



**Devils River
Working Group**

**Final Report &
Recommendations**

January 2012

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents	3
Introduction.....	5
Overview.....	6
Issues of Concern, Opportunities and Obstacles	8
Protection of Natural Biodiversity and Ecological Integrity, Natural Resources and Water Quality and Quantity	9
Protection of Cultural Resources in the Devils River Corridor	10
Appropriate Managed Access for the Public	11
Appropriate Management of Waste and Trash	13
Maintaining a Wilderness Experience	14
Outreach and Education	15
Other Issues	16
Recommendations.....	18
Rec. 01 – Successor Group.....	18
Rec. 02 – Devils River Use Management Plan	18
REC. 03 - River Access Permit System.....	18
Rec. 04 – Control of Baker’s Crossing	19
Rec. 05 – Comprehensive Education and Outreach Campaign	19
Rec. 06 – Increase Law Enforcement Presence	19
Rec. 07 – Commission Members Visit the DRSNA Complex	19
Rec. 08 – River Patrol Program	19
Rec. 09 – Science	19
Rec. 10 – Partnerships to Minimize Land Fragmentation.....	20
Rec. 11 – Increase Penalties for Damage to Cultural and Natural Resources	20
REC. 12 – Devils River Aquatic and Fisheries Management.....	20
Devils River Working Group Members	21

DEVILS RIVER WORKING GROUP

Report to Texas Parks and Wildlife

January 26, 2012

INTRODUCTION

The Chairman of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission chartered the Devils River Working Group (DRWG) on 12/20/10 to provide advice and input to the Department regarding the protection of the Devils River in Val Verde County, Texas.

The DRWG charter identifies three charges: 1) Identify 'Issues of Concern' of river users and landowners adjacent to the Devils River; 2) Identify opportunities and obstacles to achieving the purpose; and, 3) Provide practical options and preferred recommendations that support sustainable and responsible long-term conservation and use of the Devils River.

The chairman appointed 25 individuals representing landowners along the river, the paddling community, the angling community and TPWD. He appointed the Deputy Executive Director of Operations to chair the working group.

The working group met four times throughout the year. In addition, subcommittees appointed by the working group tackled specific issues in the interim and reported back to the working group. This report represents the outcome of the working group efforts.

