



Florida Department of Environmental Protection Northwest Florida Habitat Assessment Benchmark Sites

**Aquatic Ecology and Quality Assurance
February 2024**



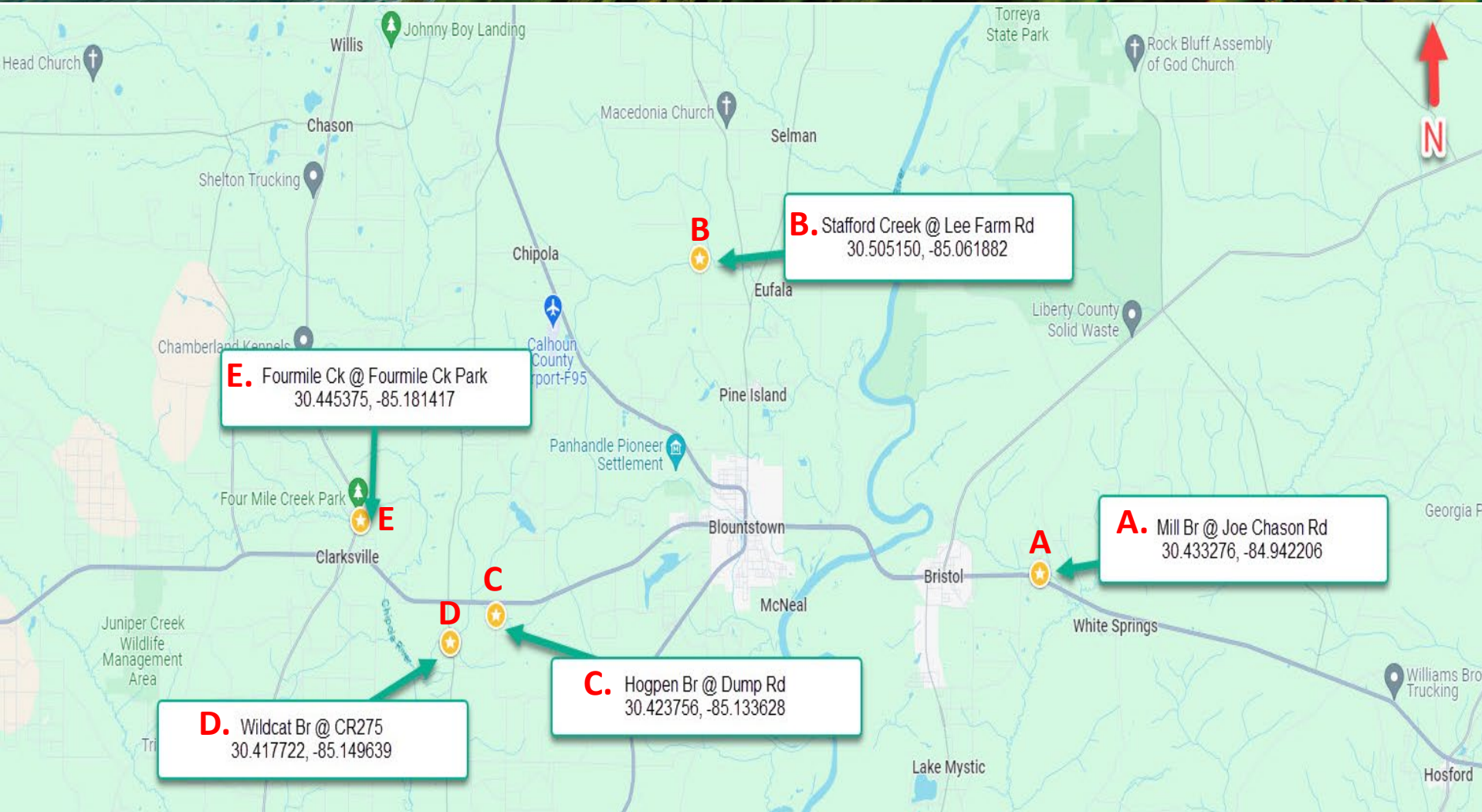
Procedure

- Evaluate each site per SOP FT3100, "Stream and River Habitat Assessment," using forms FD 9000-3, FD 9000-4, and FD 9000-5. It is recommended that you use the most current editions of the forms and the SOP, found here: <https://floridadep.gov/dear/quality-assurance/content/sop-forms>
- **Work independently.**
- Analysts are strongly encouraged to conduct assessments within 6 months of the testing event announcement and at flow conditions akin to those when DEP established the benchmark sites.
- Submit all completed forms to the DEP Aquatic Ecology and Quality Assurance section (AEQAs) 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 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.) and sufficiently documented.
- Analysts must pass 3 Habitat Assessments but must test at all 5 sites.
- Once scores have been reviewed, analysts will receive notice of passing or failing from AEQAs.
- Analysts should take photos to document stream conditions at the time of assessment. Photos may be submitted to AEQAs after initial determination of passing/failing if an analyst believes their score for a given site is out of the +/- 10-point range due to justifiable reasons.



