



Adapted from USGS Tyler, Texas. Original Scale 1: 250,000.

Figure 26. Map Location of the Sabine River



Figure 27. Sabine River east of FM 1804

Sabine River

This section of the Sabine River is fringed by 13,798 acres of bottomland that was identified by the USFWS as being priority bottomland hardwood forest. The composition of the area is primarily willow oak and water oak with some water hickory, cherryback oak, overcup oak, elm, hackberry, and sweetgum intermixed. Numerous oxbows and two large lakes help to provide the area with a stable amount of open water habitat and its wide floodplain offers good management potential (USFWS, 1985). The area has high value to white-tail deer, furbearers, squirrels, turkeys, waterfowl, colonial waterbirds, and other migratory birds, as well as the American alligator. The Old Sabine Bottom Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is located within this area between the Old Sabine River Channel and the Sabine River and offers public hunting for white-tail deer, squirrels, waterfowl, feral hogs, rabbits, and hares. The WMA offers other outdoor recreation opportunities including wildlife viewing, fishing, bicycling, canoeing, and hiking (TPWD, 2000). The candidate segment is from FM 14 in Wood/Smith County upstream to FM 1804 in Wood/Smith County (within TNRCC stream segment 0506).

- (1) Biological Function- priority bottomland hardwood forest displays significant overall habitat value (USFWS, 1985).
- (2) Hydrologic Function- bottomland hardwood forest and associated wetlands perform valuable hydrologic function relating to water quality and flood control.
- (3) Riparian Conservation Area- fringed by the Old Sabine Bottom Wildlife Management Area and the Little Sandy National Wildlife Refuge.
- (4) High Water Quality/Exceptional Aquatic Life/High Aesthetic Value- high (as opposed to exceptional) aquatic life use (TNRCC, 1995).
- (5) Threatened or Endangered Species/Unique Communities- significant due to presence of state threatened paddlefish (TPWD, 1998b).