



Figure 2. Location of the ecologically significant Las Moras Creek Segment from Maverick / Kinney County downstream to its confluence with the Rio Grande in Maverick County (Scale 1": 4 mi.; Base map source: TxDOT county files<sup>2</sup> )

### Las Moras Creek

The Las Moras Creek significant stream segment begins at the Maverick/Kinney County line, Texas, and runs downstream to the confluence with the Rio Grande in Maverick County. Las Moras Creek rises at Las Moras Springs 4 miles north of Brackettville in Kinney County. It flows southwesterly 29 miles to the Rio Grande in Maverick County. It is partially intermittent along parts of its length. The creek is spring fed at its headwaters. Fishermen, bird watchers, hikers, picnickers, and campers enjoy the beautifully wooded Las Moras Creek banks<sup>3</sup>. The ecological significance of the segment is based upon the following criteria:

**Biological function-** A riparian corridor habitat consisting of trees and shrubs occurs along most of the length of this segment (Fig. 2). In this arid region, this habitat and the associated water constitute very valuable fish and wildlife habitat in a region that offers little else to many species.

**Hydrologic functions-** The riparian corridor on the floodplain performs a host of important hydrologic functions such as: regulation of baseflows and protection of fisheries habitat; protection of public and private water supplies through pollution filtration; and regulation and protection of groundwater and baseflows in the creek.

Riparian conservation area - None identified on this segment.

High water quality/exceptional aquatic life/high aesthetic value - Ecoregion Stream, Dissolved oxygen<sup>4</sup>; Benthic macroinvertebrates<sup>4,5</sup>. The segment has aesthetic and economic value for fishermen, bird watchers, hikers, picnickers, and campers<sup>2</sup>.

Threatened (T) or endangered (E) species<sup>6</sup>/unique communities- The following rare species associated with aquatic or riparian habitats occur in or along this segment: the South Texas siren (St. T) (large form); common black-hawk (St. T), wood stork (St. T), and interior least tern (Fed.&St. E); Proserpine shiner<sup>7</sup> (St. T) and Rio Grande shiner; ocelot (Fed. & St. E), margay (St. T), jaguarundi (Fed. & St. E), and white-nosed coati (St. T); Texas hornshell; and the indigo snake (St. T).



Figure 3. The forested riparian corridor appears red in this color infrared photo of Las Moras Creek. The surrounding habitat is arid brushlands. Source: Tequesquite Creek NE DOQ, 1995, 1 m CIR<sup>8</sup>.