



Florida Department of Environmental Protection Northwest Florida Habitat Assessment Benchmark Sites

**Aquatic Ecology and Quality Assurance
November 2021**



Procedure

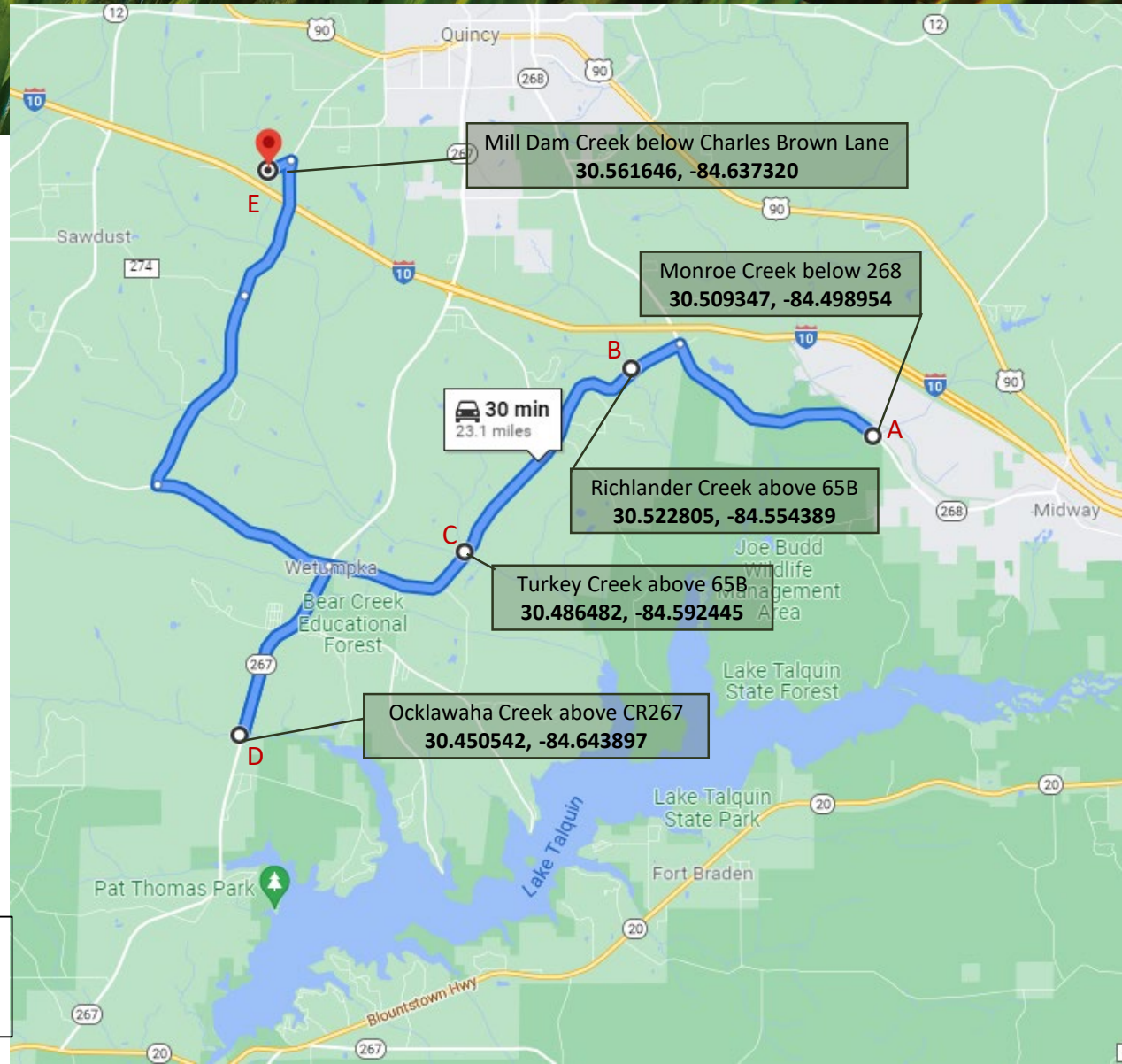
- Evaluate each site per SOP FT 3100, "Stream and River Habitat Assessment," using forms FD 9000-3, FD 9000-4, and FD 9000-5. It is recommended that you use the most current editions of the forms and the SOP, found here: <https://floridadep.gov/dear/quality-assurance/content/sop-forms>
- **Work independently.**
- Submit all completed 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 *but should test at all 5 sites.*
- Once scores have been reviewed, analysts will receive notice of passing or failing from the AEQA Section.
- 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.



