



# Florida Department of Environmental Protection

## Northeast-Central Florida Habitat Assessment Benchmark Sites



Aquatic Ecology and Quality Assurance

February 2016

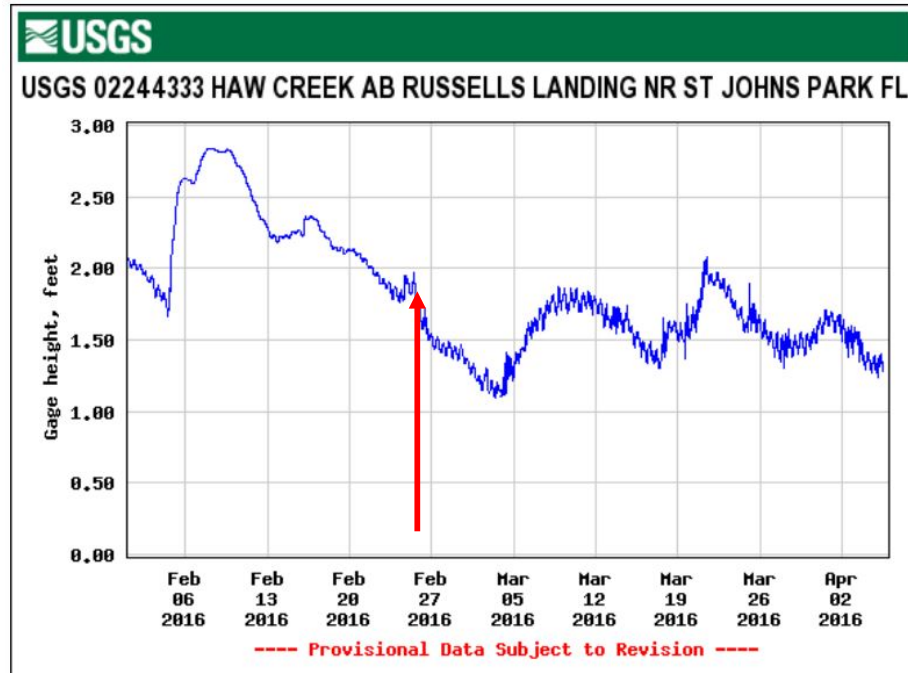


# Procedure

- 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.



