



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Northwest Florida Habitat Assessment Benchmark Sites

Aquatic Ecology and Quality Assurance

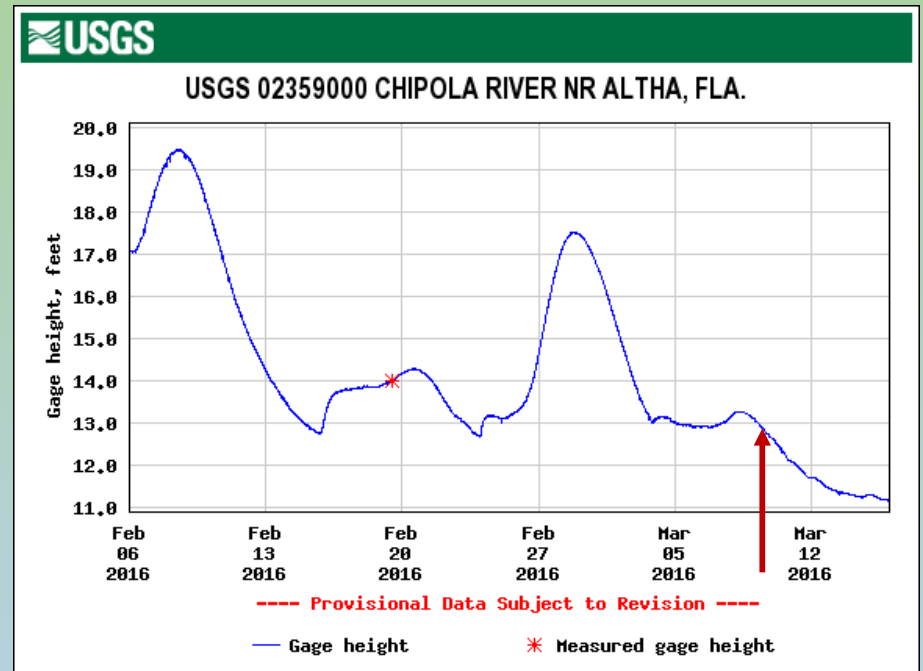
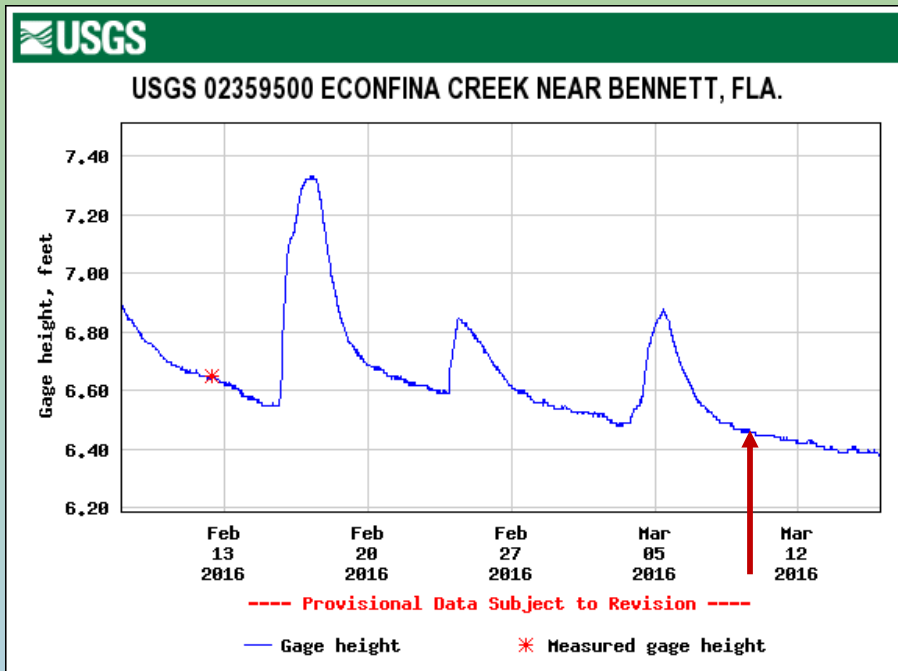
March 2016