Overview Map of the Northwest Habitat Testing Sites

- A) Monroe Creek below CR 268
30.509347, -84.498954
- B) Richlander Creek above CR 65B
30.522805, -84.554389
- C) Turkey Creek above CR 65B
30.486482, -84.592445
- D) Ocklawaha Creek above CR 267
30.450542, -84.643897
- E) Mill Dam Creek below Charles Brown Lane
30.561646, -84.637320

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



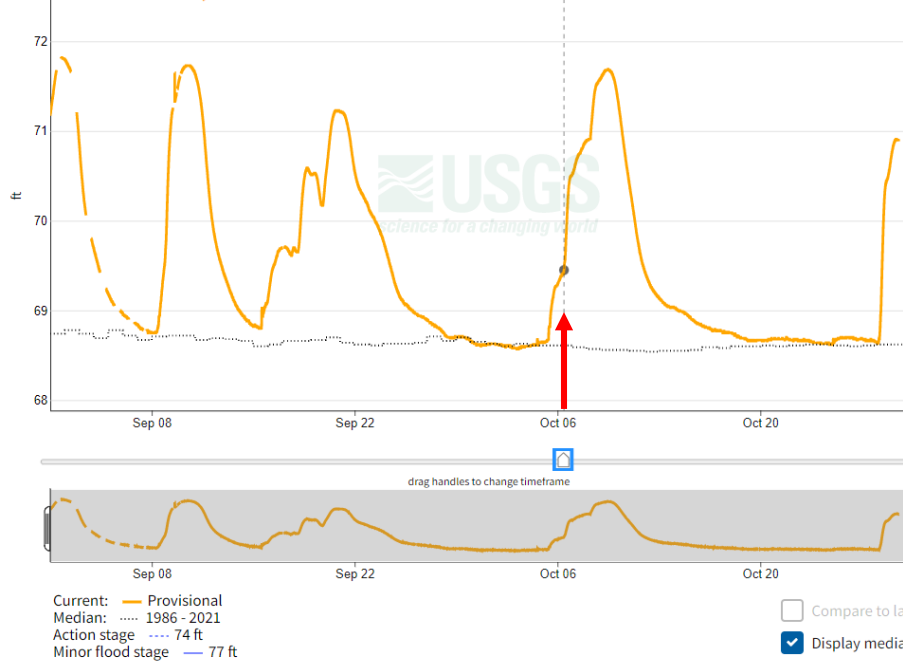


Area Hydrographs

LITTLE RIVER NR MIDWAY, FLA.

Gage height, ft ⓘ

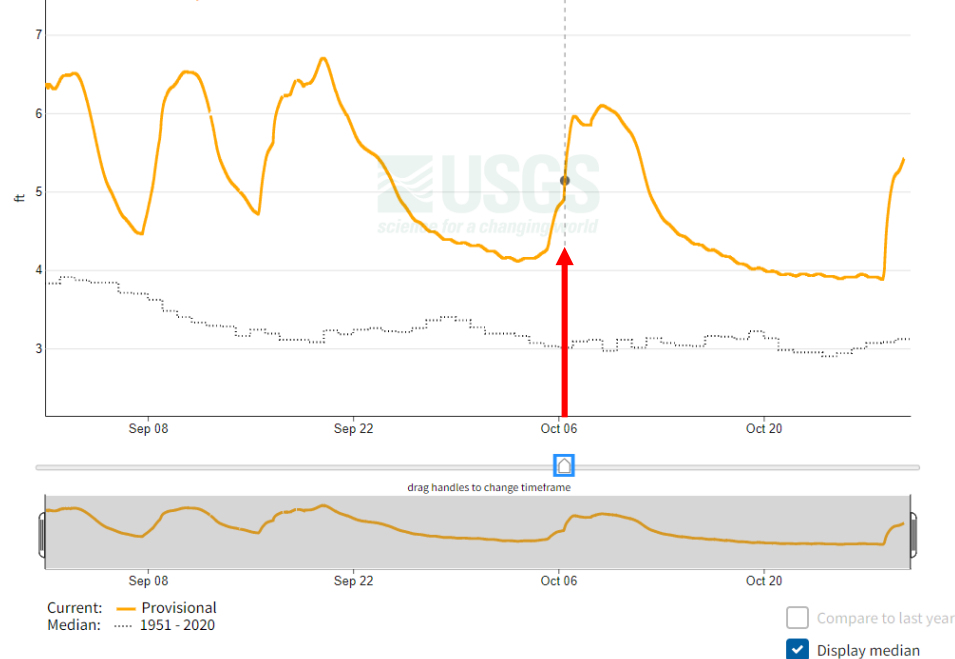
69.45 ft - Oct 06, 2021 10:45:00 AM EDT



TELOGIA CREEK NR BRISTOL, FLA.

