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## **Report Outlines Threats to James River, a Major Llano River Tributary**

### *River important for ranching and wildlife*

(March 5, 2010) The James River is a relatively unknown and unspoiled gem in Central Texas. Environmental Defense Fund's new report, "The Unknown River of Central Texas," describes the importance of the river's water resources to local communities, ranchers and wildlife, in an area that would otherwise be void of surface water.

"Most people haven't heard of the James River, but it is a major tributary to the Llano River," explains report author Tyson Broad. "This river system provides economic and cultural value to much of Central Texas. Those benefits continue as the Llano River flows into the Colorado River and down to the Texas Coast."

The report identifies several potential threats to the James River, including a potential decrease in spring flow due to increased groundwater pumping; lack of sufficient scientific information about the river; and fragmented land management resulting from the division of large ranches into smaller "ranchettes."

"The biggest threat facing the James River is that so few people even know it exists," Broad said. "It's hard to protect something when no one knows its value. This report provides landowners and other local residents information needed to start coordinating efforts to protect the river."

The report can be found online on this page: <http://texaswatermatters.org/southllanoriver.htm>.

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