

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

Figure 30. Map Location of the Sulphur River



Figure 31. Sulphur River west of SH 30

## **Sulphur River**

The Sulphur River is formed at the junction of the North and South Sulphur rivers in eastern Delta County and flows easterly 75 miles into Arkansas, where it enters the Red River. The Sulphur River is short, narrow, and flows slowly to the east through the Blackland Prairies, Post Oak Savannah and Pineywoods ecological regions of Texas. The river is impounded in the east along the Cass/Bowie County Line to form Wright Patman Lake. The USFWS has identified 94,252 acres of bottomland along the Sulphur River west of the reservoir as being priority bottomland hardwood forest (USFWS, 1985). Portions of the hardwood forest are very high quality and are comprised of water and willow oak, sweetgum, water hickory, ash, hackberry, elm, and overcup oak. The area has a favorable hydrologic regime with numerous sloughs and documented frequent flooding. This helps to enhance the value of the habitat to waterfowl, white-tail deer, furbearers (including beavers and river otters), squirrels, and numerous migratory birds such as nesting American redstarts, Cerulean warblers, and Kentucky warblers (USFWS, 1985). This section of the Sulphur River is also within the target recovery area set by the TPWD for the state threatened paddlefish due to the sluggish, fertile waters found above Wright Patman Lake that provide excellent paddlefish feeding habitat (Pitman, 1991). The candidate segment is from a point 0.9 miles downstream of Bassett Creek in Bowie/Cass County upstream to IH 30 in Bowie/Morris County.

- (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- none identified.
- (4) High Water Quality/Exceptional Aquatic Life/High Aesthetic Value- insufficient data to evaluate criteria.
- (5) Threatened or Endangered Species/Unique Communities- significant due to presence of state threatened paddlefish (TPWD, 1998b).