



For Immediate Release

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AUTHORITY URGES HUNTERS TO BE SAFETY CONSCIOUS

The holidays may be over, but for waterfowl hunters the fun continues as their season goes into full swing. The rivers and lakes of the Brazos River basin offer numerous opportunities to participate in this annual tradition.

The Brazos River Authority encourages hunters to be safe and aware of state laws and local regulations. These regulations were created to protect not only hunters but also those who live nearby – whether on the river or an Authority lake.

The Brazos offers countless spots to hunt along its 820 miles. Since the river is a public stream, it belongs to all Texans and they are free to enjoy a variety of activities within its banks.

However, hunting in a riverbed brings added challenges and safety issues compared to other areas. Many people live along the river banks, and hunters must be mindful of their safety when shooting. While hunting is allowed in riverbeds, state law prohibits people from firing a weapon onto or across private property without the owner's approval.

Hunters should also be careful where they walk when hunting in the riverbed to avoid violating Texas trespassing laws by straying onto private property. Under state law, the river bed is public property up to the "gradient boundary." Though the definition of the boundary can be confusing, it roughly means the point where more woody plants begin to grow (below the vegetation line). For questions on a specific area on the river, contact the local Texas Parks and Wildlife game warden.

Hunters should also be sure to carry their hunting license with them. Law enforcement officers, including game wardens and lake rangers, will enforce state and local hunting laws including the requirement of carrying the proper licenses, permits, and stamps for the current season.

Like the rivers, the lakes in the Authority system are a popular draw for visitors seeking a little rest and relaxation as well as the many Texans who have built homes along the lake shores. The safety of everyone enjoying the lakes is of the highest priority to the Brazos River Authority. With this in mind, only waterfowl hunting is permitted at Authority lakes and lands.

The Authority has established 48 designated locations for hunting blinds in areas that are less populated. Each August, drawings are held for lease of these locations allowing up to four hunters to share a designated blind area.

For safety purposes, hunting on Authority property, including the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) buffer zone and public use areas at Possum Kingdom Lake, is not allowed. Hunting is permitted on private property adjoining the lake; however, for the safety of our on-water guests, hunters should not shoot into the lake area.

A few waterfowl hunting blind locations are still available at each lake. For more information, call the lake office at (940) 779-2321 for Possum Kingdom Lake, (817) 573-3212 for Granbury and (903) 529-2141 for Limestone.

To learn more about Texas hunting laws, including information about hunting licenses and seasons, go to <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/annual>. For more information contact the Public Information Office at (888) 922-6272.

- 30 -

About the Brazos River Authority

The Brazos River Authority, with headquarters in Waco, is the oldest river authority in Texas. Created by the Texas Legislature in 1929, the Authority's 42,000 square-mile territory includes all or part of 70 counties; extending from the Texas-New Mexico border west of Lubbock to the Gulf of Mexico near Freeport.

The Authority built, owns, and operates three reservoirs (Lakes Possum Kingdom, Granbury, and Limestone). In addition to these water supply reservoirs, the Authority contracts with the Corps of Engineers for the water supply storage space at eight federal multi-purpose flood control and water conservation reservoirs (Lakes Whitney, Belton, Proctor, Somerville, Stillhouse Hollow, Granger, Georgetown, and Aquilla).

The Brazos River Authority owns and operates a regional wastewater system for the cities of Temple-Belton. The Authority also operates wastewater treatment plants for the cities of Georgetown, Dime Box, Clute-Richwood, and Sugar Land. Through an alliance with the Lower Colorado River Authority, the Brazos River Authority operates wastewater treatment plants at Brushy Creek Regional Wastewater System in Round Rock, the city of Hutto and the city of Liberty Hill.

The Authority owns and operates water treatment systems at Lake Granbury (which supplies potable water to wholesale customers in Hood and Johnson Counties), and the City of Taylor. The Authority also operates a potable water treatment plant for the City of Dime Box. A water treatment plant for the City of Leander is operated by the Brazos River Authority through an alliance with the Lower Colorado River Authority.

The Authority also engages in water quality monitoring activities throughout the Brazos River basin. As a member of the Texas Clean River Program, the Authority samples and tests water from 157 locations throughout the basin on either a monthly or quarterly basis.

For further information on the Brazos River Authority, please contact Judi Pierce, Public Information Officer at 254-761-3103.