

1.12.1 Alazan Bayou

Alazan Bayou begins in central western Nacogdoches County and flows southerly into Loco Bayou, which empties into the Angelina River about one mile west of U.S. Hwy 59. The bayou is a third-order stream with a sandy substrate and contains abundant woody debris that is provided by the dense vegetative canopy. The Alazan Bayou Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is located approximately 10 miles southwest of Nacogdoches and contains approximately 2,075-acres on the Angelina River in Nacogdoches County (Hodge 2000). The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department purchased the property in 1991 to preserve over 1,300-acres of mature bottomland hardwood forest (Hodge 2000). Newly developed wetland habitats, totaling about 100-acres, are used extensively by waterfowl each winter. Typically, the bottomlands begin to flood during midwinter as the river and bayous begin to overbank, creating backwater and slough habitats, and inundation continues through the spring (TPWD 2004). These backwater and slough habitats are important for a variety of fish and wildlife species; including the river otter (*Lutra canadensis*), which frequents streams in the area. The ecologically significant segment is from the confluence with Loco Bayou in Nacogdoches County upstream to the headwaters west of Nacogdoches.

- **Biological function-** mature bottomland hardwood habitat along the Angelina River displays significant overall habitat value considering the diverse assemblage of flora and fauna observed in the terrestrial and aquatic habitats (TPWD 2004).
- **Riparian conservation area-** fringed by the 2,075-acre Alazan Bayou Wildlife Management Area.
- **Threatened or endangered species/unique communities-** significant due to the presence of the wood stork (*Mycteria americana*) (Fed.E/St.T), which roosts at the Alazan Bayou WMA in summer (Hodge 2000).



Figure 46. Alazan Bayou north of SH 7 in Nacogdoches County (8/14/01).