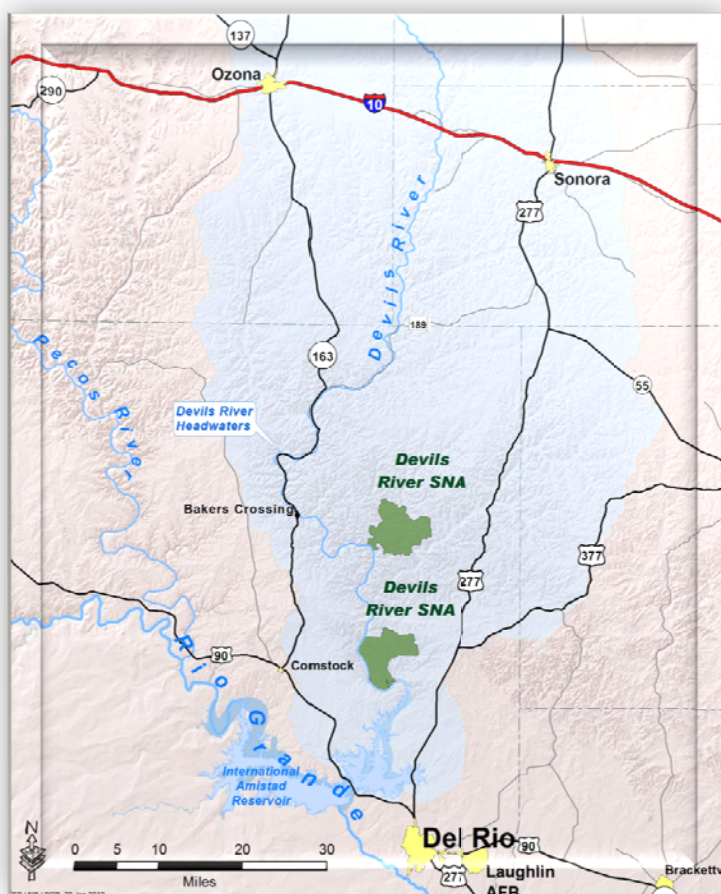


OVERVIEW

The Devils River is arguably the most pristine river and river corridor in the entire desert southwest. Gushing from numerous springs along its 40+-mile race to the Amistad International Reservoir, the gin-clear waters of the Devils River course over rapids and riffles through rugged canyons and ridges to create one of the most stunning landscapes in North America. The remoteness and inaccessibility of the river have kept it wild and untamed right up to the present. Endemic plants, fish and wildlife come together to form a community unique to the southwest United States. This unspoiled setting creates extraordinary recreational opportunities for fishing, water sports, camping and swimming in an environment that is unparalleled throughout the state of Texas. It also presents real management challenges because it is so remote and has so few public amenities along the river.

In January of 2011, TPWD acquired the approximately 18,000 acre Devils River Ranch along the southern stretch of the Devils River. A year of negotiation resulted in a leveraged sale involving state and federal funds and significant private contributions to achieve this priceless conservation acquisition. This partnership reflects the best of public/private efforts to conserve special properties for future generations of Texans. This property consists of native riparian woodlands, Edward Plateau oak woodlands and grasslands, and Tamaulipan and Chihuahuan desert scrub habitat with ten miles of river frontage immediately upstream of the Amistad National Recreation Area.

The acquisition provides permanent protection and management of important grasslands and woodlands, riverine and riparian habitats, and world-class rock art sites. It will also provide increased managed public access to the wildest and most pristine river in Texas, and one of the most unspoiled rivers in the continental United States. It lies approximately 13 miles downstream from the approximately 20,000 acre Devils River State Natural Area (DRSNA), acquired by



TPWD in 1988, and the source of one of the most significant contributory springs along the river. TPWD will manage these two properties, already protected by conservation easements (held by The Nature Conservancy), as distinct units of a single Devils River State Natural Area Complex, connected by the Devils River, and under the management authority of a single State Park superintendent.

Planning for the future use of this state natural area complex began in March 2011 and is ongoing, with the General Management Plan (GMP) due for completion in September 2012. While the charge of this working group is to provide feedback to the agency regarding the protection of the Devils River and surrounding environments, the recommendations may also provide valuable input to the planning for the Devils River State Natural Area Complex. This GMP process will involve ample opportunities for all constituencies to review and comment on the plan.

The DRWG endorses the mission of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and recognizes the rights of private landowners as well as rights of the public to enjoy public waters in Texas, including the Devils River.

The DRWG has been a positive step toward building bridges between stakeholder groups. The cross-section of stakeholders has allowed different perspectives to be voiced and has resulted in an increased understanding among the private landowners, conservationists and recreational users.

ISSUES OF CONCERN, OPPORTUNITIES AND OBSTACLES

During the process for acquisition, the ensuing public meetings and commission meetings, a common theme emerged among all the constituents: keeping the river wild and pristine with a strong commitment to natural and cultural resource protection while providing a unique outdoor experience. Another common theme included effectively managing limited access to a fragile public resource to limit potential adverse environmental and aesthetic impacts that may result from inevitable increased recreational use.

Some landowners have over time come to view the river as a private resource. Additionally some river users have assumed their right to unfettered access to the river banks and engaged in behavior that is both illegal and disrespectful. These perceptions have resulted in deep-rooted suspicion and distrust among these stakeholders. As a result conflicts between landowners and the paddling public have not been uncommon, and efforts to promote a constructive dialogue that might result in effective solutions have historically been difficult to obtain.

