

## Leases for Brazos River Access Sought by TPWD



Friends of the Brazos received a request from Texas Parks and Wildlife to help them spread the word to people who own land along the Brazos River. TPWD has a lease program with funds available to both pay landowners to allow public access for anglers, paddlers and other users (without abusing the land or river!), and to help them develop and protect the property. One of our longterm goals is to work with TPWD to establish a paddling trail along the Brazos which would follow in John Graves' ***Goodbye to a River*** paddling footsteps. We haven't been able to do this because there are no put-in, take-out spots accessible to the public! This would be a great first step to honoring John Graves and sharing the river with more people.



Here is a brief description from TPWD's Preston Bean (from his email to FBR asking for help), if you are interested we recommend you visit their website so you can see what others are doing:

"TPWD leases river access (\$500-1,000 per month) from private landowners to provide increased angling opportunities. The amount of access is negotiated and included in the contract so that the site does not become over-used or degraded. The

access can be restricted by limiting available parking (TPWD can provide some fencing materials or gravel for parking area) as well by managed access by which anglers contact the landowner to make a reservation and/or get a gate code so the property isn't just always open to the public. The access is geared towards anglers and possibly other outdoor activities such as kayaking or birding (i.e., not creating a spot where people go to party on the river).

We are currently looking for sites below Granbury and possibly a site between Possum Kingdom and Granbury. Also, the sites aren't restricted to a ranch/personal home type of property. They can be at existing businesses (e.g. RV park) along the river. I've included a link to the TPWD river fishing page (<http://tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/recreational/rivers/>) so you can see some of the current river access sites."

Please contact Preston Bean for more information at [Preston.Bean@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:Preston.Bean@tpwd.texas.gov)