

1.11.1 Alabama Creek

Alabama Creek begins in eastern Trinity County and flows east approximately 11 miles through the Davy Crockett National Forest into the Neches River southwest of the city of Diboll. Alabama Creek is a fourth-order stream with a dependable volume of water (Neck 1986) and is generally slow-moving with a sand-gravel-detritus substrate (Feaster 1998). The creek is bordered by the 14,561-acre Alabama Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA), which is located within the Davy Crockett National Forest and is operated under a Memorandum of Agreement between TPWD and the U.S. Forest Service. The WMA offers opportunities for paddling, camping, fishing, trapping, and public hunting (Hodge 2000). Hardwoods such as sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*), tupelo (*Nyssa* sp.), elm (*Ulmus* sp.), and ash (*Fraxinus* sp.) follow the course of Alabama Creek and dominate the sandy soils of the lowlands (TPWD 2005). These trees coupled with other riparian vegetation provide a dense canopy of vegetation that covers Alabama Creek and contributes abundant woody debris and instream cover for aquatic organisms. The fish assemblage from Alabama Creek is representative of the overall assemblage known to exist in the Davy Crockett National Forest. Kelly (1995) collected 27 fish species from Alabama Creek (Appendix C), including two species intolerant of degradation and ten species of sunfish. Biodiversity indices calculated by Kelly (1995) indicate that Alabama Creek supports a stable fish community and is relatively unimpacted. Furthermore, the freshwater mussel *Uniomerus declivus* has been collected from Alabama Creek which indicates the relatively undisturbed nature of the creek (Feaster 1998). The ecologically significant stream segment is from the confluence with the Neches River in northeast Trinity County upstream to the headwaters in east Trinity County.

- **Riparian Conservation Area-** fringed by the 160,000 plus acre Davy Crockett National Forest and the 14,561-acre Alabama Creek Wildlife Management Area.



Figure 35. Alabama Creek east of FM 357 in Trinity County (8/14/01).