Overview Map of the Northwest Habitat Testing Sites

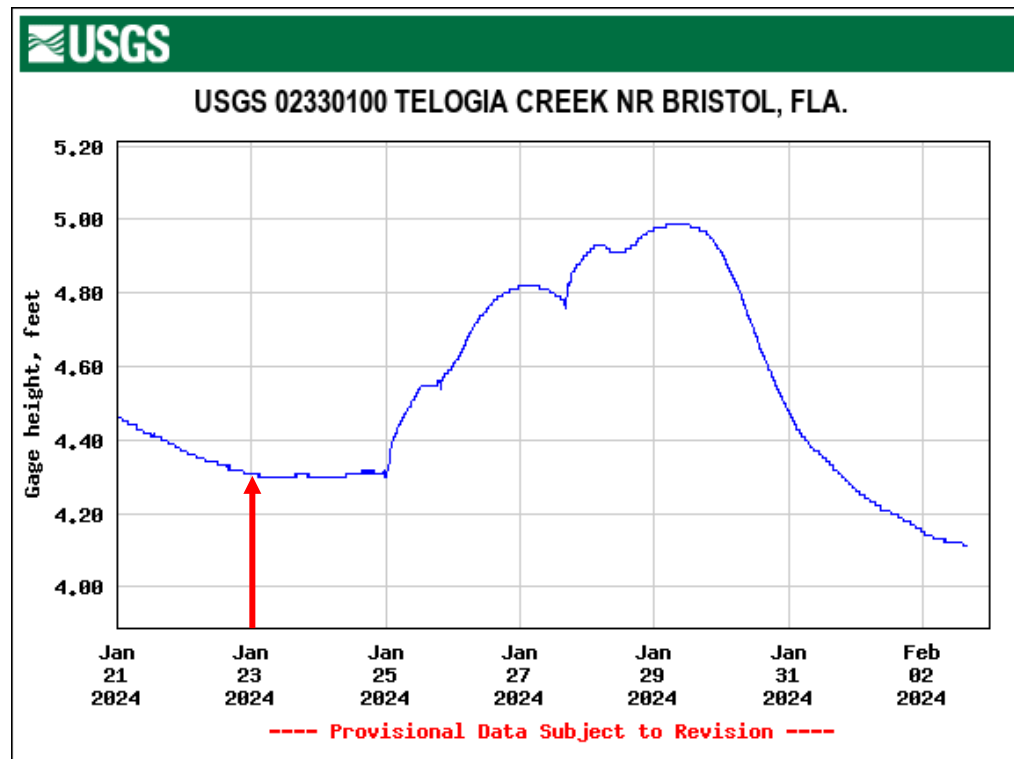
Directions start in the east and follow the order shown but sites can be completed in any order.





Area Hydrograph

TELOGIA CREEK NR BRISTOL, FLA.



The consensus scores were established on January 23, 2024. Above is the gage height for the nearest stream in the area during that time. If you conduct habitat assessment at these sites at different water levels, be sure to document current conditions.