Procedure

- Evaluate each site per SOP FT3100, "Stream and River Habitat Assessment," using forms FD9000-3, FD9000-4, and FD9000-5. It is recommended that you use the most current editions of the forms and the SOP, found here: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/sas/qa/forms.htm>
- **Work independently.**
- Submit all completed forms to your QA officer, who will send the forms to the FDEP Aquatic Ecology and Quality Assurance (AEQA) Section in Tallahassee.
- The range for a passing score is +/- 10 points from the predetermined consensus score. However, consideration will be given to scores outside this range if they were legitimately caused by different conditions at the time of sampling compared to conditions when the consensus score was decided (i.e. higher/lower water level, velocity, etc.).
- Analysts must pass 3 Habitat Assessments every 2 years .
- Once scores have been reviewed, analysts will receive notice of passing or failing from the AEQA Section.
- QA officers will be given access to detailed explanations of how consensus scores were reached for each site, which can be distributed to analysts *after* their scores have been submitted.
- Analysts should take photos to document stream conditions at the time of assessment. Photos may be submitted to AEQA after initial determination of passing/failing if an analyst believes his/her score for a given site is out of the +/- 10 point range due to justifiable reasons.

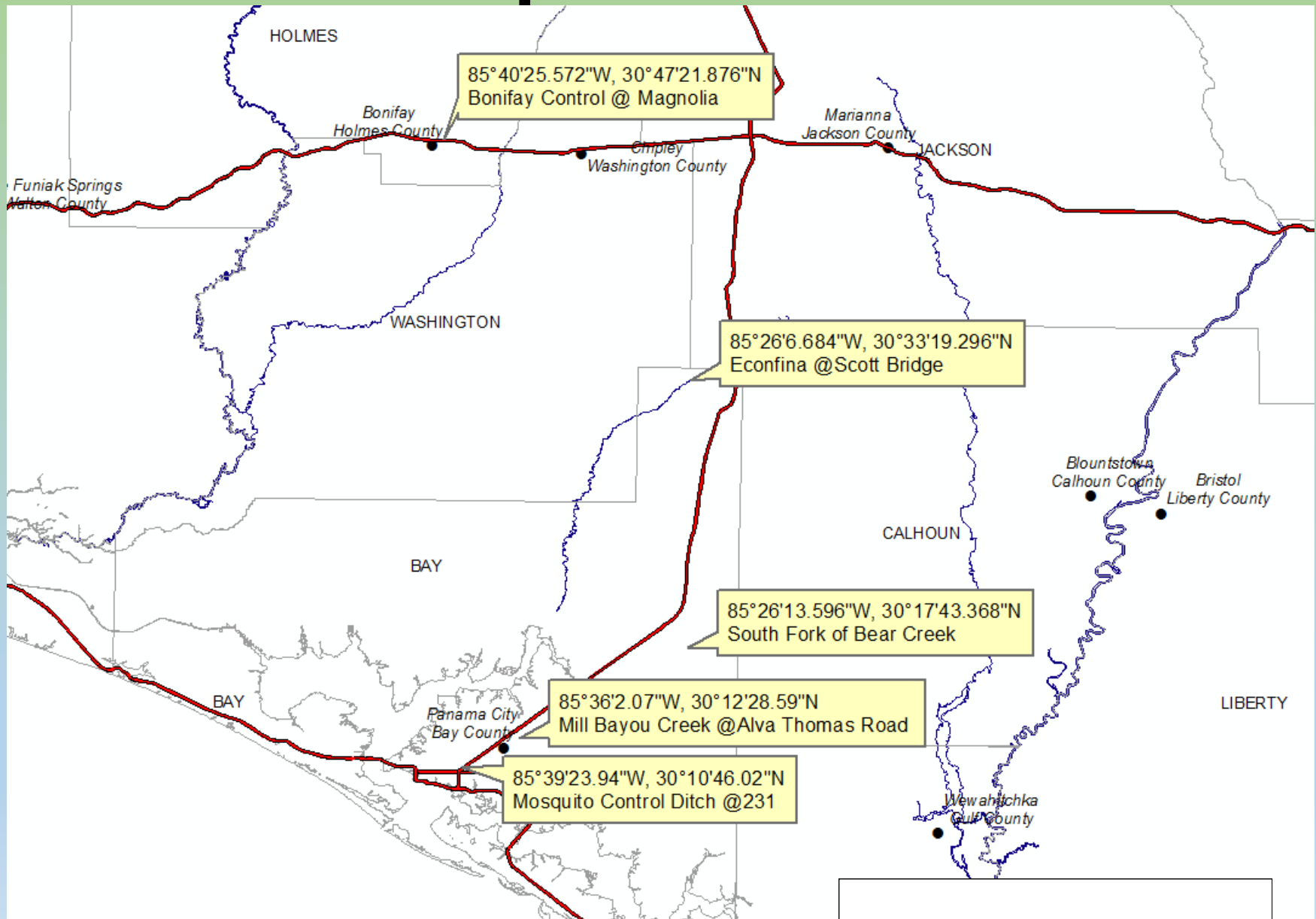
Hydrographs of Near-by Streams



The consensus scores for these Northwest sites were established on March 9, 2016. Above are the gage height data for streams in the area during that time period. *If you conduct habitat assessments at these sites at different water levels, be sure to document current conditions.*

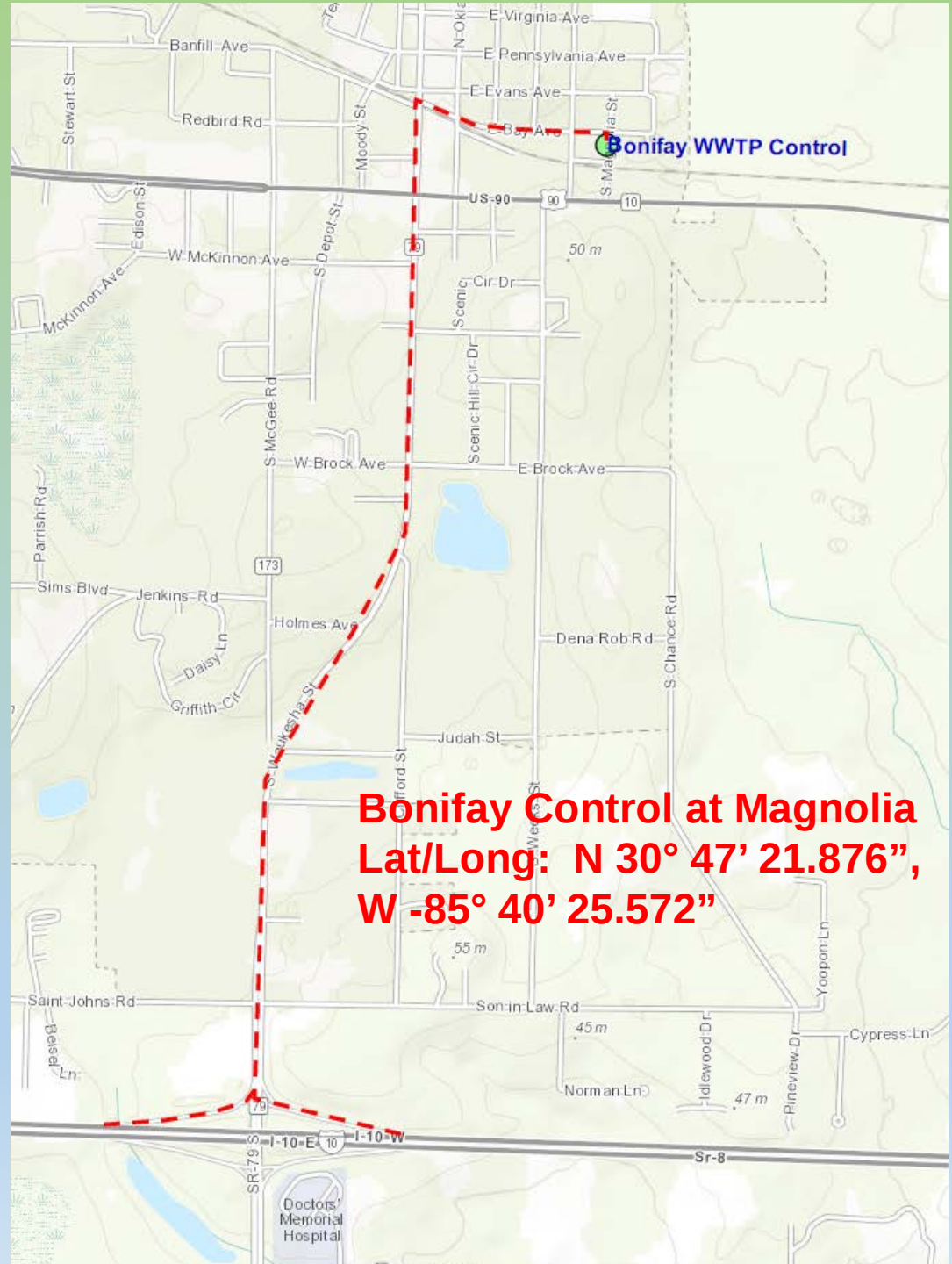
Graphs courtesy of the US Geological Survey.

