### 1.9.2 Lower Angelina River

The Angelina River downstream of Sam Rayburn Reservoir flows for approximately 21 miles before forming B. A. Steinhagen Reservoir at the confluence of the Neches River. The confluence of the two rivers forms an area known as "The Forks," which is characterized by a maze of sloughs and oxbow lakes that connect the rivers and the upper portion of the reservoir. Bottomlands associated with this section of the river are dominated by broad and narrow leaf deciduous forests, composed primarily of water oak (*Quercus nigra*) and sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), but also contain cypress-tupelo bottomlands, shrub swamps, and open water habitats (USFWS 1984). These bottomlands provide high quality habitat for wintering waterfowl as well as common and rare wildlife species. Fish species native to the Angelina and Neches rivers are listed in Appendix C. The ecologically significant segment is from a point immediately upstream of the confluence of Indian Creek in Jasper County upstream to Sam Rayburn Dam in Jasper County (TCEQ classified stream segment 0609).

- **Biological function**- approximately 20,000-acres of priority two bottomland hardwood habitat associated with the river displays significant overall habitat value considering the diverse assemblage of flora and fauna (USFWS 1984).

- **Riparian conservation area**- fringed by the 154,245-acre Angelina National Forest and the 12,636-acre Angelina-Neches Dam B Wildlife Management Area.

- **Threatened or endangered species/unique communities**- significant due to the presence of the paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*) (St.T) (Pitman 1991, Wilde 2000), the alligator snapping turtle (*Macroclemys temminckii*) (SOC/St.T) (Rudolph et al 2002), and the American bald eagle (*Haliaetus leucocephalus*) (Fed.T/St.T) (TPWD 2005).

Figure 5. Angelina River south of SH 63 in Jasper County (8/14/01).

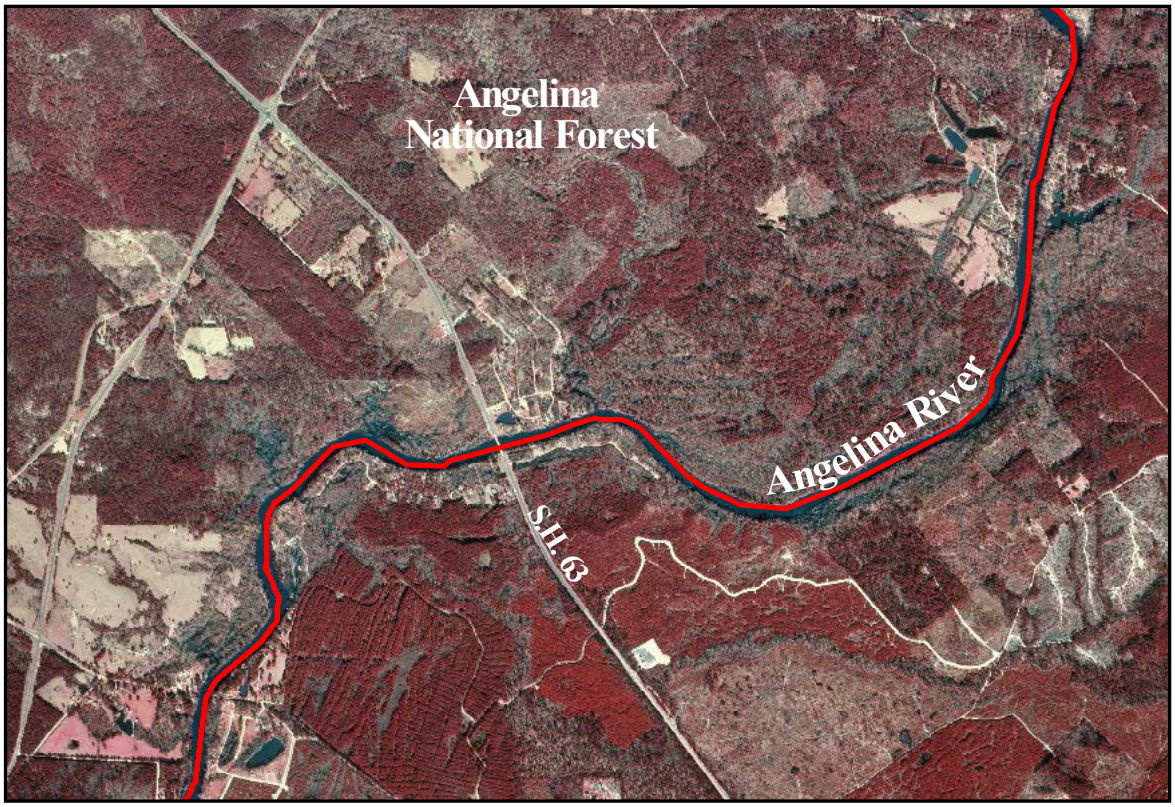


Figure 6. Angelina River at SH63 in Angelina National Forest, Jasper County. Source: Ebenezer DOQ, 1995, 1m CIR (TNRIS, 1995-1997).