TPWD's mission includes both conservation and recreation elements. The largest recognized threat to all water quality in the state of Texas is land-use practices. Agriculture practices, ground-water pumping and contamination, and mineral extraction all exacerbated by land fragmentation are the greatest threats to water quality. In addition, recreational use can lead to increased negative impacts to water quality and the aesthetic enjoyment of a wilderness experience. The working group has reviewed the potential adverse impacts to the Devils River related to both public and private use. While the working group endorses land management practices that are consistent with maintaining quality and quantity of water in the river, the primary focus has been on implementing recreational use practices that encourage sustainable stewardship while protecting the unique river experience. Recreational considerations that must be addressed in order to maintain a positive visitor experience while protecting the aquatic environment and respecting landowner rights are:

- Effective management of natural resources
 - Aquatic habitat
 - Water quality and quantity
 - Fisheries management
- Protection of sensitive cultural sites
- Appropriate managed access for the public
 - volume (carrying capacity)
 - staging (staggering recreational use along the river)
- Appropriate disposal of waste and trash
 - Human waste (both recreational and residential)
 - Trash

- Maintaining a wilderness experience
 - Manage noise and light pollution
 - Manage camping opportunities to maintain remoteness
- Outreach and education
- Other issues that affect the Devils River

PROTECTION OF NATURAL BIODIVERSITY AND ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY, NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY

The Devils River is a spring-fed system with excellent water quality and biological diversity making it an area of high ecological and recreational value. The upper reach is ephemeral/ intermittent and becomes perennial with increased spring flow contribution below Juno, Texas. The river basin is underlain by fractured and porous limestone formations also contributing to the movement of water between the river and aquifer. Stream discharge, monitored by



International Boundary Water Commission (IBWC), varies throughout the year and is susceptible to large rain events and subsequent flooding. Dolan Creek is a major contributing tributary and also supports an important area of biodiversity and excellent water quality. The Devils River is considered to be one of the most pristine in the state and is well-known for exceptional water clarity.

The Devils River is an important area of natural biodiversity and ecological integrity. The Edwards Plateau ecoregion, a biologically diverse hotspot, contains many endemic species. The Devils River watershed has several federally listed threatened or endangered species including Devils River minnow, Texas snowbells, Black-capped vireo and several state listed species including Rio Grande darter, Conchos pupfish, and proserpine shiner. The river also supports populations of unique genotypes of headwater catfish and largemouth bass. Fish populations in the Devils River are threatened by non-native species which can hybridize with native species and compete for food resources. A fisheries management plan that summarizes historical and recent survey data and contains proposed regulations and other methodologies is slated for completion in spring 2012. The DRWG recognizes the value of angling in the Devils River but has concerns about the use of live bait which poses threats to the endemic species. Although the pros and cons of a trophy fishery have been discussed, the DRWG strongly endorses the primacy of conserving the natural diversity and sustainability of this ecosystem.

Other impacts to aquatic species can be a result of both surface and sub-surface development within the watershed. These changes in the watershed and groundwater can alter hydrologic flows within the river. Flow alterations can change the river channel geomorphology and habitat availability further adversely impacting native aquatic habitats and species. Recreational impacts and damage to aquatic habitats should be managed and minimized to protect sensitive species habitats.

Protecting the water quality and quantity of the river and ecological integrity of the watershed will be achieved through implementing conservation best management practices including protecting riparian areas and stream habitats, promoting holistic land management practices, minimizing land fragmentation, preventing the introduction of non-native species, and managing the impacts of recreational activities.

PROTECTION OF CULTURAL RESOURCES IN THE DEVILS RIVER CORRIDOR

TPWD recognizes that the Devils River Corridor contains some of the most spectacular and sensitive cultural resources in the state of Texas. The working group has identified the protection of these sites as a major issue that needs to be addressed. All parties recognize the difficulty of balancing the protection of sensitive sites with the opportunity of the public to enjoy those sites.



On DRSNA, TPWD will implement a variety of measures that have proven track records for protecting sensitive areas on other state managed lands. These strategies will include remote sensing, law enforcement presence, and guided tours. Interpretation of cultural resources is an additional strategy to help prevent or reduce the incidence of vandalism on archeological sites. On the DRSNA, there are sites that lend themselves to not only the interpretation of the site itself, but to the cultural history of the broader Devils River valley and Lower Pecos region. There are also other publicly accessible sites in the Lower Pecos that provide the opportunity for visitors to learn about the cultural history of the region, including sites at Amistad National Recreation Area and Seminole Canyon State Park and Historic Site. The Rock Art Foundation, San Antonio, provides weekly rock art tours at the White Shaman Preserve, located near Seminole Canyon State Park and Historic Site. Occasionally, the Rock Art Foundation or SHUMLA School, Comstock, lead interpretive tours to other sites in the Lower Pecos that are not generally accessible to

the public. The TPWD can help promote these other public opportunities for visiting sites in the Lower Pecos.