Overview Map of Northwest Sites



Bonifay Control @ Magnolia

- **Region:** Northwest
- **County:** Holmes
- **Date Analyzed:** 3/09/2016
- **Directions:** From Interstate 10 E or W, take the FL 79 exit (exit 112), and merge to go north to Bonifay on FL 79 (also S. Waukesha Street). Travel approximately 1.9 miles to E. Bay Avenue. Turn right on E. Bay Ave. and travel approximately 0.4 miles to S. Magnolia St. Turn right on S. Magnolia, and the site is on your right.



Bonifay Control @ Magnolia

- **Accessing the site:** Park in the right of way on the east side of Magnolia Ave. The stretch is upstream of Magnolia Ave. and the 0m mark is approx. 10m from the Magnolia Ave. bridge crossing.



Parking on the east side of Magnolia Avenue



Bonifay Control @ Magnolia near the 0m mark

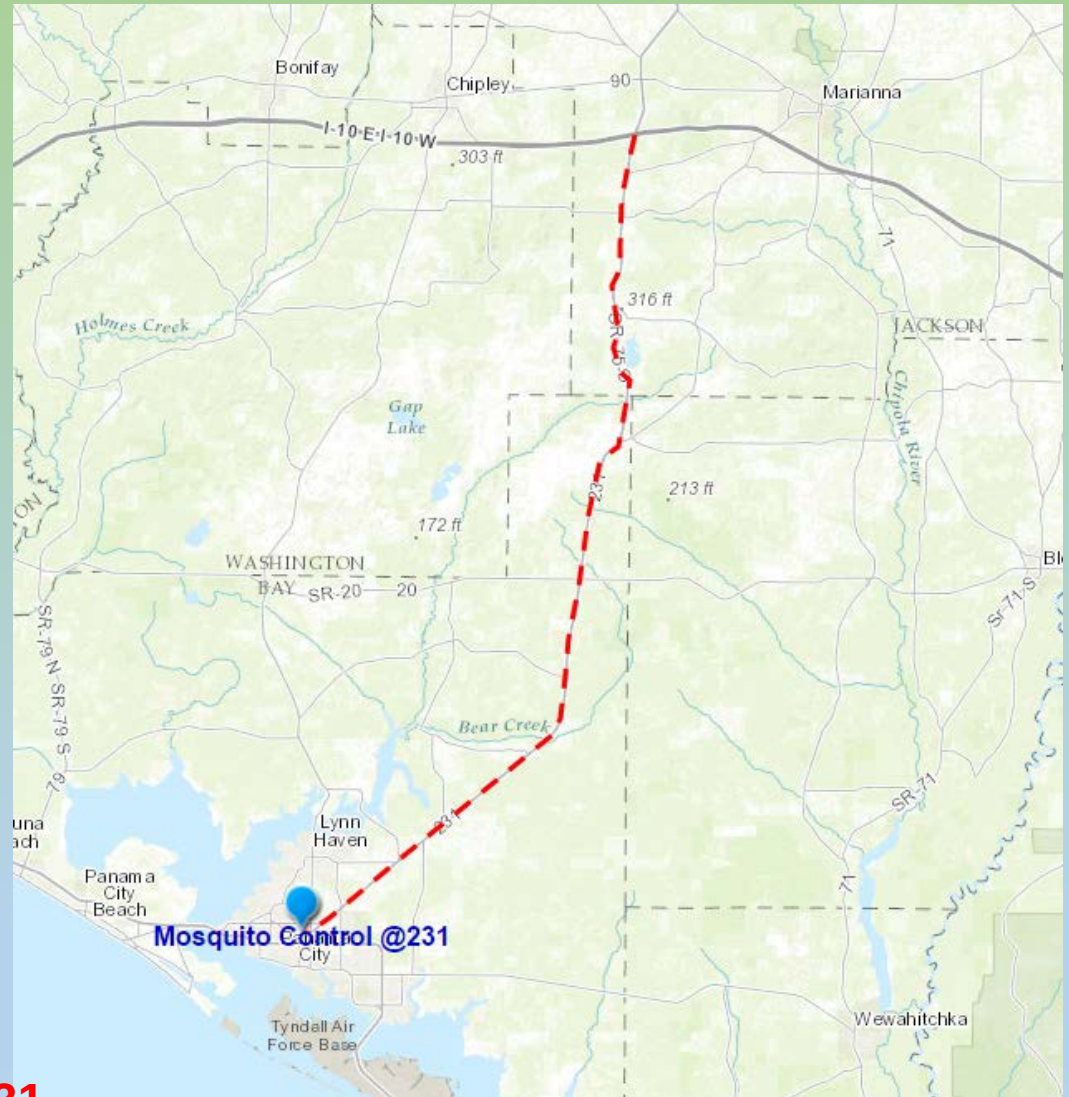
Bonifay Control @ Magnolia



**Bonifay Control @Magnolia, looking upstream
from the Om mark.**

Mosquito Control Ditch @ 231

- **Region:** Northwest
- **County:** Bay
- **Date Analyzed:** 3/9/2016
- **Directions:** From Interstate 10 E or W, take the Highway 231 exit (exit 130) and travel south on 231 approximately 47 miles to the City of Panama City, to 499 Highway 231 N (on the right--Florida Department of Corrections office), and park in the parking lot, behind the building. The site is accessed from the northwest corner of the parking lot, behind the building. The 100m mark is reached first.



Mosquito Control Ditch @ 231

Lat/long:

N 30°10' 46.02" W -85° 39' 23.94"

Mosquito Control @ 231

- **Accessing the site:** From the northwest corner of the Department of Corrections building parking lot, walk northwest, and you will see the site immediately.



