

1.11.5 Hackberry Creek

Hackberry Creek is a third order stream that begins in east Trinity County and flows easterly through the Davy Crockett National Forest about 12 miles and joins the Neches River at the Trinity/Angelina County line. The creek has sand and clay dominated substrate and a reduced canopy composed primarily of tall grasses and shrubs (Kelly 1995). The fish assemblage collected from Hackberry Creek was dominated by long-lived, tolerant species (e.g. black bullhead (*Ameiurus melas*), yellow bullhead (*A. natalis*), grass pickerel (*Esox americanus*), and many of the larger sunfish species), indicating the creek has been moderately impacted (Kelly 1999). Additionally, Kelly (1999) reported several sources of impairment to water quality including garbage, furniture, plastic products, fecal material, and orange to brown water color at his sampling station downstream of a large bridge. Feaster (1998) reported no freshwater mussels from a collection site on Hackberry Creek that displayed erosion due to cattle activity. However, two species of freshwater mussel were collected at an upstream site where no impairments were reported (Feaster 1998). The presence of freshwater mussels and the creek chubsucker (*Erimyzon oblongus*) in the upper reaches of Hackberry Creek suggest water quality impairment are limited to the lower reaches of the creek. The ecologically significant stream segment is from the confluence with the Neches River upstream to its headwaters in east Trinity County.

- **Riparian conservation area-** fringed by the 162,012-acre Davy Crockett National Forest.
- **Threatened or endangered species/unique communities-** significant due to the presence of the creek chubsucker (*Erimyzon oblongus*) (SOC/St.T) (Kelly 1995).



Figure 40. Hackberry Creek east of FM 2501 in Trinity County (8/14/01).