TPWD recognizes the private landowners' concerns of the public accessing sensitive archeological and rock art sites on private lands. Many rock art sites are visible from the river making them attractive to



boaters. TPWD suggests posting no trespassing signs on private property, and will continue to work closely with private landowners to enforce Texas statute. If private landowners along the Devils River are interested, perhaps agreements could be made between the landowners and members of the Rock Art Foundation, SHUMLA School, or the Texas Archeological Society to provide occasional interpretation of rock art sites or other cultural resources on private land. This would also provide an opportunity for those interpreting the sites to help monitor the condition of sites on these occasions.

APPROPRIATE MANAGED ACCESS FOR THE PUBLIC

In Texas, the stream-beds of navigable waterways are owned by the state and, in most cases including the Devils River, public access is guaranteed by law. At the same time, Texas law affords people who own riverfront property to have exclusive access to and use of their property. Trespass is an encroachment on their rights. Achieving a successful management and recreation plan will require acknowledgement of a wide range of interests, cooperation on the part of many parties, improvement of public access with appropriate controls, and sufficient enforcement of rules to ensure public compliance and landowner support. It may also require innovative approaches to public/private partnerships that can address the complex issues that present obstacles to success.

The Devils River has long been characterized by private ownership along its banks and few public access points. This ownership mosaic is a barrier to implementing a successful river management and recreation plan because of the lack of useful and clearly identified legal access, egress, camping and rest stop areas. Consequently, trespass on private riverfront lands by the public is not uncommon, and results in conflicts and resentment towards river users on the part of private landowners and further apprehension about developing additional public access.

The complex myriad of oversight responsibilities are fragmented and in many cases poorly defined. This reality underscores the importance of close coordination with entities that serve different missions like Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas Department of Transportation, US Fish and

Wildlife Service, National Park Service, General Land Office, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, International Boundary Waters Commission and others.

The pristine nature of the river only intensifies concerns about increased public access. Unrestricted access and no single management authority present a challenge to putting together a system that allows controlled use of the river. Currently, the Baker's Crossing Bridge on Highway 163 is the primary publicly owned put-in location for paddlers seeking to float the Devils River. TxDOT owns and maintains both the bridge and the right-of-way where paddlers put in. However, there is no oversight or management of the launch site from a paddler perspective. As a result, there is minimal signage, and no single authoritative source of information about proper use of the river by paddlers and anglers.



Effective and efficient use of law enforcement will play an important role in striking a balance between landowner rights and the public's appropriate use of the Devils River. Currently, TPWD Law Enforcement has access to the river but response times are typically lengthy due to the remoteness of the area. The DRWG acknowledges the difficulty that the geography presents, but emphasizes the critical need to leverage limited law enforcement resources to maximize safe and legal recreation along the Devils River. The TPWD currently assigns eight full time Game Wardens to Val Verde County and at least one full time Park Police Officer to the Devils River State Natural Area Complex. Additionally, the Val Verde County Sheriff's office, the National Park Service, Department of Public Safety, Border Patrol, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, provide limited support to the Devils River area. The landowners, paddling community, local judiciary, and law enforcement must work together in a cooperative effort to maintain a quality recreational experience and pristine nature of the Devils River.

These ownership, access, and enforcement realities present significant challenges in the effective management of the Devils River. Solutions will require on-going thoughtful and inclusive dialogue among all the interested constituencies. Compromise will not come easily but the protection of this unique world-class river depends on a successful outcome. It will be critical to maintain open lines of communication among the stakeholder groups including landowners, paddlers, anglers, conservationists, and other river users. The shared goal of TPWD and these stakeholder groups is to proactively plan ways to balance public access with ethical use and respect for landowner privacy, to ensure long-term enjoyment and stewardship of the beautiful, rugged Devils River.

