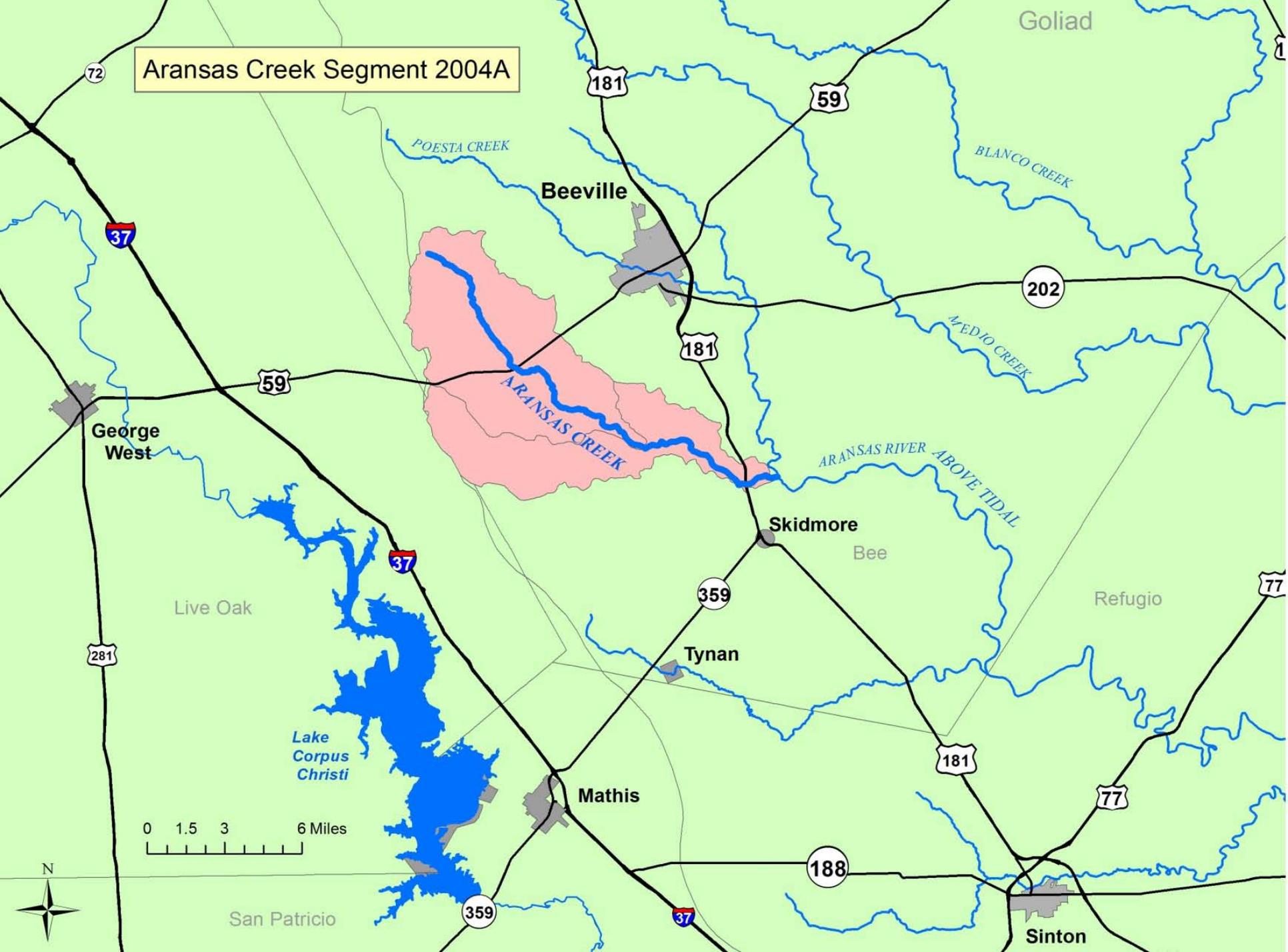


# Aransas Creek Recreational Use Attainability Analysis

- Field Surveys
- Bacteria Source Survey
- Next Steps

May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
Skidmore, Texas

Aransas Creek Segment 2004A



Goliad

POESTA CREEK

Beeville

BLANCO CREEK

202

MEDIO CREEK

ARANSAS CREEK

ARANSAS RIVER ABOVE TIDAL

George West

Skidmore

Bee

Live Oak

Refugio

Tynan

Mathis

Lake Corpus Christi

0 1.5 3 6 Miles

San Patricio

Sinton



# Field Survey Stations

- Survey Stations
  - 3 Sites for every 5 miles of stream
  - Stream Surveys are to be conducted during hot weather and normal stream flow levels when recreators are most likely to be using the water body.
  - 2 Stream surveys conducted at each site