Mosquito Control Ditch @ 231, 100m mark, at the entrance to the site



Mosquito Control Ditch @ 231, looking upstream from the 20m mark

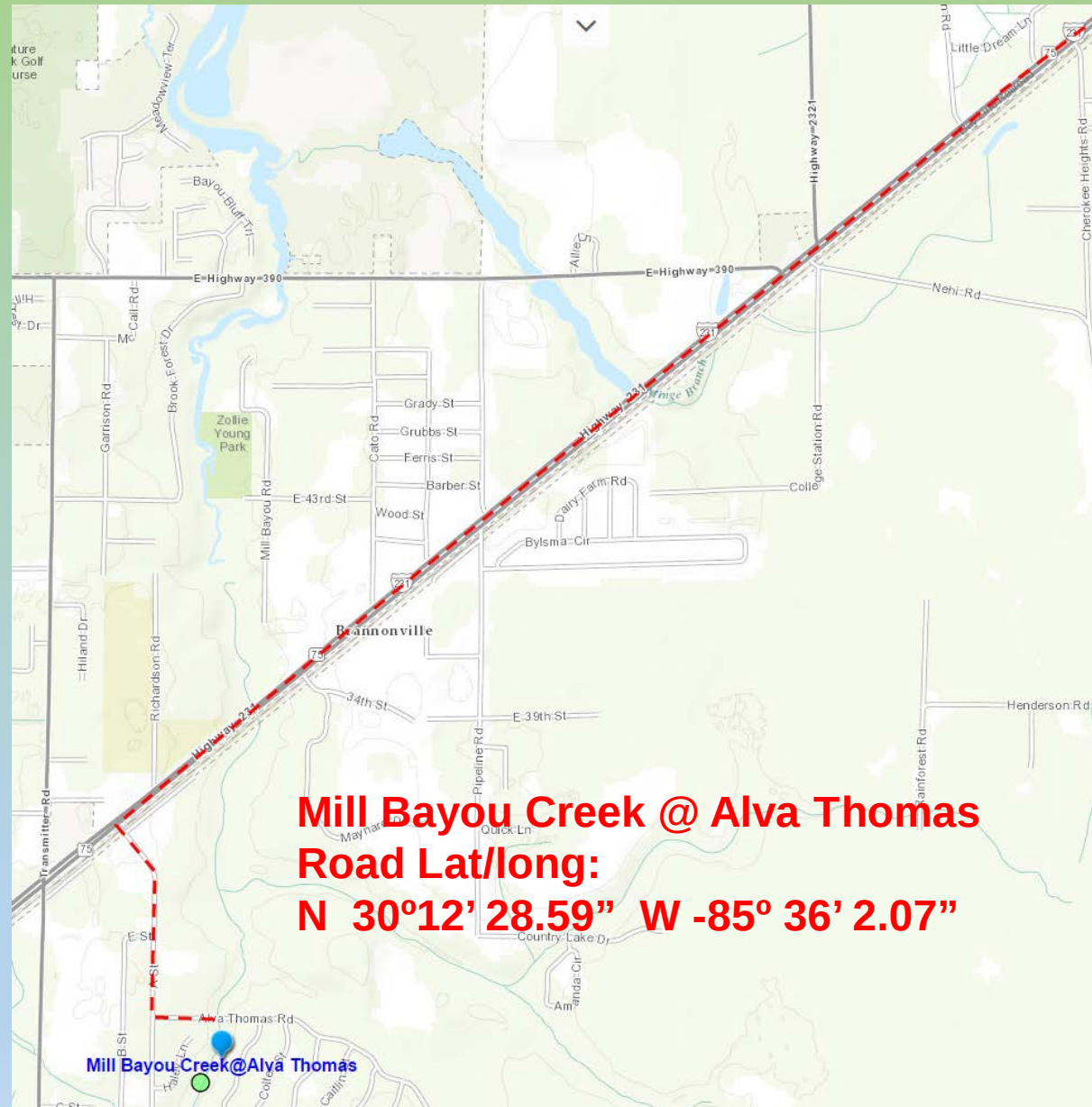
Mosquito Control @ 231



Looking upstream from the 0m mark

Mill Bayou Creek @ Alva Thomas Road

- **Region:** Northwest
- **County:** Bay
- **Date Analyzed:** 3/9/2016
- **Directions:** From Interstate 10 E or W, take the Highway 231 exit (exit 130), and travel south on 231, approximately 42 miles, to the intersection of 231 and "A" street (If you cross Transmitter Road, you have gone too far). Turn left on "A", and travel approximately 0.5 miles to Alva Thomas Rd. Turn left on Alva Thomas Rd, and Alva Thomas crosses Mill Bayou Creek in 0.1 mi.



Mill Bayou Creek @ Alva Thomas Road

- **Accessing the site:** Park on the south side of Alva Thomas Road, in the right of way adjacent to the stream. Walk upstream (south), to the 0m mark, approximately 40m south of the bridge.



