

1.12.5 Iron Bayou

Irons Bayou begins southwest of Pinehill in eastern Rusk County and flows east/northeast about 24 miles before emptying into the Sabine River about five miles north of Carthage in Panola County. The bayou drains approximately 181 square kilometers (70 square miles) and meanders through an extensive riparian forest. The substrate was composed primarily of clay and instream cover provided by woody debris, cypress stumps and knees, and fallen timber was abundant. Bayer et al (1992) reported collecting 21 fish species from Irons Bayou, including four species intolerant of degradation (Appendix C). The relatively high diversity of fish species and large number of intolerant species reflect the high quality habitat present and the relatively undisturbed nature of Irons Bayou. The ecologically significant stream segment is from the confluence with the Sabine River in Panola County upstream to its headwaters in east Rusk County.

- **High water quality/exceptional aquatic life/high aesthetic value-** identified as a South Central Plains ecoregion reference stream for diversity of benthic macroinvertebrates and fish (Bayer et al. 1992; Linam et al. 2002).



Figure 51. Irons Bayou at SH 149 in Panola County (8/13/01).