# Field Surveys

## Conducting Field Surveys on Wadeable Streams

- **Depth and Width Measurements** (every 30 meters up to 300 meters)
- **Measure Streamflow** (using SonTek ADP)
- **Photographs** (at 30, 150 and 300 meters facing upstream, downstream, left bank and right bank...)
- **Field Data Sheets** (form used to describe the general conditions of the water body)
- **Interview forms**



# Photograph Examples



**Downstream View**



**Upstream View**



# Photograph Examples



**Left bank at site**



**Right bank at 300 meters  
downstream**



# Photograph Examples



**Evidence of Fishing (Secondary Contact Recreation)**



**Access points – unpaved road to stream**



# Photograph Examples



**Primary Contact Recreation  
(Wading by Children)**



**Secondary Contact Recreation**



# Photograph Examples



**Limited Access**

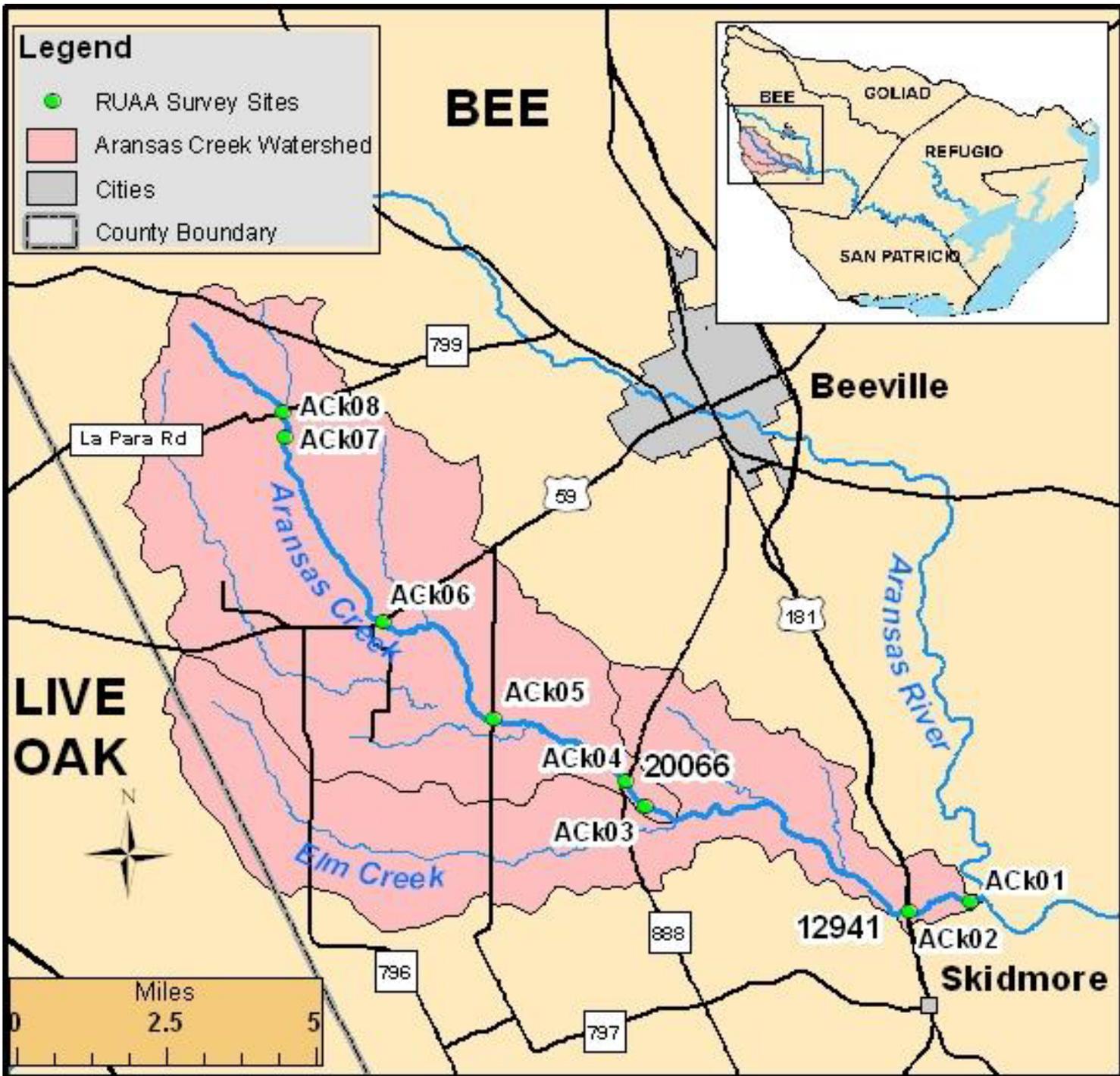
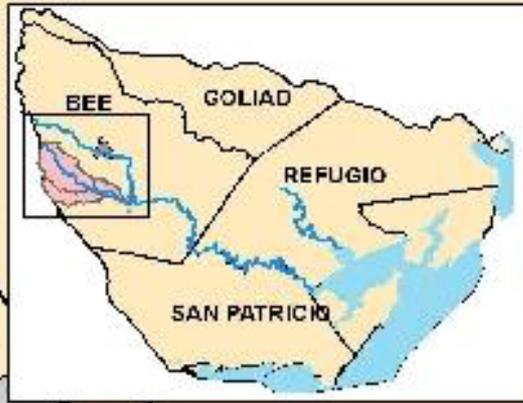


