



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

Figure 16. Map Location of Little Sandy Creek



Figure 17. Little Sandy Creek south of FM 3860

Little Sandy Creek

Little Sandy Creek begins in southeastern Wood County and flows southeasterly nine miles into the Sabine River west of Hawkins (TPWD, 1998a). The creek is impounded en route to the Sabine River to form Lake Hawkins and is bordered by the Little Sandy National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The NWR is comprised of 3,802 acres and is considered to be one of the most important bottomland hardwood areas in the state, as it is the only remaining virgin tract of such habitat in the state (USFWS, 2000). The area supports such species as bobcat, raccoon, and white-tail deer, and provides habitat for numerous neotropical migrant birds. It also contains one national champion tree. Several lakes making up approximately 775 acres are managed for hunting and fishing and provide excellent habitat for heron and egret nesting rookeries, American alligators, wood storks, anhingas, and a diverse mix of other species (USFWS, 2000). The candidate segment is from Lake Hawkins upstream to its headwaters in Wood County.

- (1) Biological Function- bottomland hardwood forest displays significant overall habitat value considering the high degree of biodiversity (Bauer et al., 1991).
- (2) Hydrologic Function- bottomland hardwood forest provides valuable hydrologic function relating to water quality.
- (3) Riparian Conservation Area- fringed by the Little Sandy National Wildlife Refuge.
- (4) High Water Quality/Exceptional Aquatic Life/High Aesthetic Value- insufficient data to evaluate criteria.
- (5) Threatened or Endangered Species/Unique Communities- significant due to presence of unique swamp/bog habitat (Bauer et al., 1991) and the Roughstem aster, which is only found in the Pineywoods region of East Texas (Poole, 1999).