Gage height, ft ⓘ

5.14 ft - Oct 06, 2021 10:30:00 AM EDT

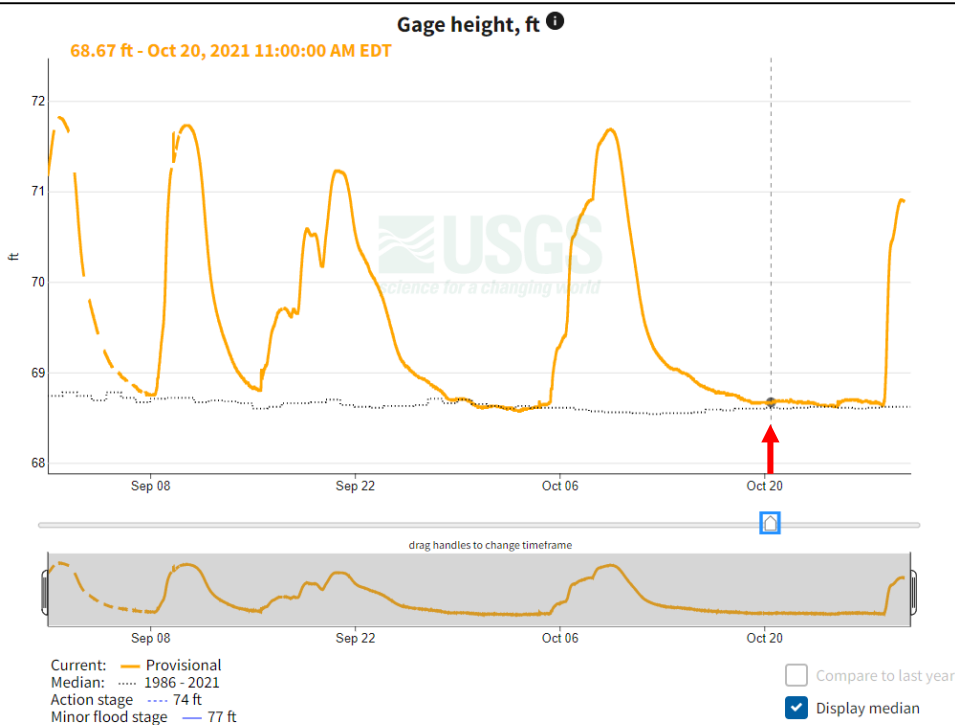


The consensus scores for Turkey Creek and Ocklawaha Creek sites were established on October 6th, 2021. Above is the gage height data for streams in the area during that time period. If you conduct habitat assessment at these sites at different water levels, be sure to document current conditions.

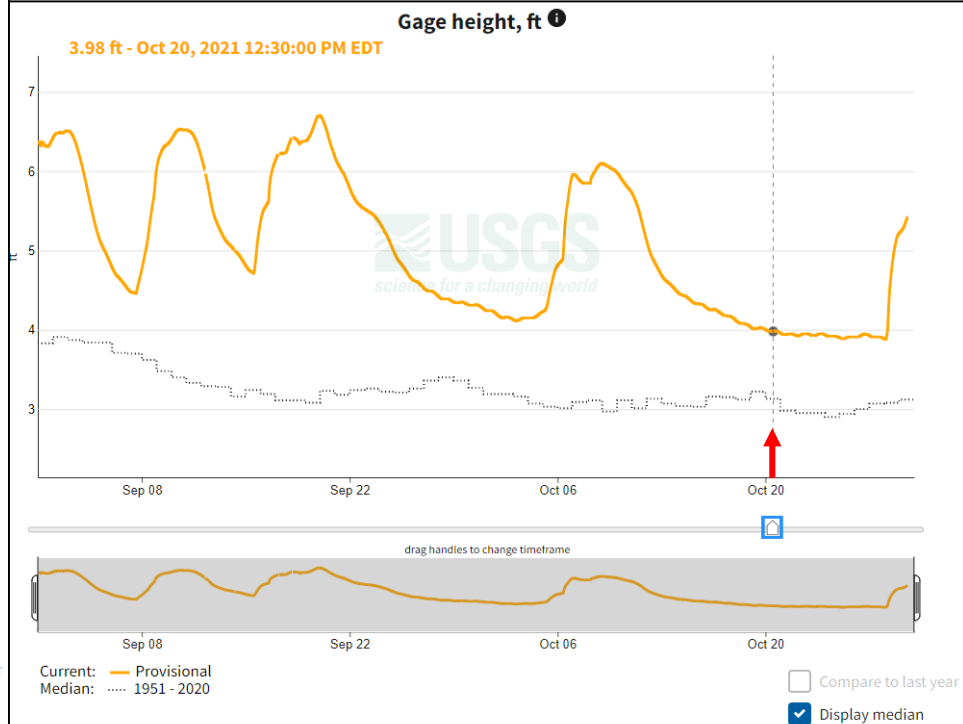


Area Hydrographs

LITTLE RIVER NR MIDWAY, FLA.



TELOGIA CREEK NR BRISTOL, FLA.



The consensus scores for Monroe Creek, Richlander Creek and Mill Dam Creek sites were established on October 20th, 2021. Above is the gage height data for streams 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.



