

Coming to the Guadalupe – the New Braunfels Outer Loop

I'm positive there is a "Born to Fish" gene, which makes it imperative to spend as much time as possible on the water catching fish, sharing fish stories and strategizing how to catch bigger fish in greater numbers. I know this because my husband has such a gene.

When we moved to New Braunfels from our "fishing paradise" in Washington State, my husband was very disheartened at the lack of public access to the Guadalupe River. After months of watching him suffer severe fishing withdrawals, I was saved from the need to stock our pool with bass and steelhead by his discovery of GRTU. The Guadalupe has now become one of his favorite fishing spots in the U.S.

But all is not well! A major threat to our newly beloved Guadalupe has emerged! The culprit is a 40- mile band of major highway, planned to circle New Braunfels. It would take out homes and farms, slice through the very sensitive Edwards Aquifer recharge zone and the special trout regulation zone on the Guadalupe. How will a highway effect the Guadalupe? The three ingredients for development are power, transportation and water. The road will provide the transportation. This will enable urban sprawl. Developers could tap into the aquifer for water and deplete flows from Hueco Springs and the Comal River. Homes and businesses will become a source of pollution that would find it's way back to the aquifer and the river. Can you imagine the Guadalupe as an urbanized stream, with little access, over-built and the water a peculiar color?

TXDOT came up with this plan, but failed to include impacts on the river or surrounding habitat critical for endangered birds and cave dwelling species. They saw no need for an Environmental Impact Study. Conservation groups such as the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance are in opposition. In the minds of some Texas State, New Braunfels, Comal and Guadalupe officials, this is already a done deal. The initial stated time for implementing this project was 20 years. They are now planning to start some phases in as little as 3 years.

The question has to be asked: Is this any way to treat our river, or any river, that made it's national prominence known in the Trout Unlimited "America's 100 Best Trout Streams"? So please take a few minutes and make a worthwhile investment of your time to help protect the Guadalupe. The fate of our river hangs in the balance.

Citizens' Alliance for Smart Expansion (CASE) is a group fighting to derail this flawed plan. To do this we need the help of everyone concerned about the project's impact. We need you to make your concerns known at the national, state and local levels. We need GRTU members to attend meetings and hearings as well as lend expert testimony regarding this issue. GRTU knows how to fight and win. The time to stop this is now. The time to protect this invaluable fishery is now.

Visit our website <www.nbcase.org> for political contact information. To participate contact April Hughes (830) 626-7272, e-mail [hughes @az.com](mailto:hughes@az.com) or Shirley Pfeiffer (830) 606-6978. We can also mail or e-mail you a user-friendly list of all political contacts.

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