Parking in the right of way on Alva Thomas Road



Looking downstream at the Alva Thomas bridge, from the 0 m mark

Mill Bayou Creek @ Alva Thomas Road

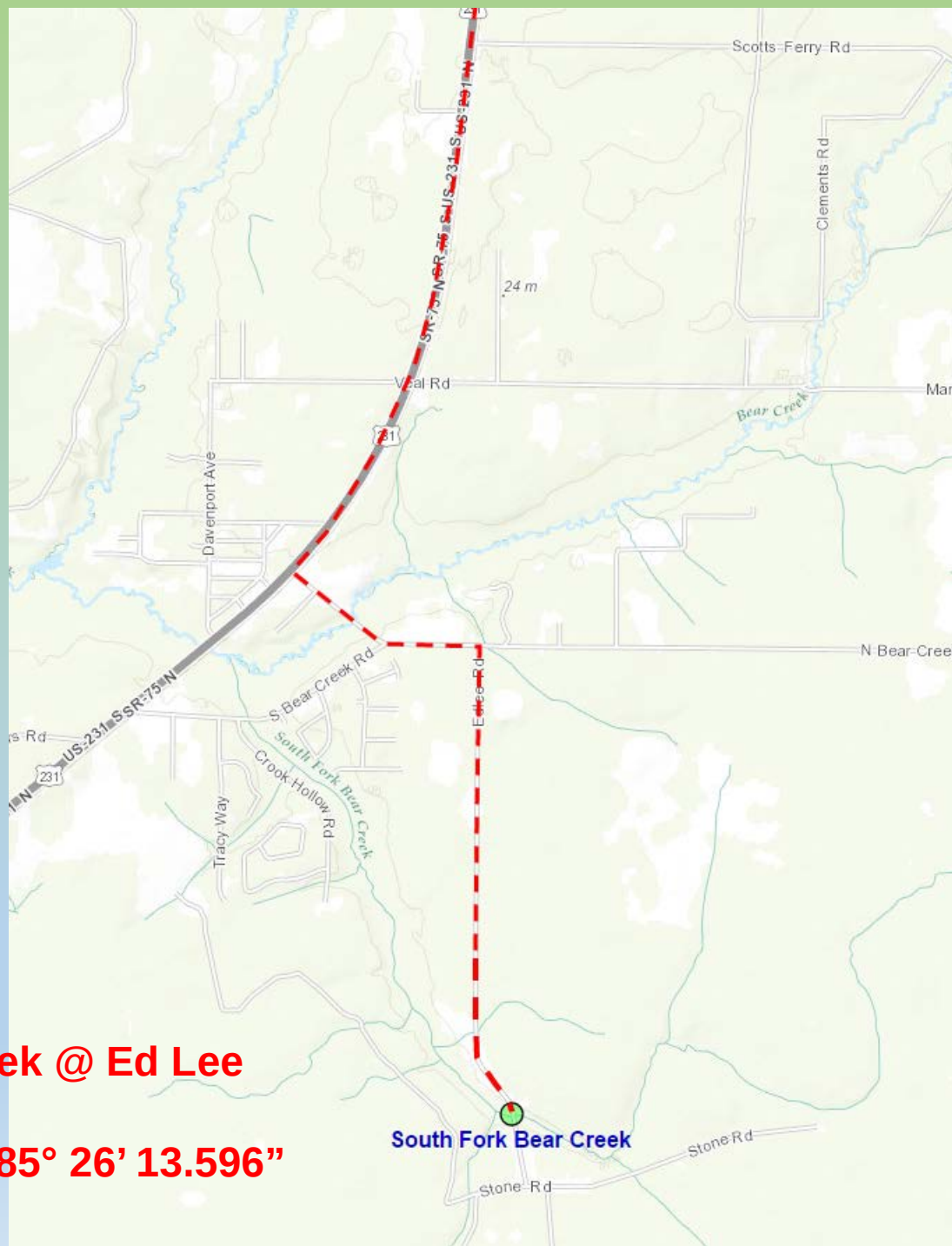


Looking upstream from the 0m mark

South Fork of Bear Creek

- **Region:** Northwest
- **County:** Bay
- **Date Analyzed:** 3/9/2016
- **Directions:** From Interstate 10 E or W, take the Highway 231 exit (exit 130), and travel south on 231, approximately 30 miles, to North Bear Creek Rd (If you cross South Bear Creek Road, you've gone too far). Turn left on North Bear Creek, and travel approx. .75 mi., to Ed Lee Rd. Turn right on Ed Lee, and travel approximately 1.7mi to the site. The site is on the right (downstream of the bridge).

South Fork of Bear Creek @ Ed Lee
Road Lat/long:
N 30° 17' 43.368" W -85° 26' 13.596"



South Fork of Bear Creek

- **Accessing the site:** Park on the right side of Ed Lee Road, just before the site. The site is on the downstream side of the road (to the right). The 100m mark is just west of the road, approximately 30 m downstream.



Access the stream from the west side of the road (to the right if you've driven south on Ed Lee Rd from N Bear Creek Rd).