Monroe Creek below CR 268

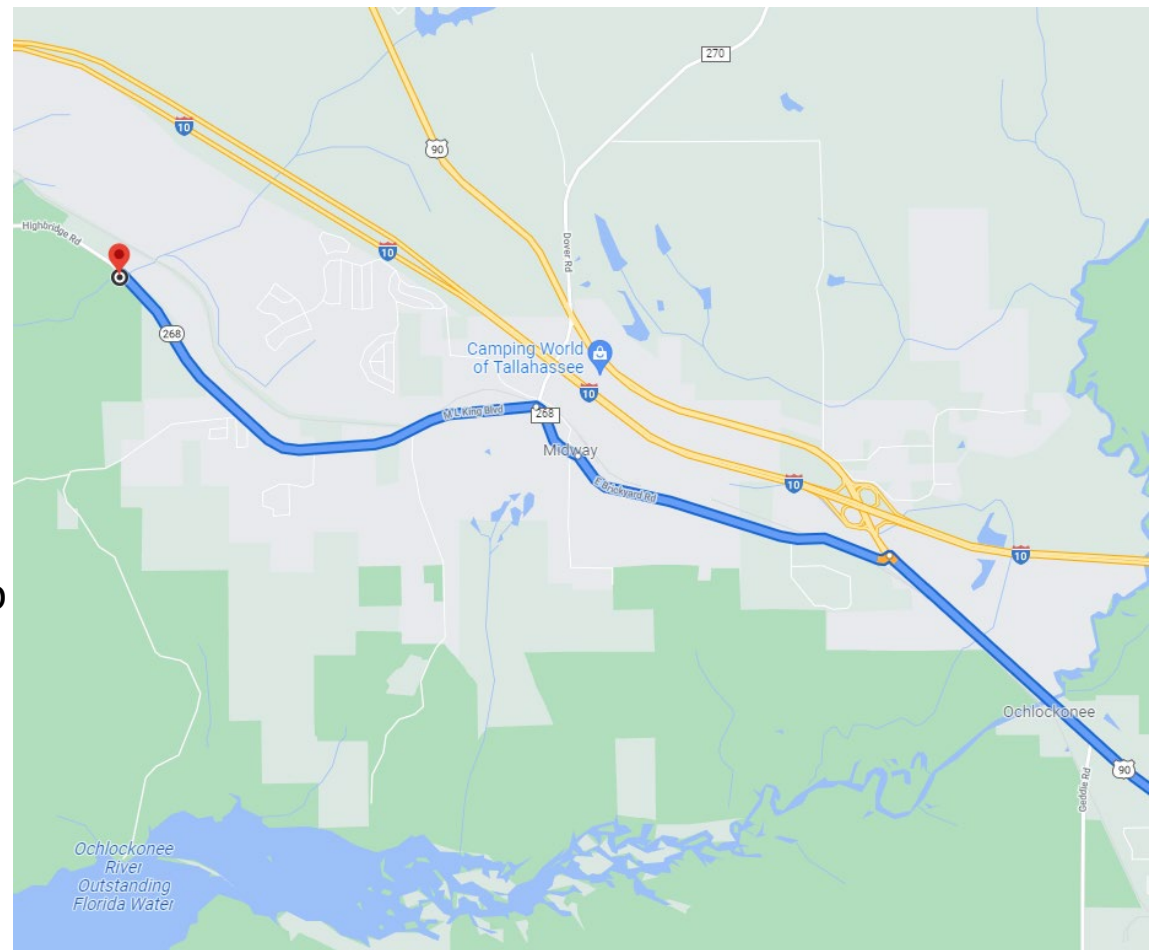
Coordinates: 30.509347, -84.498954

Region: Northwest

County: Gadsden

Date Analyzed: 10/20/2021

Directions: From Tallahassee, head west on Highway 90. Approximately 1.2 miles after crossing the Ochlockonee River, turn left onto East Brickyard Rd. In 2 miles, slight left onto CR 268. In 0.4 mi, turn left onto State Hwy 268/M L King Blvd. Continue on State Hwy 268 for 2.9 miles. Destination will be on the left.





Monroe Creek below CR 268

- Directions:**

Park on the downstream side of the road culvert (SE). There is a flag on a branch marking the easiest entry into the woods along the road nearest the right bank. You will see a steep hill once in the woods. Follow the base of that hill to where the stream curves around, and you will come to the zero flag. The 100 m flag is +/- 10 m below the road.





