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LETTER: Neches River a treasure

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Suzanne Dixon, Texas Regional Director, National Parks Conservation Association, Dallas

The Neches River is an East Texas treasure that would significantly benefit from National Wild and Scenic River designation (“Conservationists seeking ‘National Wild and Scenic River’ designation for Neches River,” March 20, 2010).

Among the many benefits include additional protections for this pristine area. For example, designation could prevent the potential condemnation of private riverside land for a massive 100,000-acre reservoir. It would also benefit the local economy by increasing visibility of the region as a tourist destination. Further, National Wild and Scenic River designation would encourage collaboration among local business and industry leaders, county and local governments, conservationists, tourism officials, landowners, and others to discuss the best way to protect the river and maintain local needs.

We support designation of the Neches River as a National Wild and Scenic River because it would protect the river, its wildlife and local landowners, while providing an economic boost for East Texas.

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