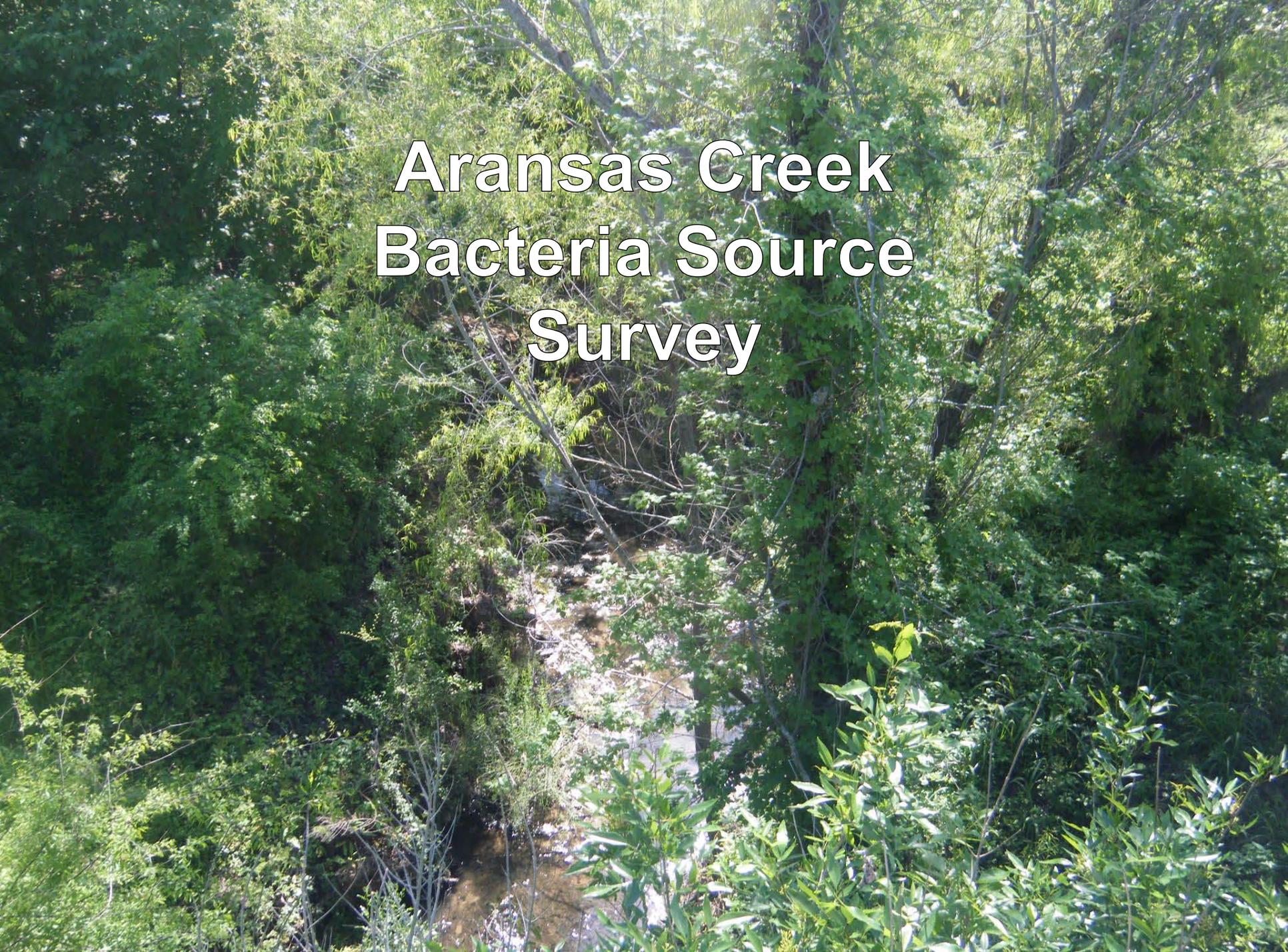
# Needed Assistance from Cooperating Landowners

