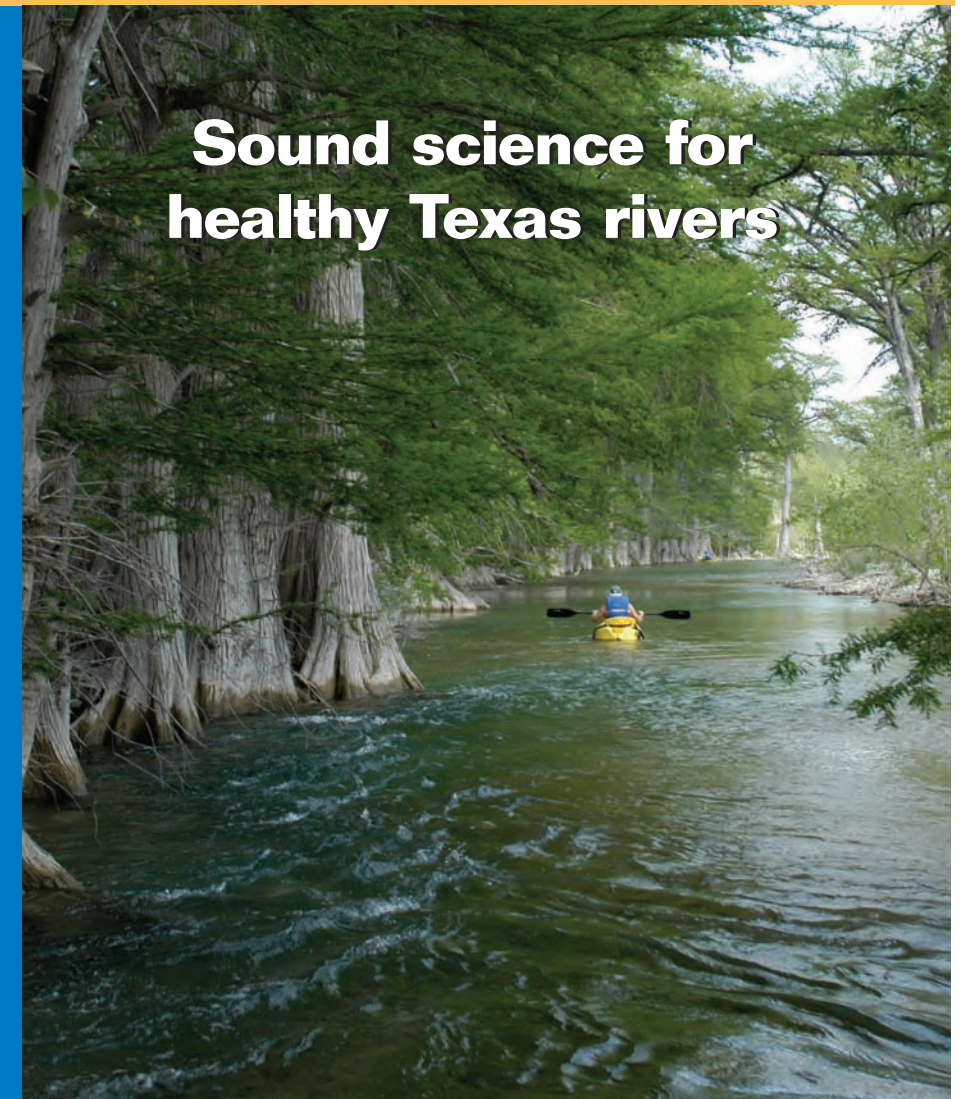
Learn More

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April 2008

Sound science for healthy Texas rivers



Precious Resource

Rivers are a precious resource - about half the water we use every day comes from rivers, streams, lakes and reservoirs.

Yet competition for river water in Texas is growing as never before. Drought makes the competition even fiercer. People and the natural environment both need water, so decisions must be made and priorities set about how it is shared.

Rivers need water flowing at all times to be healthy systems capable of supporting fish, plants and wildlife, and human needs for drinking water, irrigation, industry and recreation. Healthy rivers make for healthy bays.

Texas Instream Flow Program

For the first time state agencies and the public will collaborate on scientific studies to determine how much water should flow in rivers for a healthy environment.

What is the TIFP?

The Texas Instream Flow Program was created by the Texas Legislature in 2001 to assess how much water rivers need to remain healthy. The program is administered by three agencies:

- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- Texas Water Development Board

Program objectives are to determine:

1. The definition of a healthy environment for each river.
2. The amount of water that should flow in rivers to ensure a healthy environment.

Technical studies will assess how water flow affects river characteristics, such as:

- Aquatic life and habitat
- Water quality
- Movement of nutrients and organisms
- Stream channel formation
- Relationships between rivers and surrounding habitat

How does it work?

The program is a multi-year project starting with public meetings designed to collect local perspectives, knowledge and aspirations about rivers.

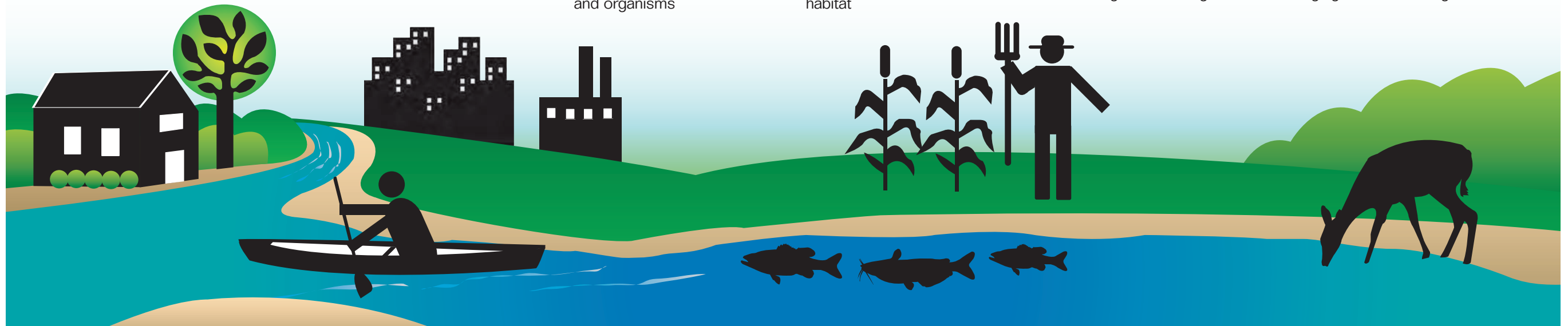
The study design will:

- Reflect the public's values and aspirations for the river
- Specify study goals and objectives
- Identify locations to be studied
- Describe how and what types of data will be collected
- List measures that will be used for monitoring

At the conclusion of field studies, a technical report describing how water flow affects a river's characteristics will be published.

How will study results be used?

- As "best available" science for water policies
- To guide state agencies in managing and conserving rivers



Texas Instream Flow Program