Richlander Creek above CR 65B

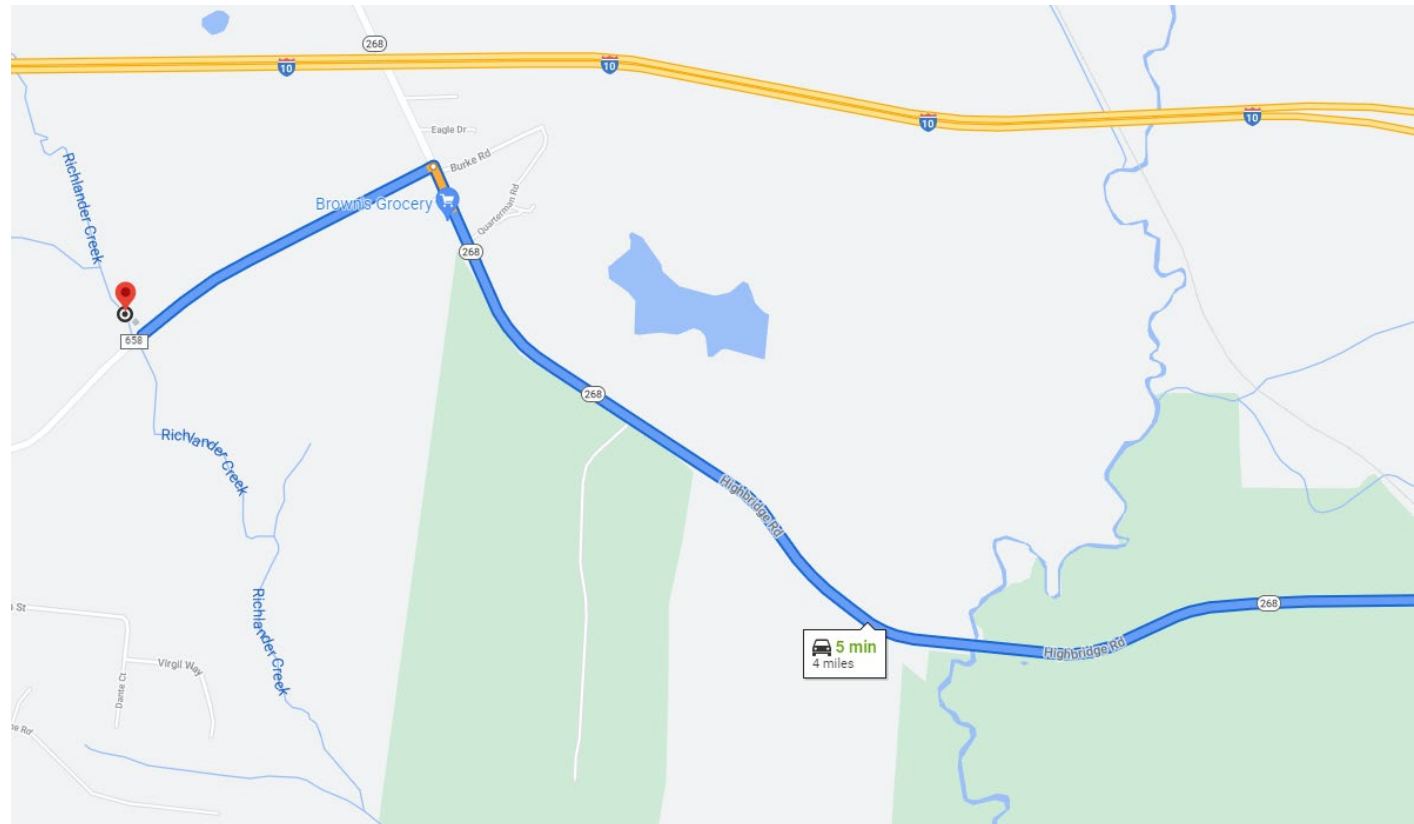
Coordinates:
30.522805, -84.554389

Region: Northwest

County: Gadsden

Date Analyzed:
10/20/2021

Directions: From Monroe Creek, head northwest on CR 268 for 3.2 miles. Turn left onto Old Federal Rd (65B). Destination will be 0.7 miles on the right.





Richlander Creek above CR 65B

- **Directions:**

Park on the N side of the road near the outbuilding. Stream reach is +/- 30 m upstream of the road crossing.