- Access to private land on Aransas Creek in the area between US 181 and FM 888 for site surveys
- 8 sites have been identified out of a potential of 12 (Mainly at bridge crossings so far)
- Commitment to allow 2 reconnaissance visits over summer 2012 for completion of the RUAA

# Legend

- RUAA Survey Sites
- Aransas Creek Watershed
- Cities
- County Boundary



An aerial photograph of a creek winding through a dense, lush green forest. The water in the creek is a light brownish color, contrasting with the surrounding vibrant green foliage. The trees are tall and thin, with their branches and leaves creating a complex canopy. The overall scene is a natural, wooded landscape.

# Aransas Creek Bacteria Source Survey



# Bacteria Source Survey

- Watershed source survey characterizes the possible sources of bacteria loadings
- Will identify locations of possible bacteria sources
- Survey will represent warm and cool seasons and low and high flow conditions
- Local stakeholders and technical experts will be consulted in the development of the source survey



# Bacteria Source Survey

Evaluation of sources like:

- On-site Sewage Facilities (Septic Systems)
- Wildlife, livestock, and non-domestic animal Populations
- Compliance issues: Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
- Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System



# Bacteria Source Survey



**Bat population under US 181**



# Bacteria Source Survey

- Technical Meeting
  - Made up of technical experts within their jurisdiction that characterize possible sources of bacteria loadings



# Bacteria Source Survey

- Technical Expert Review (Proposed):
  - Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
  - Texas Department of Agriculture
  - Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
  - Texas AgriLife Extension Service
  - Texas Forest Service
  - U. S. Geological Survey
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
  - USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
  - USDA Agricultural Research Service
  - Nueces River Authority
  - Also affected municipalities, counties, and SWCDs



# Bacteria Source Survey

- Assessment:
  - Walking portions of the impaired segment
  - GIS Inventory of the Study Area
  - Historical Water Quality Review



# Next Steps

- Site finalization
- Scheduling/Planning a Technical Source Survey Design Meeting
- 1<sup>st</sup> Field Survey – July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012
- Next Public Meeting – August 2012
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Field Survey – Sept. 2-3 (Labor Day Weekend)

To fill out an interview form please visit the following website:

<http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/managementprogram/aransaruaa>



# Questions?

Sam Sugarek

Nueces River Authority

[ssugarek@nueces-ra.org](mailto:ssugarek@nueces-ra.org)

(361) 653-2110

Jana Lloyd

Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board

[jlloyd@tsswcb.texas.gov](mailto:jlloyd@tsswcb.texas.gov)

(254) 773-2250 ext. 224