

1.11.6 Hager Creek

Hager Creek is a third order stream that begins about four miles east of Ratcliff in east Houston County and flows southeasterly for about 10 miles where it joins Cochino Bayou in southeastern Houston County. The creek is relatively narrow and has a loam and detritus dominated substrate with some pebbles and cobble present and a dense canopy of overhanging vegetation (Figure 42). Kelly (1995) reported collecting 23 species of fish from Hager Creek, including three species intolerant of degradation (Appendix C). While the fish assemblage from Hager Creek was not as diverse as those from other streams sampled within the Davy Crockett National Forest, biodiversity indices indicate the creek is relatively unimpacted. Feaster (1998) collected one species of freshwater mussel, *Unio merus declivus*, from Hager Creek. The ecologically significant stream segment is from the confluence with Cochino Bayou upstream to its headwaters east of Ratcliff in east Houston County.

- **Riparian conservation area-** fringed by the 162,012-acre Davy Crockett National Forest.



Figure 41. Hager Creek east of CR 4740 in Houston County (8/14/01).