APPROPRIATE MANAGEMENT OF WASTE AND TRASH

As an increasing number of people head into the outdoors, the impacts on the landscape are growing. The Devils River is no different. Managing human waste and garbage are an important element to the long-term sustainability of the river's water quality and aesthetic appeal. The remoteness and lack of public facilities along the Devils River exacerbates the challenges facing river use managers. Some suggested practices are changing as human waste disposal in the great outdoors continues to have serious environmental, health, and aesthetic impacts. There are recognized programs for recreational waste management that may provide some insight into effective waste management techniques.

One such model is the Leave No Trace Program.

"Human waste and what we do with it can be one of the most significant impacts that face lands used by the public for recreation," said Ben Lawhon, education director for the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics. The Leave No Trace's goal is to provide a spectrum of approved options for waste disposal, and it's up to recreationists themselves to determine where on that spectrum they feel comfortable. "It's a disease impact, water quality impact, social and aesthetic impact



— and it's something that a lot of people just have a hard time dealing with." The Leave No Trace Program principles for outdoor waste disposal are: minimize the chance of water pollution; minimize the spread of disease; minimize aesthetic impact; and maximize decomposition rate.

"Different water-borne illnesses are correlated to human use of a given area," said Jason Martin, operations manager at American Alpine Institute and a Leave No Trace Master Educator. "When that stuff gets in [the water supply], obviously it becomes a problem." According to Mike Smith, a forest planner with the U.S. Forest Service in Colorado's San Isabel National Forest, waste disposal is a problem many land managers share.

Knowing what methods exist, and which method to practice where, can help assure that wild areas, even well-traveled ones, remain as pristine as possible. Any recreational waste and garbage management program that is developed for the Devils River could draw from existing programs with successful track records.

Another recognized problem along the river is the inappropriate disposal of residential human waste. While the state has clear and unambiguous rules regarding residential waste management, both compliance and oversight in this remote part of Texas are a challenge. This results in instances where

residential human waste is discharged directly into the river. It is important to re-double efforts to correct this unacceptable impact.

Waste and garbage management, in all its forms, is an important element in the tapestry of an effective and meaningful strategy to protect the Devils River. Both river and facility management plans, coupled with aggressive education programs and effective pre- and post- trip monitoring, can best serve the kinds of positive outcomes that will protect this unique resource.

MAINTAINING A WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE

The Devils River provides an unparalleled outdoor wilderness experience characterized by rugged isolation, beautiful vistas, crystal clear water and dark night skies. These characteristics have attracted people to this area for many, many generations. Unlike many other beautiful landscapes across Texas with prominent water features, this river has not yet been overdeveloped by the private sector and



overused by the public sector. Many stretches of the river's viewshed remain uncontaminated by intensive development. And, for most of the year, it is not uncommon for the public to be able to enjoy the river without the crowds that characterize other rivers around the state. Every effort should be made to preserve this unspoiled landscape as an iconic reminder of the natural beauty Texas has to offer.

Protecting the viewshed along the Devils River should be a primary goal of any river preservation efforts. While clearly acknowledging landowners' sacrosanct rights, education regarding view-friendly development can help preserve the wild beauty along the river and at the same time enhance property values. Building styles and techniques can minimize or eliminate the intrusive nature of vertical structures along the viewshed. Limiting noise and light pollution can go a long way in maintaining a wilderness experience that can be enjoyed by landowners and river users alike.

In addition to development, the numbers of river users and how and when they use the river can create significant obstacles to preserving a wilderness experience on the Devils River. Other beautiful riverine systems in Texas have been overwhelmed by fun-seeking recreationists. The outcome has been diminished recreational value resulting from overcrowding, lack of isolation, noise pollution,

unmanageable trash and waste control, and a general degradation of the outdoor experience. The DRWG spent considerable time discussing mechanisms that might help prevent this phenomenon on the Devils River. The lack of a single legal or management authority over river access, limited public access points, multiple private access points, long distances, and geographic challenges present significant obstacles to successfully tackling this issue. Carrying capacities, spacing of river enthusiasts, realistic campsites and river etiquette education are all important elements in trying to manage a wilderness experience.