# Area Hydrograph

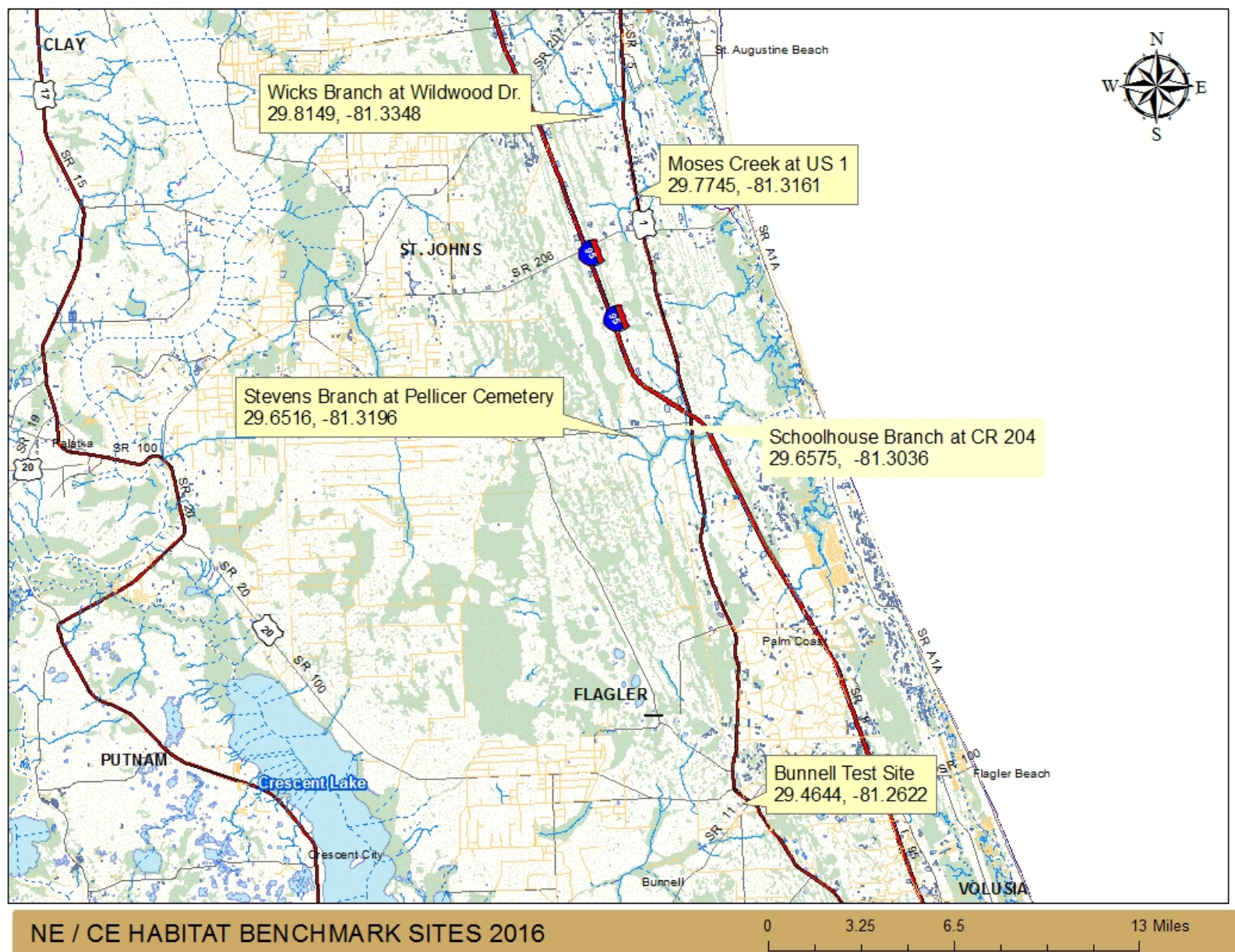


The consensus scores for these Northeast-Central Region sites were established on February 25, 2016. Above is the gage height data for a stream in the area during that time period. If you conduct habitat assessment at these sites at different water levels, be sure to document current conditions.

Graph courtesy of the US Geological Survey.



# Overview Map of NE-CE Habitat Testing Sites





# Bunnell Site

- **Region:** Northeast-Central
- **County:** Flagler
- **Date Analyzed:** 2/25/2016
- **Lat/Longs:** 29.4644, -81.2622
- **Lat/Longs:** 29° 27' 51.84", -81° 15' 43.92"
- **Directions:** From I-95, take exit 284 going west onto E. Moody Blvd (signs for Bunnell). Go approximately 5 miles, turn right onto N. Forsyth Street, go left at the end of Forsyth (~400 ft.). The road becomes 10<sup>th</sup> St., make first right and park along woods on the right side of road. Look for a cable crossing a maintained right-of-way. Walk around cable and the site will be directly ahead. The 0m flag is immediately to your right.



Bunnell Test Site

0 0.075 0.15 0.3 Miles





# Bunnell Site

- **Accessing the site:** From the parking area, walk around cable through right-of-way to the site. The 0m mark is immediately to your right, look for marked flags along the woods.



View from parking area looking towards the site



View from near 0m mark looking upstream



# Bunnell Site



Note the height of water relative to the staff in photo. Take photos if conditions are significantly different from that shown here. This photo was taken looking downstream, the site is upstream of this point.



# Steven's Branch

- **Region:** Northeast-Central
- **County:** Flagler
- **Date Analyzed:** 2/25/2016
- **Lat/Longs:** 29.6515, -81.3196
- **Lat/Longs:** 29° 39' 5.3994", -81° 19' 10.5594"
- **Directions:** Take exit 298 from I-95 onto US 1, from US 1 turn on to CR 204 heading west. Go approximately 2 miles and look for a white sign on the left side of the road for Pellicer Creek Cemetery. Turn left and go through the cemetery gate directly to the back of the cemetery and park along the chain-link fence. There is a gate and a small footpath (that may be over-grown) that leads to Steven's Branch.
- (The gate to the cemetery may be closed, but should not be locked. Return the gates to the way you found them when you leave.)





# Stevens Branch at Pellicer Creek Cemetery

- **Accessing the site:** Enter through the cemetery, drive directly to the back of the cemetery and park along the chain-link fence. Use small gate at the back of cemetery and follow the footpath through the woods approximately 300 ft. to the creek. Look for double flags at the 0m mark.