Turkey Creek above CR 65B

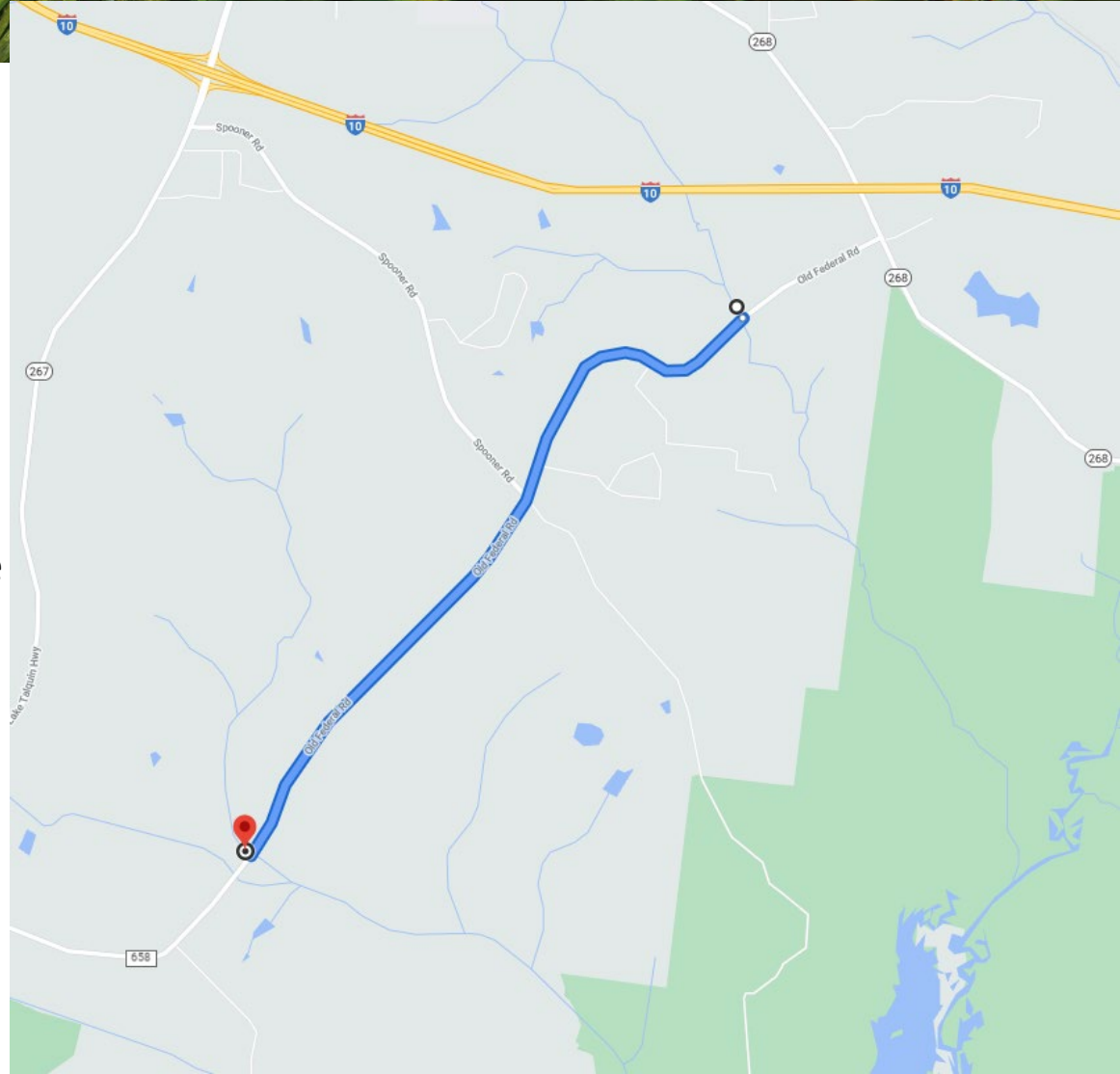
Coordinates: 30.486482, -84.592445

Region: Northwest

County: Gadsden

Date Analyzed: 10/6/2021

Directions: From Richlander Creek, head southwest on Old Federal Rd (65B) for 3.6 miles. Destination will be on the right.





Turkey Creek above CR 65B

Directions: The site is marked with blue and white flagging tape and starts +/- 60m above the bridge. Park on the SW side of the bridge, enter near the bridge and walk upstream to the site.





Ocklawaha Creek above CR 267

Coordinates:

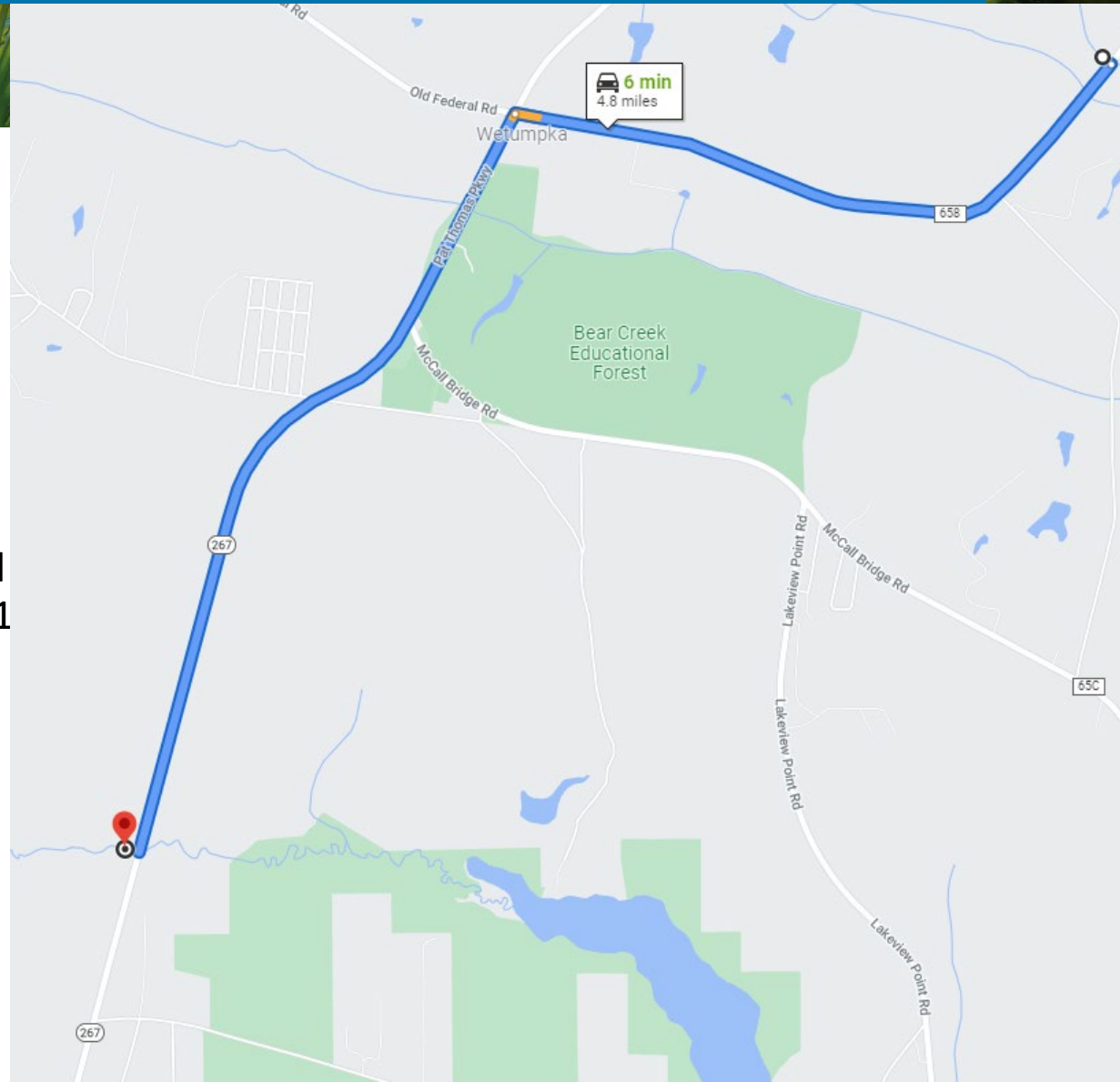
30.450542, -84.643897

Region: Northwest

County: Gadsden

Date Analyzed: 10/6/2021

Directions: From Turkey Creek, head southwest on Old Federal Rd (65B) toward Bear Creek Rd for 2.1 miles. Turn left onto 267 S. In 2.7 miles, the destination will be on the right.