Looking downstream at the site, from the 100m mark near Ed Lee Road

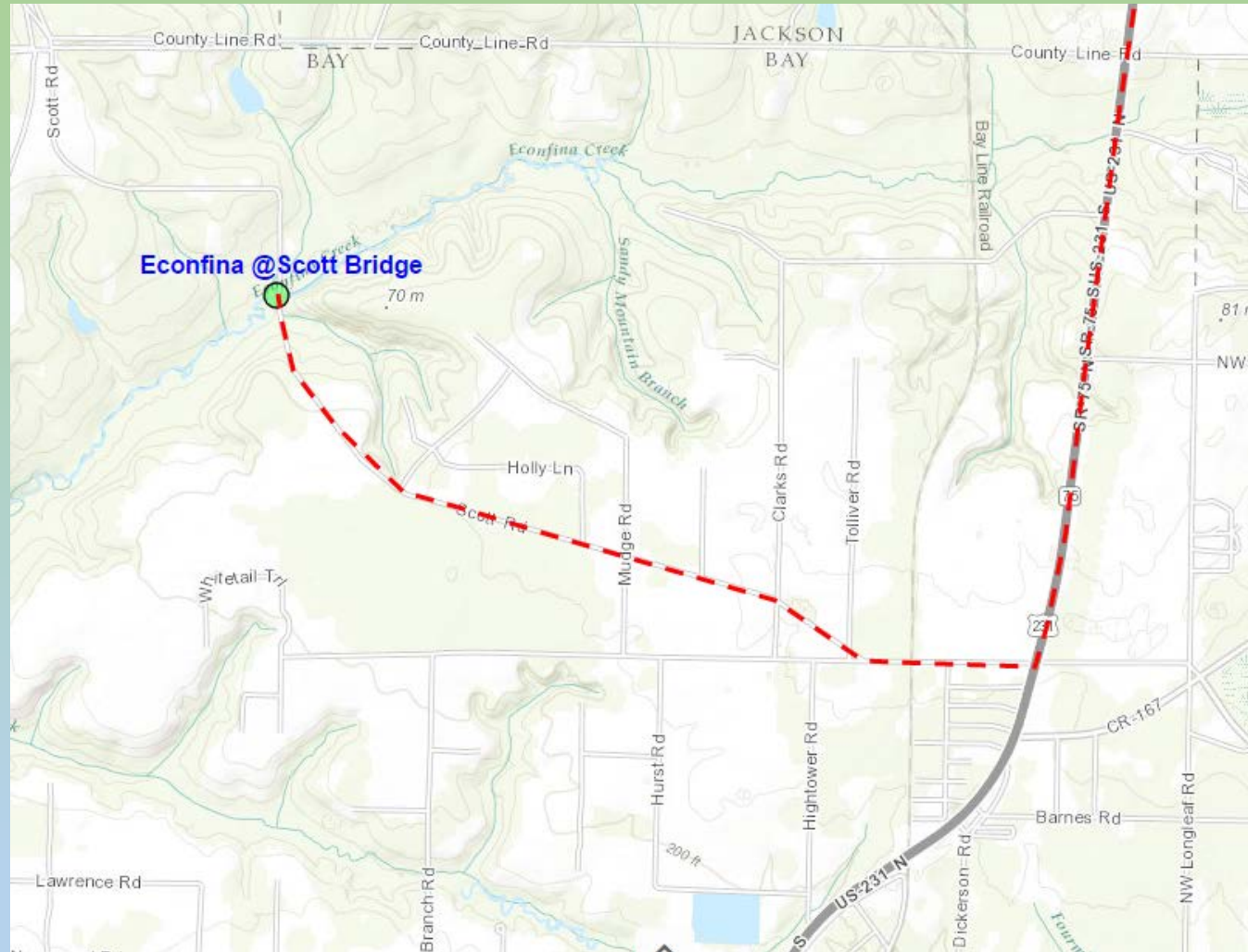
South Fork of Bear Creek



Looking downstream from 100m mark at the South Fork of Bear Creek site

Econfina Creek @ Scott Bridge

- **Region:** Northwest
- **County:** Bay
- **Date Analyzed:** 3/9/2016
- **Directions:** From Interstate 10 E or W, take the Highway 231 exit (exit 130), and travel south on 231, approximately 15 miles, to the intersection of 231 and Scott Road (if you cross Highway 167, you have gone too far). Turn right on Scott Rd, and travel approximately .5 mi to a fork in the road. Stay to the right on Scott Rd. The road becomes dirt. Travel 2.4 more miles to the site.



Econfina @ Scott Road Bridge Lat/long:
N 30° 33' 19.296" W -85° 26' 6.684"

Econfina Creek @ Scott Bridge

- **Accessing the site:** Park on the right side of Scott Road, just before the bridge. The site is on the upstream side of the road (to the right).
- **NOTE:** The 0m mark is approximately 80m upstream of the bridge. This creek has deep portions and can be swift at times. Stay close to the right bank while walking to the 0m mark.



Scott Road Bridge, looking downstream. Access the stream from the east side of the bridge (to the right)



Looking upstream, upon entering the site. Start of the stretch is further upstream, cannot be seen in this view.

Econfina Creek @ Scott Road Bridge



0m mark at Econfina Creek @ Scott Road Bridge (looking downstream toward bridge)