

1.12.6 Mud Creek

Mud Creek begins about two miles west of Gould in north Cherokee County at the confluence of its east and west forks and flows southeasterly 24 miles into the Angelina River about four miles southeast of Reklaw. The creek drains much of northeastern Cherokee County and receives flow from several large tributaries. The lower reaches of the creek near the confluence with the Angelina River are bordered by extensive bottomland forest and swamp habitat (USFWS 1984). These habitats are frequently flooded and contain an excellent diversity of high quality timber. The forest is dominated by overcup oak (*Quercus lyrata*), willow oak (*Quercus phellos*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), and sugarberry (*Celtis laevigata*), while swamps are dominated by buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) and water elm (*Planera aquatica*). The ecologically significant stream segment is from the confluence with the Angelina River upstream to the SH 204 crossing west of Ponta in central Cherokee County.

- **Biological function-** performs valuable biological function relating to presence of priority one bottomland hardwood habitat (USFWS 1984) that displays significant overall habitat value (Bauer et al. 1991).
- **Threatened or endangered species/unique communities-** significant due to presence of Neches River rose-mallow (*Hibiscus dasycalyx*) (Federal candidate for listing) (TPWD 2005).



Figure 52. Mud Creek south of SH 204 in Cherokee County (8/13/01).