Ocklawaha Creek above 267

- **Directions:** The site is marked with blue and white flagging tape and starts +/- 30m upstream of the bridge. Park on the NW side of the bridge and enter near the bridge on that side.





Mill Dam Creek below Charles Brown Lane

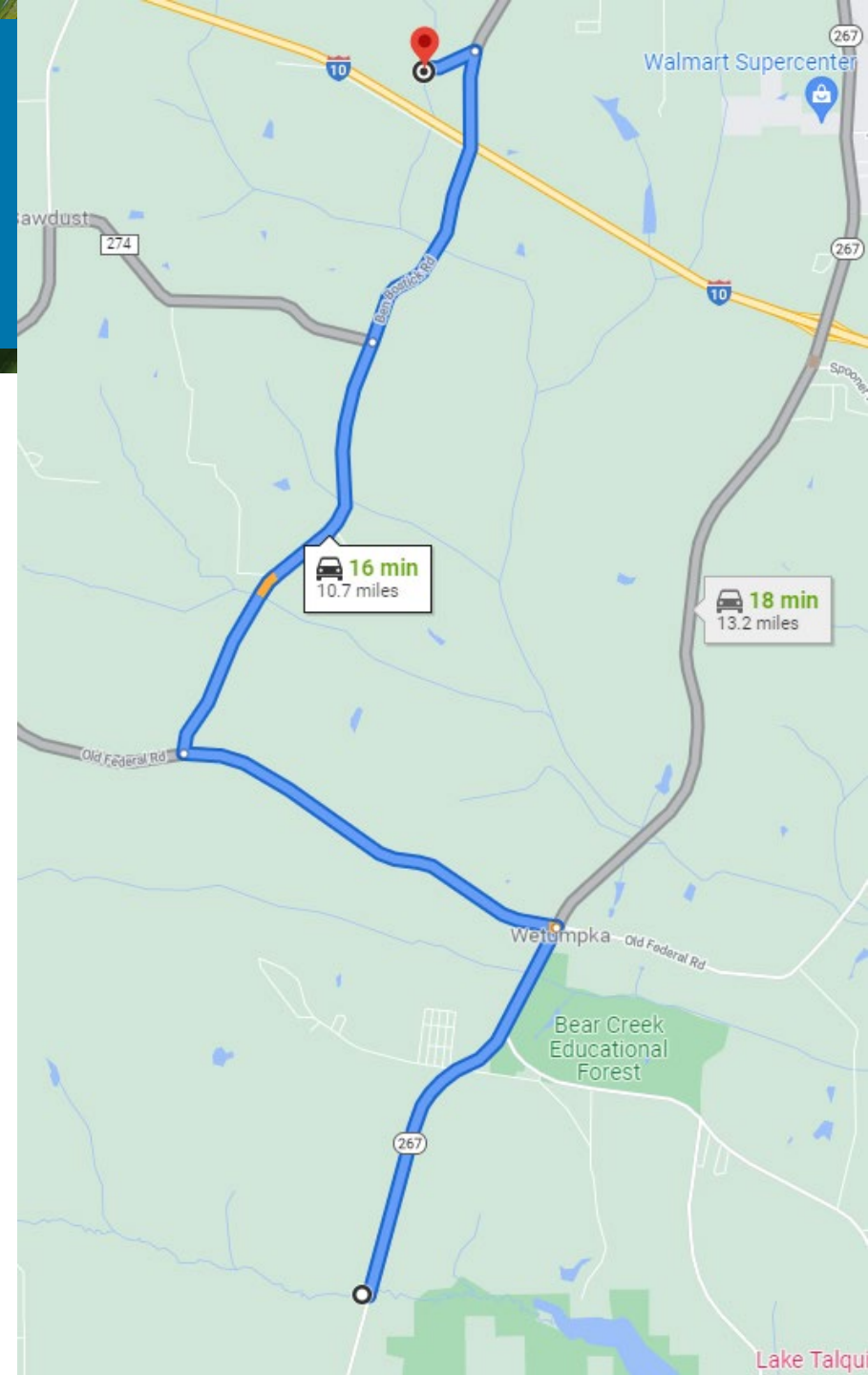
Coordinates: 30.561647, -84.637320

Region: Northwest

County: Gadsden

Date Analyzed: 10/20/2021

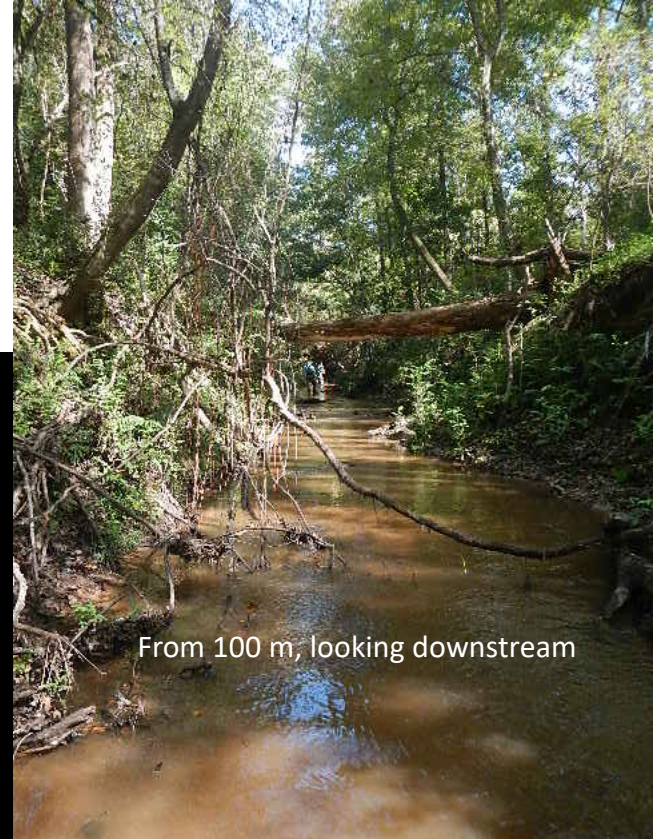
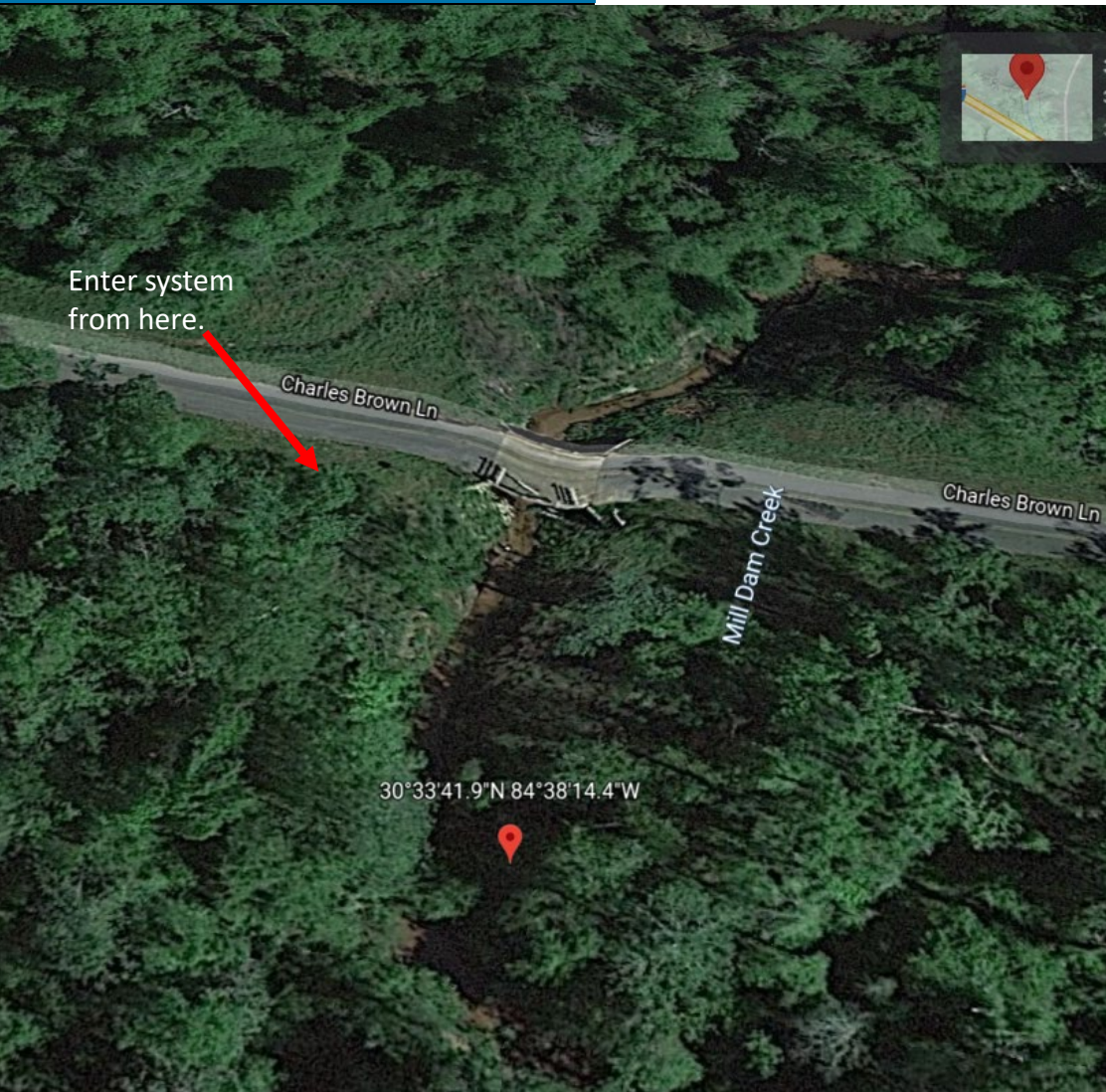
Directions: From Ocklawaha Creek, head North on 267 N toward McCall Bridge Rd. for 2.7 miles. Turn left onto Old Federal Rd. (65B). In 2.6 miles, turn right onto Cane Creek Rd. and follow it north for 3.0 miles. This turns into Ben Bostick Rd. Follow Ben Bostick Rd. north for 2.0 miles. Turn left onto Charles Brown Rd. In 0.3 miles, the destination is on the left at the bridge crossing.



Mill Dam Creek below Charles Brown Lane

- **Directions:**

Park on the shoulder and enter from the left (SW) side of the road. The 100m flags are +/-30 m from the road crossing. Proceed downstream to 0m flags.



From 100 m, looking downstream



From 10 m, looking downstream