Mill Branch at Joe Chason Cir

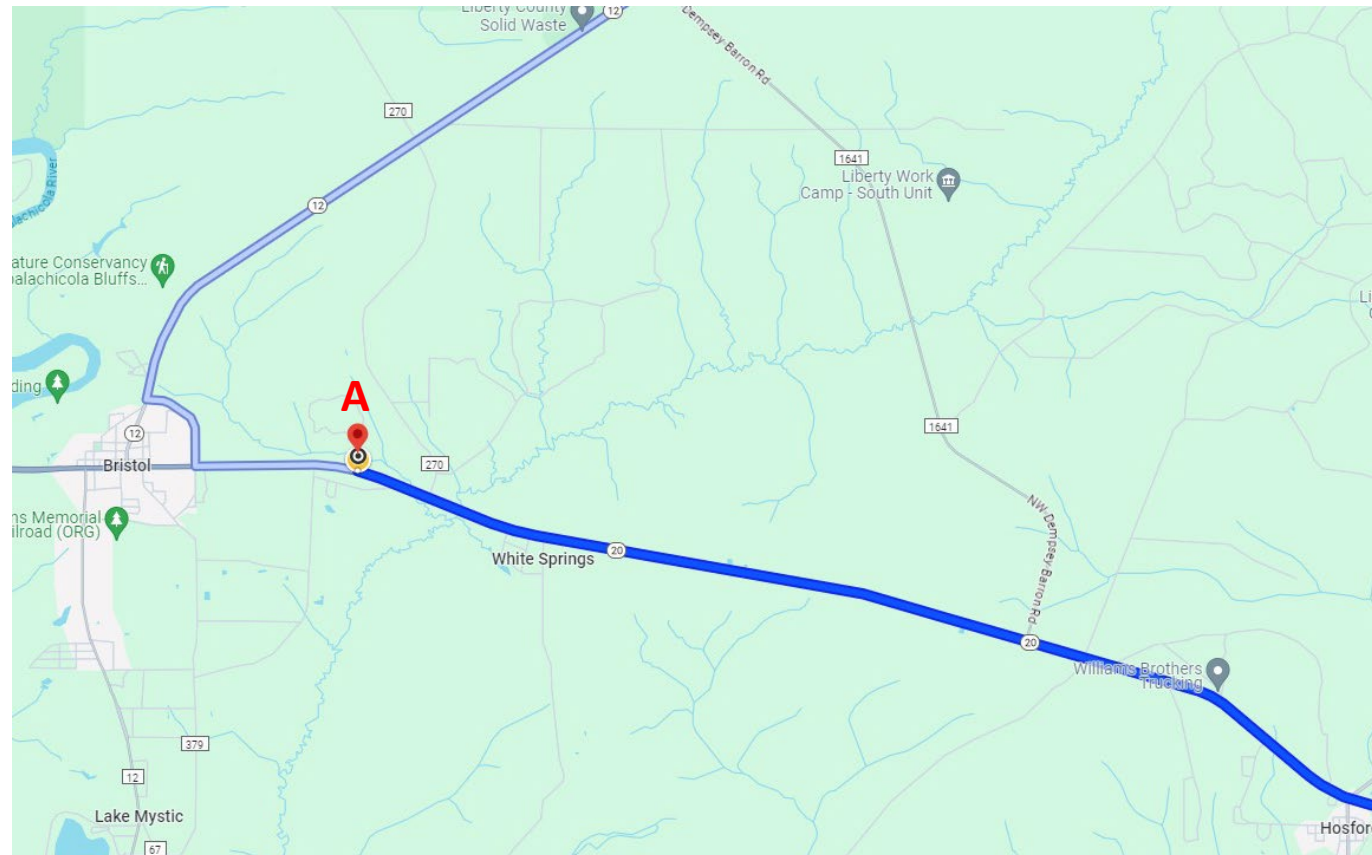
Coordinates: 30.433276,
-84.942206

Region: Northwest

County: Calhoun

Date Analyzed:
1/23/2024

Directions: From
Tallahassee, head west
on Highway 20, go 37
miles, turn R onto Joe
Chason Circle. Park on
the right side of road.





Mill Branch at Joe Chason Cir

Directions: Park along right side of road. Enter on the south side of creek. 100m flag is 75m from road.



Park along the right (west) side of the road. Walk along south side of creek 75m to the 100m flags.



Walk along south side of creek 75m to the 100m flags.



