



Adapted from USGS Tyler, Texas. Original Scale 1: 250,000.

Figure 6. Map Location of Black Cypress Creek



Figure 7. Black Cypress Creek east of CR 1617

Black Cypress Creek

Black Cypress Creek begins northeast of Daingerfield in eastern Morris County and flows southeasterly about 20 miles where it becomes Black Cypress Bayou east of Avinger in southern Cass County. It has a very favorable hydrologic regime, as there are no reservoirs upstream, thus the creek floods frequently and has numerous tributaries and sloughs. The stream channel meanders extensively over a substrate that is comprised predominately of clay and decaying organic matter (Bayer et al., 1992). The lower portion of the creek is within a 12,800-acre area identified by the USFWS as containing priority bottomland hardwood. This area is very diverse with a mix of high quality water oak, willow oak, overcup oak, and red oak mixed with sweetgum, black gum, river birch, ironwood, and mayhaw, as well as several significant cypress stands (USFWS, 1985). This habitat has high species value to white-tail deer, American alligators, furbearers, squirrels, waterfowl, turkeys, raptors, colonial waterbirds, and other migratory birds (USFWS, 1985). Abundant vegetation also provides instream cover in the form of woody debris and overhanging vegetation that helps the creek support a diverse assemblage of fish and benthic macroinvertebrates. Fish species collected from Black Cypress Creek in August of 1989 include several shiner species, pugnose minnow, bullhead minnow, tadpole madtom, pirate perch, western mosquitofish, flier, largemouth bass, several darter species (slough, cypress, redbfin, dusky), and several sunfish species (Bayer et al., 1992). The candidate segment is from the confluence with Black Cypress Bayou east of Avinger in South Cass County upstream to its headwaters located four miles northeast of Daingerfield in eastern Morris County.

- (1) Biological Function- priority bottomland hardwood habitat displays significant overall habitat value (USFWS, 1985).
- (2) Hydrologic Function- bottomland hardwood forest and associated wetlands perform valuable hydrologic function relating to water quality.
- (3) Riparian Conservation Area- none identified.
- (4) High Water Quality/Exceptional Aquatic Life/High Aesthetic Value- designated as a South Central Plains Ecoregion Stream by the TPWD River Studies Program due to diversity of benthic macroinvertebrates and fish (Bayer et al., 1992; Linam et al., in review).
- (5) Threatened or Endangered Species/Unique Communities- none identified.