

Original Message

From: Jack Williamson to MR Board
To:
Cc:

6-25-03

Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2003 5:29 PM
Subject: Meeting with State Officials

Monday June 23 I met with a group at Gate 9 and the 271 bridge to review the boundaries between the ranch and public land. Ernie Lerma set up the meeting.

Present were: Ernie, his boss Capt. A. J. Vielma, Jeff Carter (game warden Bandera County), and 2 men from Austin—Ben Thompson (surveyor from the state land office) and Boyd Kennedy (staff atty., law enforcement division, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.).

In the opinion of the surveyor, the public has the right to set foot on the river bed up to the gradient level of water in the river, but not on the banks of the river. There is no right of trespass on the land beneath the LAKE beyond the river bed itself. The "No Trespassing" signs Tony has installed on poles are set in Medina Ranch ground and thus are legal. Ernie has a good photo to show this when the lake recently was so low.

The placement of our fences are appropriate, and all parties agreed that the 2 ft. space between the bridge and the fence which was agreed upon by the Medina Co. atty in 1988 is OK. They say a canoe or kayak can be launched from the bridge legally, and it is legal for it to be on Diversion Lake. (The county does not approve of this for reasons of safety.).

The "lake" at the foot of Medina Dam is off limits to the public, and of course the spillway is clearly private property.

I am sending documents to the attorney who will then send them on to the game wardens and other law enforcement people. In addition, TPWD will contact Ron Henry Strait, the Express/News outdoor writer, and set him straight so he will cease writing erroneous and inflammatory articles about our fencing off the public.

This was a very positive and constructive meeting, and it will allow the law enforcement people to know just what constitutes criminal trespass.