100m flags



Stafford Creek at Lee Farm Rd

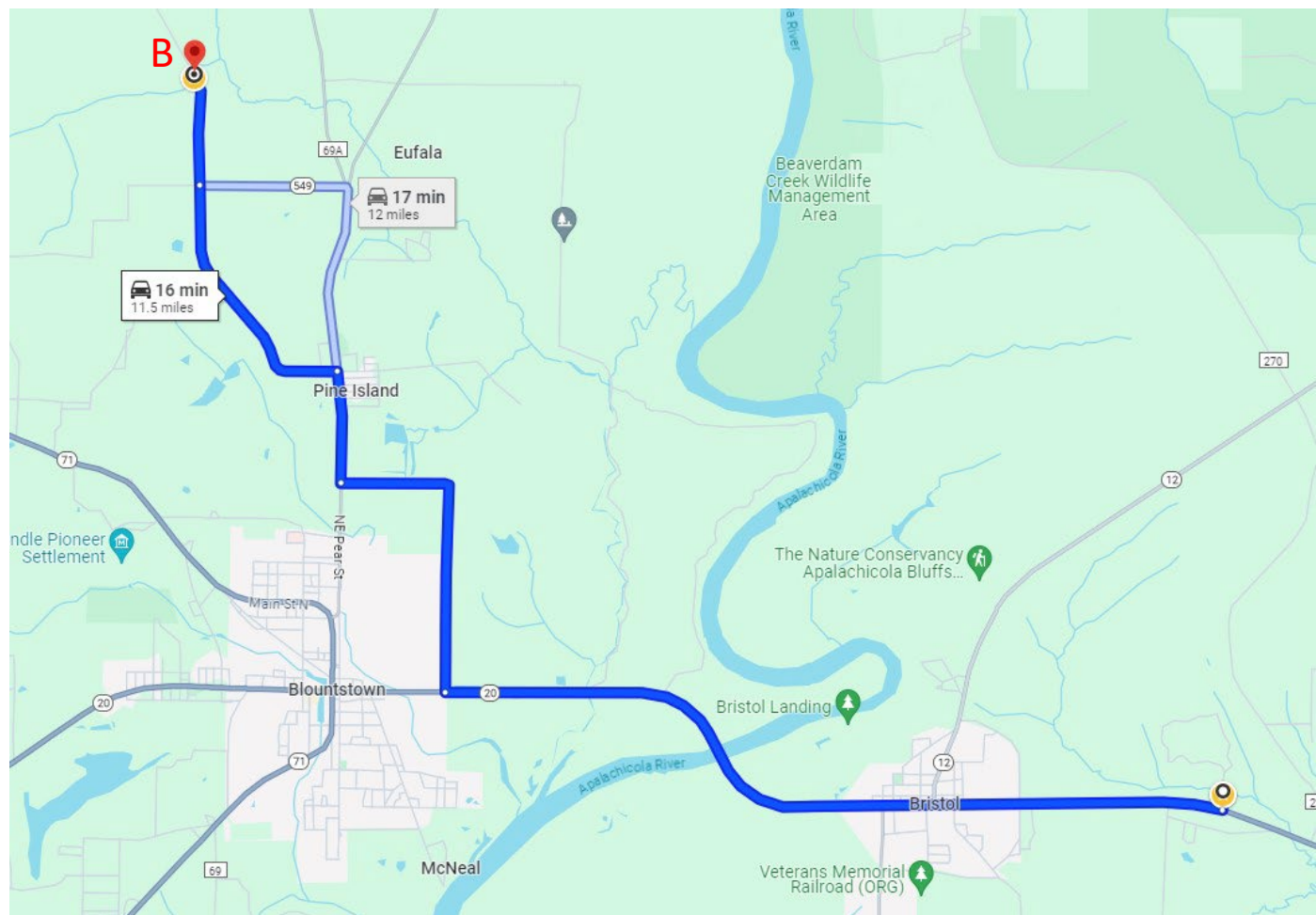
Coordinates:
30.505150, -85.061882

Region: Northwest

County: Calhoun

Date Analyzed:
1/23/2024

Directions: From Mill Branch, head west on Hwy 20 for 5.8 miles. Turn R onto Mason Rd, go 3.0 miles, turn R onto FL-69N. Go 0.8 mi, turn L onto John G Bryant Rd (SR 549). Go 2.7 miles. Park on the right side of road.





Stafford Creek at Lee Farm Rd

- **Directions:** Park on the right side of the road in front of the metal gate. Cross road, 0m flags are about 15m from the road.



Park along the right (east) side of the road. Cross road and enter along south side of the creek.