The DRWG believes that a permitting system that incorporates early-and-often education, terms and conditions that define acceptable river behavior, appropriate launch and take-out parameters and effective river use monitoring is one mechanism that should be explored. The ultimate goal is to support an inimitable, remote, and enjoyable experience that maximizes opportunities for healthy outdoor recreation and minimizes incentives to trespass and litter. A well-thought out permitting system could result in better educated river users, improved river etiquette, smaller crowds and a more enjoyable river experience.

There is little doubt that everyone who comes to the Devils River, landowners and river-users alike, wants this most extraordinary natural wonder to maintain its character far into the future. Future generations should look back and measure the success of this exercise through a prism of clean air and crystal clear water that present generations have come to love.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

The complexity (or vagueness) of Texas laws pertaining to public use of rivers in Texas, and specifically along the Devils River, historically has been confusing for the public. There is no single “go-to” place where the public can obtain accurate and comprehensive information about proper river etiquette, private property rights, safety, legal camping, and take-out locations. With the upcoming opening of the newly acquired south unit of the Devils River State Natural Area and the development of the DRSNA GMP, there needs to be a centralized location for information and updates about SNA plans in general, as well as how to plan a trip on the Devils River. It is important to the public to have access to logistical information about where to find put-in and take-out points, campsites, and river flow information; and messages about how to be a careful steward of the resource and a good neighbor to private landowners along the river.

TPWD has an opportunity to establish itself as the “authority” and main point of contact for information about proper use of the Devils River. The agency has the ability to leverage its website, news and media outlets and other venues to educate Texas citizens about river etiquette and legal issues pertaining to river use. In addition the recent emergence of social media is a significant communication tool that

provides a profound opportunity to reach the public. The DRWG feels it is important for both the TPWD Executive Office and the Communications Division be involved in future planning activities.

OTHER ISSUES

Land Fragmentation. Land fragmentation within the watershed, especially of riverfront properties, is clearly a constraint to achieving the goals outlined in this report. It is important that the causes of fragmentation and possible solutions be addressed. The Texas Nature Conservancy has been a pioneer in successful efforts to mitigate land fragmentation along the river. The reasons for subdivision of land are frequently economic; either the value of land is a direct incentive to subdivide and sell, or the cost of continued ownership, including taxes and management, motivate landowners to reduce their exposure. Many landowners may not be aware of the tools that are available to them to reduce tax and management burdens. Depending on the goals of the landowner, these tools might include conservation easements, life estates, income generation through passive and managed recreational use, recreation leases, among others. Educating landowners about these options could help reduce the rate of fragmentation along the river, within the viewshed, and within the watershed, all of which are significant contributors to the Devils River experience.

Incomplete Science. Data is needed for sound management decisions. Available data is currently held by several organizations but needs to be compiled and analyzed. Cooperation between the diverse entities that are engaged in gathering information about the river will be a key element of future scientific endeavors. The integration of water quality data from TCEQ and others into consolidated databases along with integrated aquatic habitat monitoring data is important to make the best science available to researchers and conservation managers. While baseline surveys for aquatic habitats has been conducted for the lower segments of Devils River including water quality parameters, additional data is needed to provide a more robust tool for policymakers. Changes in river bed morphology and associated habitats and water quality need to be measured. Diversity inventory, assessment and mapping of sensitive botanical resources and on-going monitoring will add to the best available science to support sound decision-making.



The Inland Fisheries staff and other academic institutions will continue to monitor fish populations and diversity at sample points from Amistad to the headwaters with special attention to species of concern and rare resources.

On-going monitoring and data collection of flora and fauna along the Devils River will add to the body of knowledge necessary to support effective management. The collection of data regarding plant, avian, mammalian, reptilian and amphibian species has begun but is incomplete. The mapping of cave and Karst formations would also benefit from more intensive surveys and documentation. Specific focus on Finegan Springs, including its cave microfauna, spring run fauna, flow and water quality are critical to understanding the aquatic dynamics of the Devils River.

