

John Graves Scenic Riverway Update

Texas Representative Sid Miller (District 59--Somervell, Comanche, Hamilton, Erath, and Coryell Counties), has introduced two bills into the Texas Legislature that would extend the reach of the John Graves Scenic Riverway. House Bill 1712 is currently in the House Environmental Regulation Committee. It contains the same provisions as the original legislation (S. 1354 passed in 2005) that established the JGSR in Parker and Palo Pinto Counties, but extends the JGSR through Hood, Johnson, and Somervell Counties. House Bill 1642 is currently in the House Natural Resources Committee. It extends the boundary of the JGSR to the line between Somervell and Bosque Counties, specifically including the portion of the river basin and contributing watershed in Johnson County. It also contains different inspection provisions, allowing either a ground or a flyover inspection of the JGSR, rather than both ground and flyover inspections as required by S. 1354. The Hood County JGSR resolutions, adopted by the Commissioner's Court, the cities of Granbury, DeCordova, and Brazos Bend, and the Lake Granbury Chamber of Commerce, call for an extension of the JGSR through Hood, Johnson, and Somervell Counties without changing other provisions of S. 1354. Our legislators (Senator Kip Averitt and Representative Jim Keffer) have been made aware that BRCC supports the enactment of JGSR legislation without watered down inspection requirements.