100m flags – looking downstream



Hogpen Br at Dump Rd

Coordinates: 30.423756,

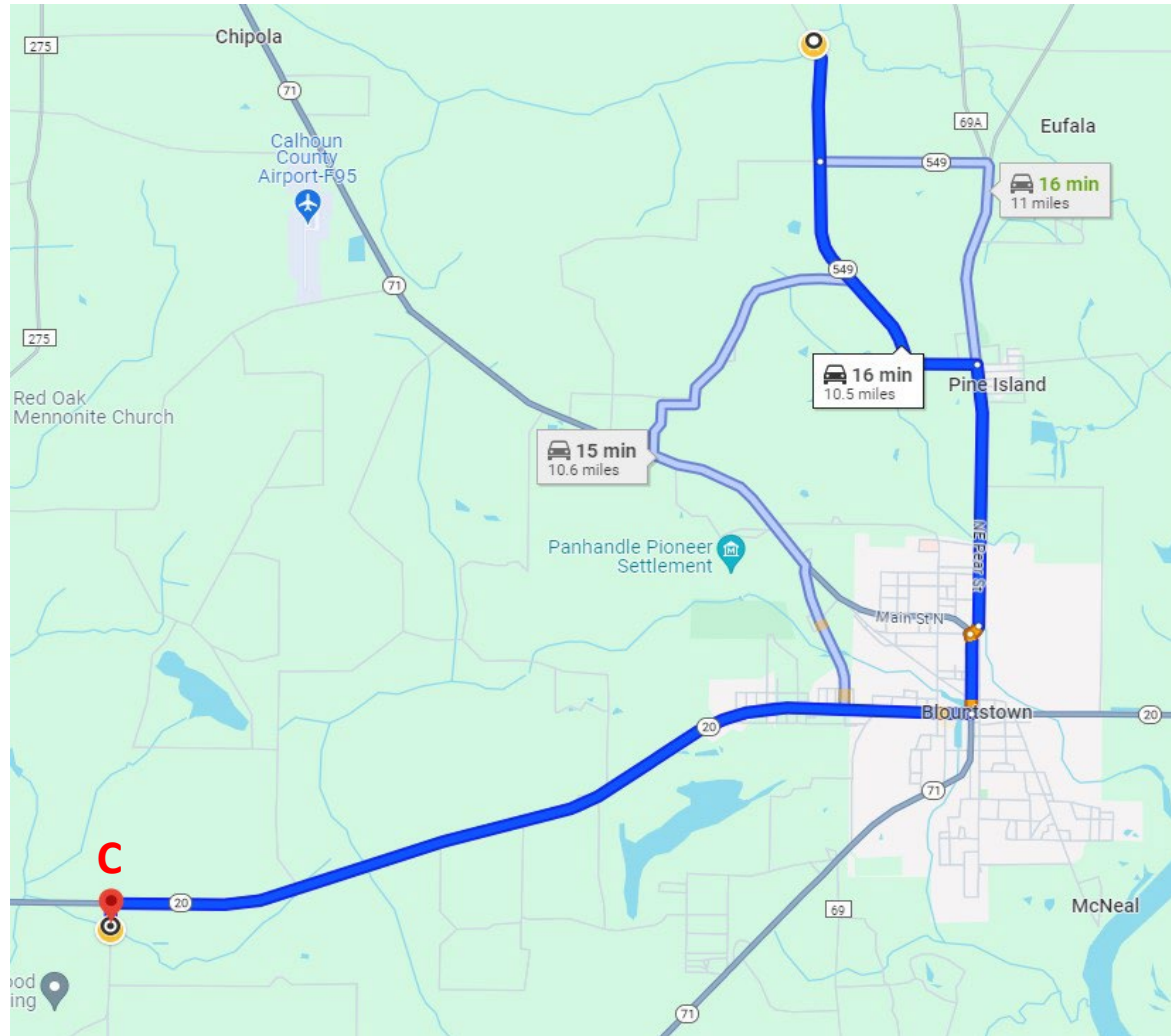
-85.133628

Region: Northwest

County: Calhoun

Date Analyzed: 1/23/2024

Directions: From Stafford Creek, head south to John G Bryant Rd (SR 549), turn R onto FL-69 S, go 1.7 miles, turn L onto Main St, go 0.5 miles, to FL-20, turn R go 5.5 miles, turn L onto Dump Rd. Destination is in 0.1 miles, park on the right side of road.





Hogpen Br at Dump Rd

Directions: Park on the west side of the road near the outbuilding. 100m flags are +/- 10 m upstream of the road crossing.



Park on the right (west) side of the road.



100 m flags are +/- 10m from the road.



