

## Mud Creek

Mud Creek (Fig. 21) rises six miles northeast of Amanda in Kinney County and flows southwest 17 miles into Sycamore Creek (a tributary of the Rio Grande)<sup>24</sup>. This ecologically significant stream segment is within the South Texas Brush Country ecoregion. The ecological significance of this segment is based upon the following criteria:

1. Biological function – The aquatic and riparian habitats associated with the creek (Fig. 28) support a diverse assemblage of invertebrates, reptiles, fish, and birds due to the overlap, in this region, of the Edwards Plateau and Tamaulipan Brushlands ecoregions. The riparian gallery forest is dominated by sycamore, willows, sugarberry/hackberry, cottonwood, pecan, and huisache.
2. Hydrologic function – Mud Springs flow from the Georgetown limestone of the Edwards-Trinity (Plateau) Aquifer. The springs contribute to the baseflow of the creek and therefore to the baseflow of the Rio Grande below Del Rio. The fringing riparian habitats function to improve the quality of runoff and groundwater discharge into the creek, attenuate peak flood flows, and to some extent, stabilize base flows.
3. Riparian conservation area – None identified.
4. High water quality/exceptional aquatic life/high aesthetic value – This segment is designated an Ecoregion Stream on the basis of dissolved oxygen and benthic macroinvertebrate diversity<sup>1,3</sup>.
5. Threatened or endangered species/unique communities – The following rare species associated with aquatic or riparian habitats may occur in or along this segment: the Common black-hawk (St.T), Golden-cheeked warbler (Fed.E, St.E), Black-capped vireo (Fed.E, St.E), Indigo snake (St.T), and Tobusch fishhook cactus (Fed.E, St.E).



Figure 28. Riparian brush habitat along Mud Creek at US 90 in Kinney County (11/20/00).