

## South Fork Guadalupe River

The South Fork Guadalupe River is the headwater stream of the Guadalupe River. It rises in the southwestern part of Kerr County and flows north 27 miles to its junction with the North Fork Guadalupe River forming the Guadalupe River at Hunt<sup>24</sup>. The South Fork Guadalupe River is within the Edwards Plateau ecoregion. The segment begins 3 miles upstream of FM 187 in Kerr County and continues downstream to its confluence with the Guadalupe River in Kerr County (Fig. 12). The ecological significance of the segment is based upon the following criteria:

1. Biological function – The aquatic and riparian habitats associated with the stream (Fig. 17) support an exceptionally diverse assemblage of invertebrates, fish, reptiles, and birds characteristic of the Edwards Plateau ecoregion. The riparian and canyon forests are dominated by sycamore, willows, green ash, bald cypress, pecan, sugarberry/hackberry, plateau live oak, Texas oak, Ashe juniper, and many other deciduous trees and shrubs.
2. Hydrologic function – Lynx Haven Springs are the source of the South Fork Guadalupe River. These springs issue from the Edwards and associated limestone of the Edwards-Trinity (Plateau) Aquifer<sup>2</sup>. Several other springs contribute to South Fork Guadalupe River baseflow. The entire segment is within the Edwards Aquifer drainage area. The riparian habitats function to improve the quality of runoff and groundwater discharge into the river, 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 – The segment has high water quality and is designated an exceptional aquatic life stream<sup>19</sup>. The segment also has very high aesthetic value<sup>14</sup>. There are numerous rapids and limestone bluffs and formations. The segment supports heavy recreational use.
5. Threatened or endangered species/unique communities – The following rare species associated with aquatic or riparian habitats may occur in or along this segment although most would not be restricted only to the segment habitats: Zone-tailed hawk (St.T), Golden-cheeked warbler (Fed.E, St.E), Black-capped vireo (Fed.E, St.E), Cagle's map turtle (Fed. Candidate, category 1), Tobusch fishhook cactus (Fed.E, St.E).



Figure 17. South Fork Guadalupe River, SH 39 south of Hunt (11/22/00).