Wildcat Br @ CR 275

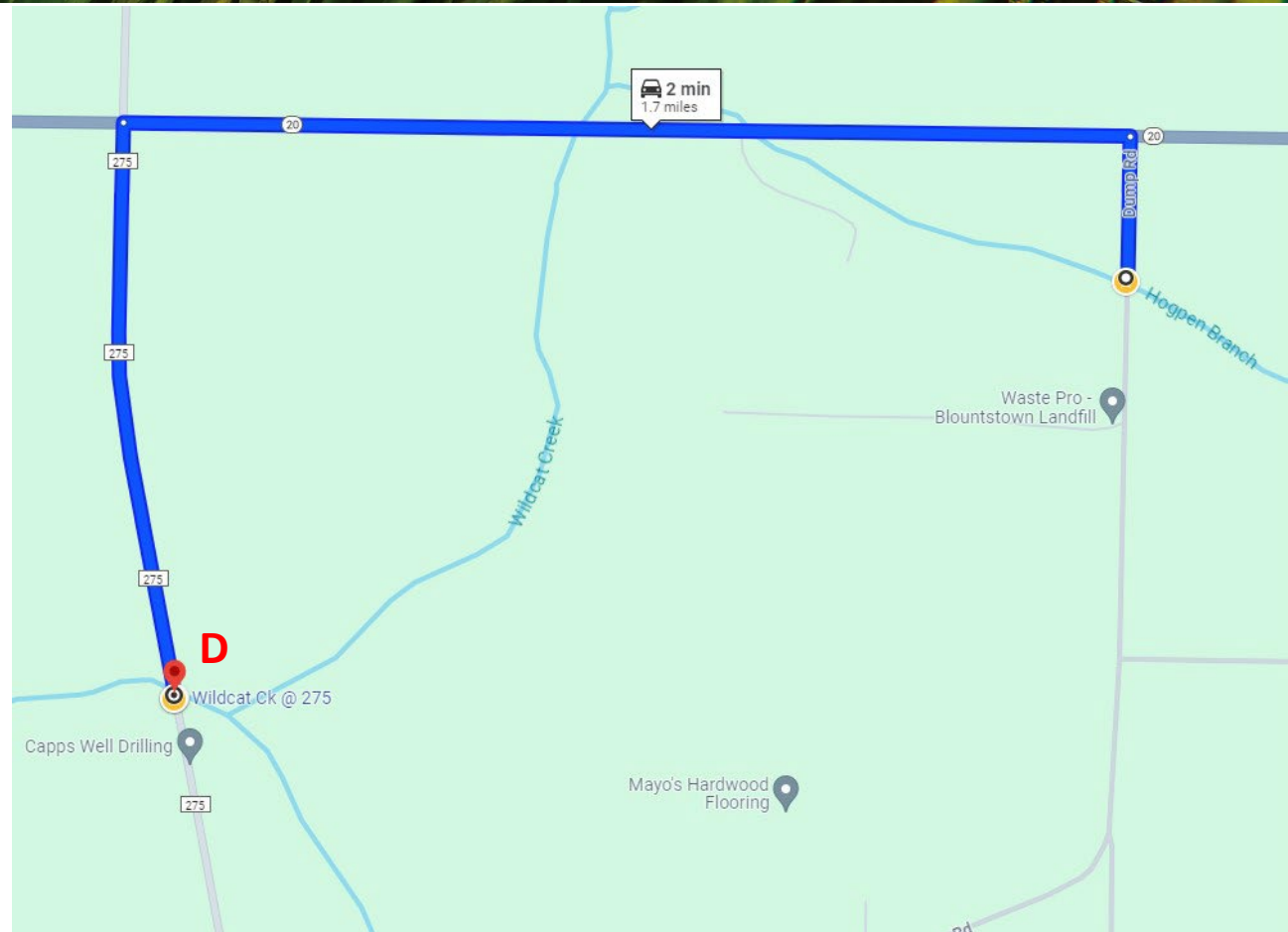
Coordinates: 30.417722,
-85.149639

Region: Northwest

County: Calhoun

Date Analyzed: 1/23/2024

Directions: From Hogpen Creek, head north to FL-20, make L, go 1.0 miles, make a L onto CR 275, go 0.6 miles, park along the right (west) side of the road.





Wildcat Br @ CR 275

Directions: Park on the west side of the road, enter near the stream on the same side of road. The 100m flag is +/- 20m above the road.



100 m flags are +/- 20m from the road.