Pellicer Creek cemetery sign and gate leading to creek



# Steven's Branch

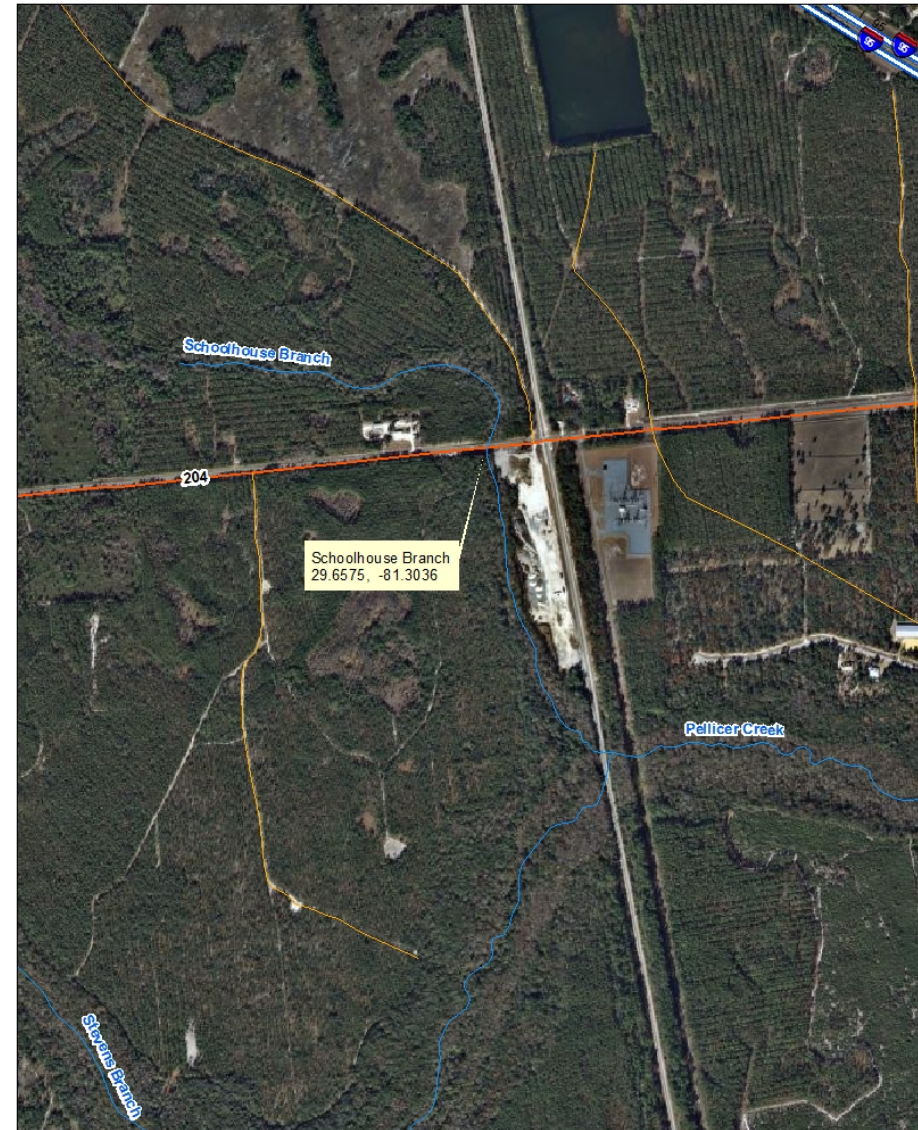


**Steven's Branch at the 0m mark, looking upstream**



# Schoolhouse Branch on CR 204

- **Region:** Northeast-Central
- **County:** St. Johns
- **Date Analyzed:** 2/25/2016
- **Lat/Longs:** 29.6575, -81.3036
- **Lat/Longs:** 29° 39' 26.9994", -81° 18' 12.96"
- **Directions:** From I-95, take US 1 to CR 204 heading west. Go approximately 1 mile. You will pass over some railroad tracks and can park along the right-of-way on the left (south) side of the road. The site is downstream (south) of CR 204.



Schoolhouse Branch

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles



# Schoolhouse Branch on CR 204

- **Accessing the site:** Enter the woods from the south side of CR 204 and you will see the 100m flagging tape about 20m from the road. Follow the creek/flags downstream to the 0m mark.



**Parking area and access to Schoolhouse Branch south of the CR 204**



# Schoolhouse Branch on CR 204



Schoolhouse Branch near the 70m mark, looking upstream. Note CR 204 in background.



Schoolhouse Branch near the 50m mark.



# Moses Creek at US 1

- **Region:** Northeast-Central
- **County:** St. Johns
- **Date Analyzed:** 2/25/2016
- **Lat/Longs:** 29.7745, -81.3161
- **Lat/Longs:** 29° 46' 28.1994", -81° 18' 57.96"
- **Directions:** The site is along the west side of US 1. You can park along the dirt road that is just north of the US 1 bridge.
- **Note:** There is a new subdivision just above the creek that is not shown on this map.