Data on archeological sites and rock art locales is likewise fragmentary and held by different organizations. Survey of the river corridor for both rock art and archeological sites is not complete. TPWD will conduct surveys on its properties and monitor the condition of rock art. Baseline conditions assessments of the rock art need to be completed to understand changes and manage any damaging activities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Devils River Working Group (DRWG) appreciates the opportunity to provide input to TPWD regarding the use and protection of the Devils River and its associated rivershed. DRWG commends the agency's commitment to develop and manage the Devils River State Natural Area Complex consistent with existing conservation easements and best management practices for conservation and recreation. By focusing on the long-term preservation of the natural and cultural resources and carefully managing appropriate, sustainable recreational use, these extraordinary public assets can continue to provide wilderness experiences to Texans for many generations to come.

Consistent with this commitment and with the Chairman's charges the DRWG makes the following recommendations:

REC. 01 – SUCCESSOR GROUP

TPWD consider a continuing effort to lead a coalition of vested stakeholders including landowners along the Devils River, the conservation community, and recreational user groups to develop effective long-term strategies to protect the Devils River environs. The State Parks Division Director would appoint the membership and coordinate on-going discussions regarding the protection of the natural and cultural resources along the Devils River, the preservation of a wilderness experience, and a continuing effort to minimize land fragmentation.

REC. 02 – DEVILS RIVER USE MANAGEMENT PLAN

TPWD consider developing a comprehensive Devils River Use Management Plan (DRUMP) whose goals include water quality and water quantity protection, appropriate managed access, protection of private property rights and public access rights, low-impact world-class recreational opportunities and enforcement protocols. This plan must include long-term sustainability of the resources; natural biodiversity-based aquatic and terrestrial habitat management; recreational management; and, strategies to increase river-wide oversight by law enforcement entities, by leveraging support from river user groups and local judicial officials.

REC. 03 - RIVER ACCESS PERMIT SYSTEM

TPWD consider developing a permit system that educates and prepares Devils River users, encourages safe and responsible river behavior, and enhances an enjoyable river experience for both river users and landowners.

REC. 04 – CONTROL OF BAKER’S CROSSING

TPWD continue to explore the feasibility of acquiring management control over the Baker’s Crossing along Texas Highway 163.

REC. 05 – COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

TPWD consider developing a coordinated, outreach and education campaign to inform the public of appropriate river etiquette and legal issues regarding the recreational use. This could include web-based education and information venues; appropriate uniform signage; mandatory orientation for state park visitors intending to use the river; and effective processes to ensure safe, ethical and legal use of the river, Devils River State Natural Area Complex and private property. TPWD should continue to support the public’s right to responsibly use public waters while encouraging recreational (paddling, angling, etc.) organizations to educate paddlers and other recreational users; and to promote ethical, legal and sustainable behavior on Texas waterways.

REC. 06 – INCREASE LAW ENFORCEMENT PRESENCE

TPWD consider reviewing all avenues to enhance law enforcement presence on Texas’ rivers.

REC. 07 – COMMISSION MEMBERS VISIT THE DRSNA COMPLEX

TPWD Commission members consider visiting the DRSNA complex and experience the Devils River to gain an on-the-ground understanding of its operations, conservation needs and recreational opportunities.

REC. 08 – RIVER PATROL PROGRAM

TPWD consider developing a River Patrol Program to help monitor river use and river health (i.e. Texas Stream Team partnerships). This program could be staffed by volunteers as an alternative workforce to establish a presence on the river and disseminate information to the public, monitor river use and notify law enforcement or emergency personnel if needed. This model provides an opportunity for the paddling community to participate in emergent needs along the river. The agency could consider seeking supplemental funding and alternative supervisory scenarios to effectuate this recommendation.

REC. 09 – SCIENCE

TPWD continue to support the consolidation and gathering of new and existing scientific data and monitoring on the Devils River watershed.

REC. 10 – PARTNERSHIPS TO MINIMIZE LAND FRAGMENTATION

TPWD consider continuing to work with partners to minimize land fragmentation throughout the DR watershed.

REC. 11 – INCREASE PENALTIES FOR DAMAGE TO CULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES

TPWD consider a broad, collaborative effort with other state and federal agencies to explore stiffening the penalties for vandalism of cultural and natural resources on TPWD properties and private properties.

REC. 12 – DEVILS RIVER AQUATIC AND FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

TPWD consider implementing policies that prioritize the promotion of sustainable endemic populations of fish and other aquatic wildlife in the Devils River.

DEVILS RIVER WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

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