Fourmile Creek @ Fourmile Creek Park

Coordinates:

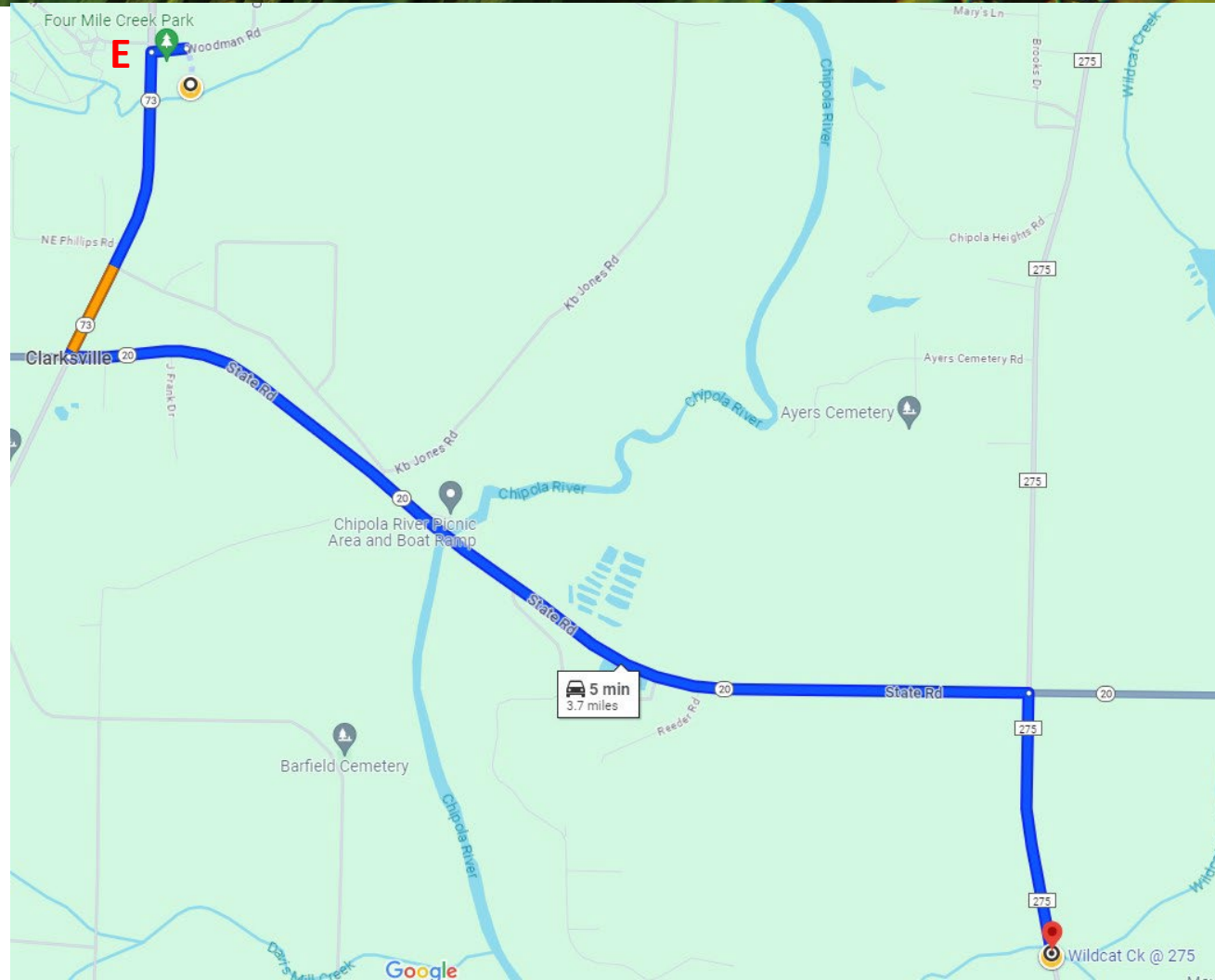
30.445375, -85.181417

Region: Northwest

County: Calhoun

Date Analyzed: 1/23/2024

Directions: From Wildcat Creek, go north 0.6 miles on CR 275 to FL-20, go L for 2.3 miles, turn R on FL-23. Go 0.7 miles, turn R onto Woodman Rd, turn R in 400 ft into the Fourmile Creek Park parking lot.





Fourmile Creek @ Fourmile Creek Park

Directions: Park anywhere near the creek. Enter creek at easternmost stairs. The 0m flags are on the opposite bank, across from stairs.



Park anywhere near the creek.



The 0m flags are easternmost set of stairs.