Moses Creek

0 0.075 0.15 0.3 Miles





# Moses Creek at US 1

- **Accessing the site:** Park on the west side of US 1, north of the bridge. The 0m mark is about 20m upstream of the bridge.



Looking downstream near the 50m mark

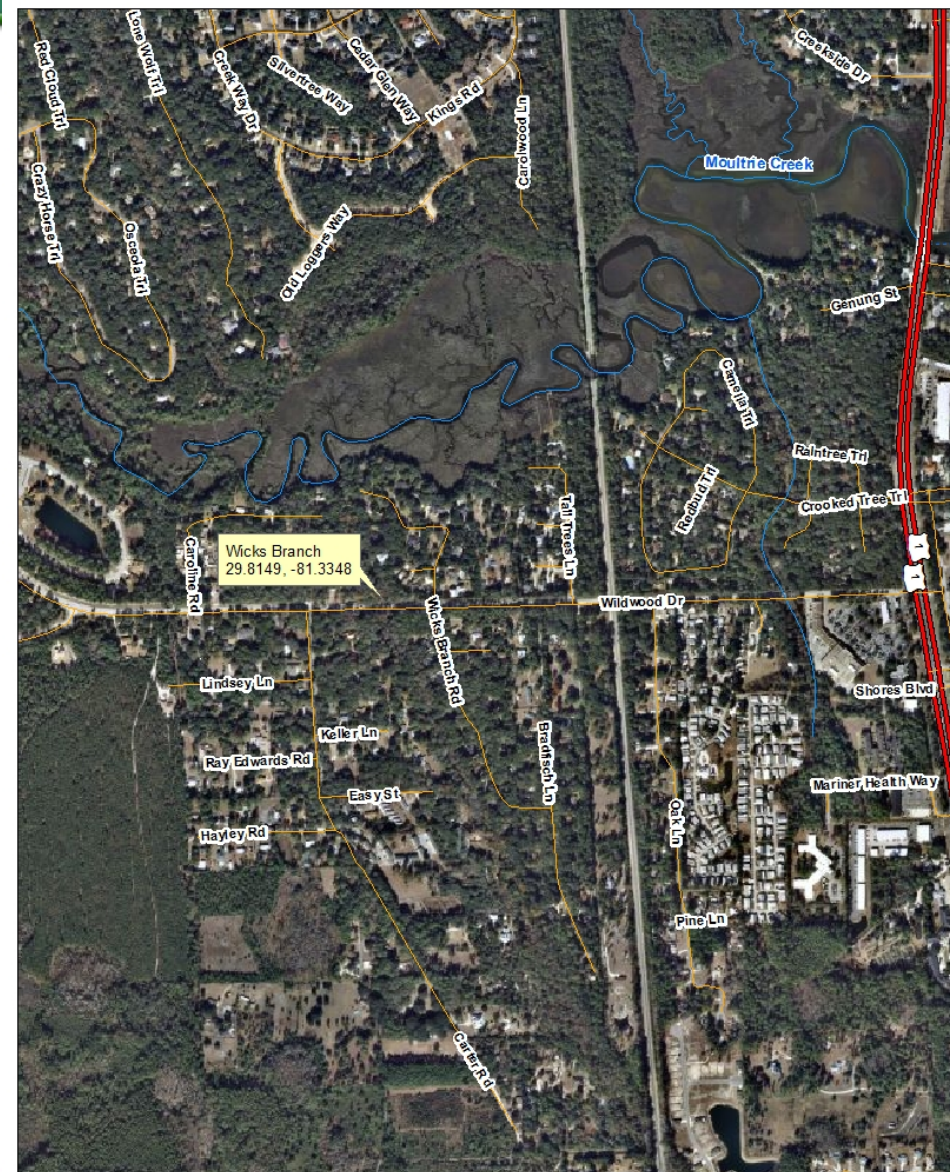


Near the 20m mark



# Wicks Branch at Wildwood Dr.

- **Region:** Northeast-Central
- **County:** St. Johns
- **Date Analyzed:** 2/25/2016
- **Lat/Longs:** 29.8149, -81.3348
- **Lat/Longs:** 29° 48' 53.64", -81° 20' 5.28"
- **Directions:** From US 1, head west on Wildwood Drive. Go approximately 0.2 miles and park just past the Oakbluff Subdivision along side the right side of Wildwood Dr.



Wicks Branch

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles





# Wicks Branch at Wildwood Dr.

- **Accessing the site:** Park on the north side of Wildwood Drive. The creek is down the hill – use caution in this area as there may be construction debris scattered about.



View down to the site from Wildwood Drive



# Wicks Branch at Wildwood Dr.



**Views of Wicks Branch, looking downstream**