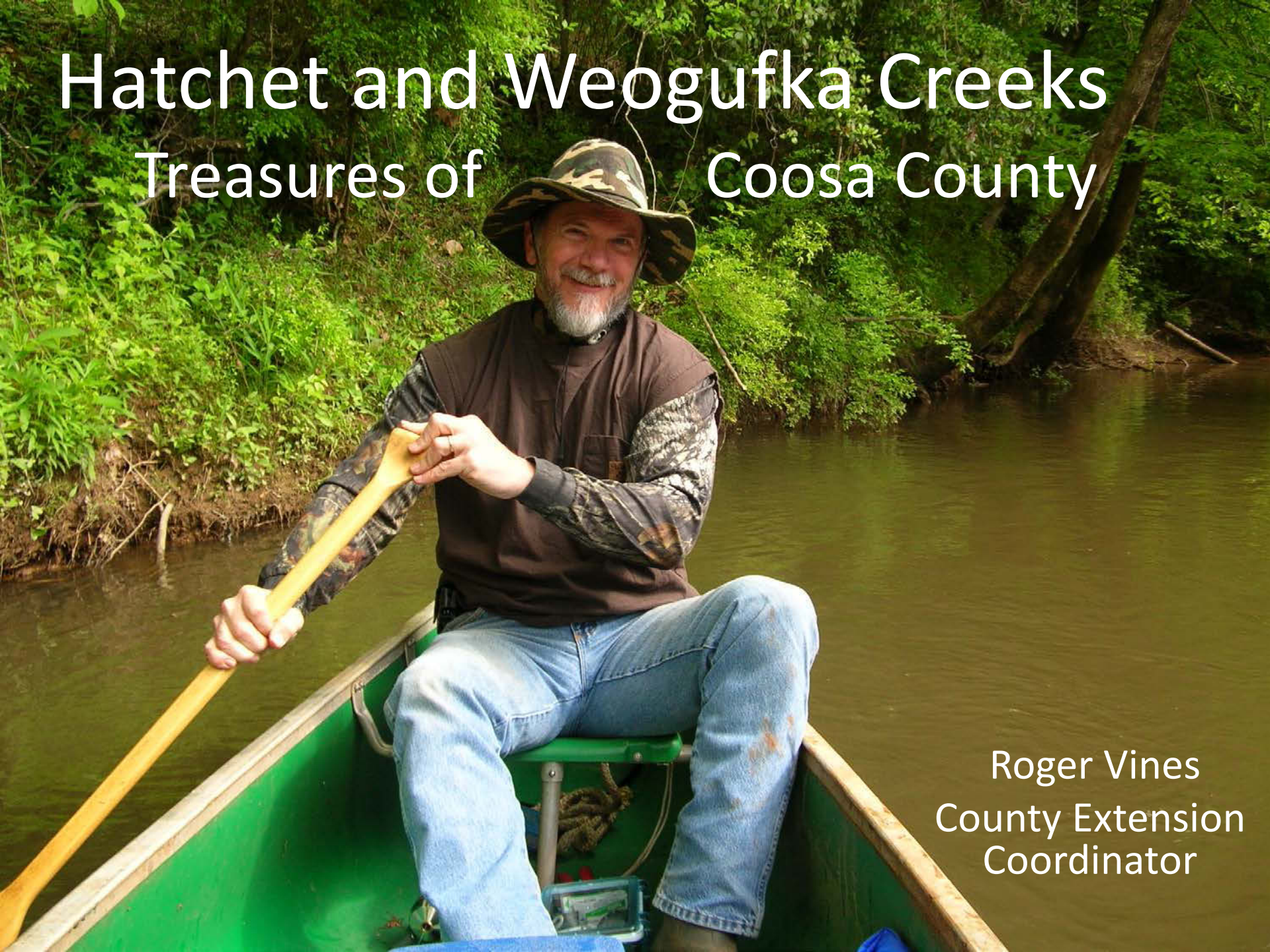
Hatchet and Weogufka Creeks

Treasures of Coosa County



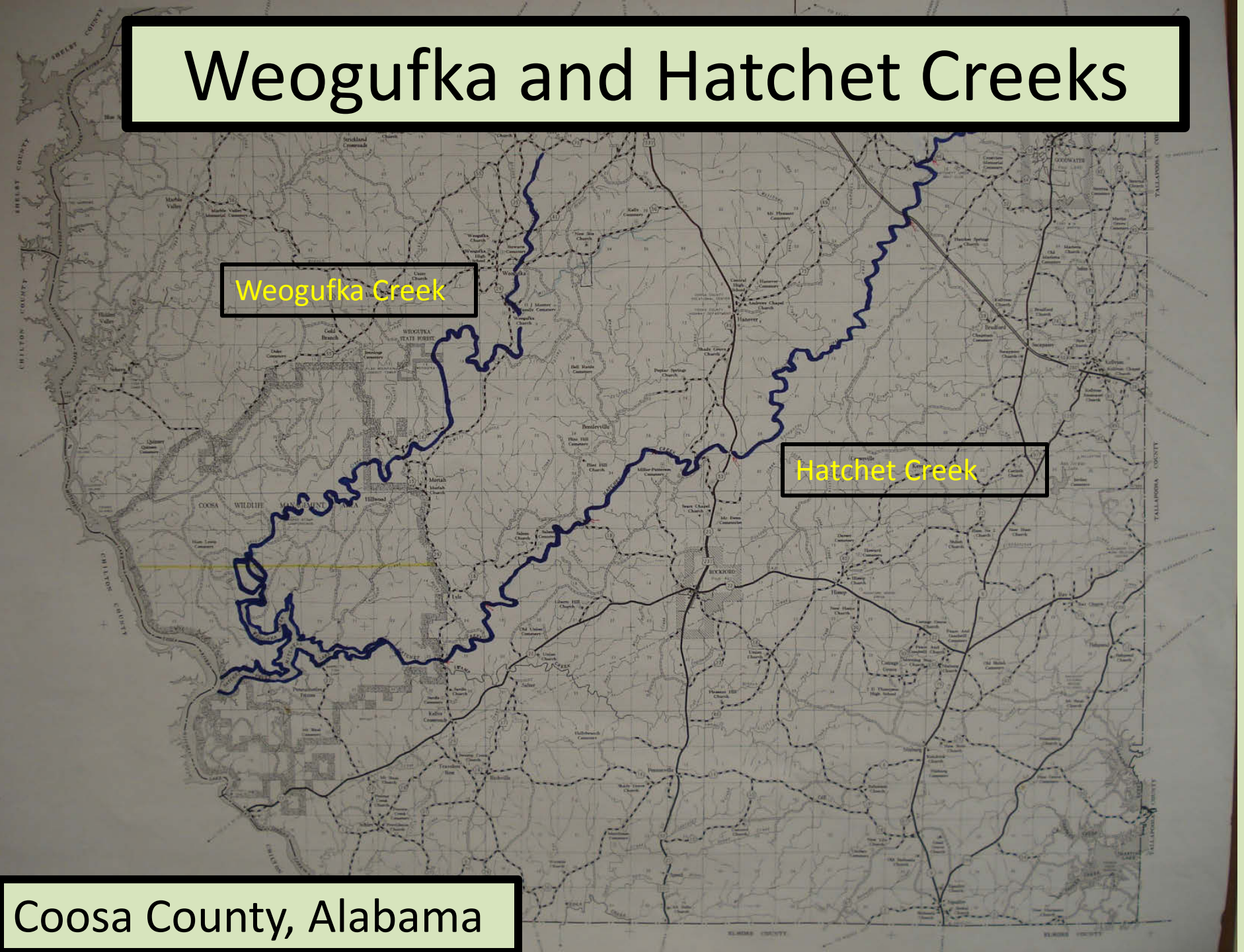
Roger Vines
County Extension Coordinator

Overview

- Coosa County – The Heart of Alabama
- Very rural county with an abundance of natural resources- forestland, pastures, ponds, lakes, streams, wildlife and fish

- Bordered by the Coosa River on the west and the Tallapoosa River on the east
- The county has two large streams, Hatchet and Weogufka Creeks that are popular floating trips.

Weogufka and Hatchet Creeks



Coosa County, Alabama

Coosa Creeks Map and Visitor Guide

Project funded by a grant from the Coosa Valley R.C.& D Council

Purpose: To develop a map that will highlight the floating opportunities on Hatchet and Weogukfa Creeks in Coosa County

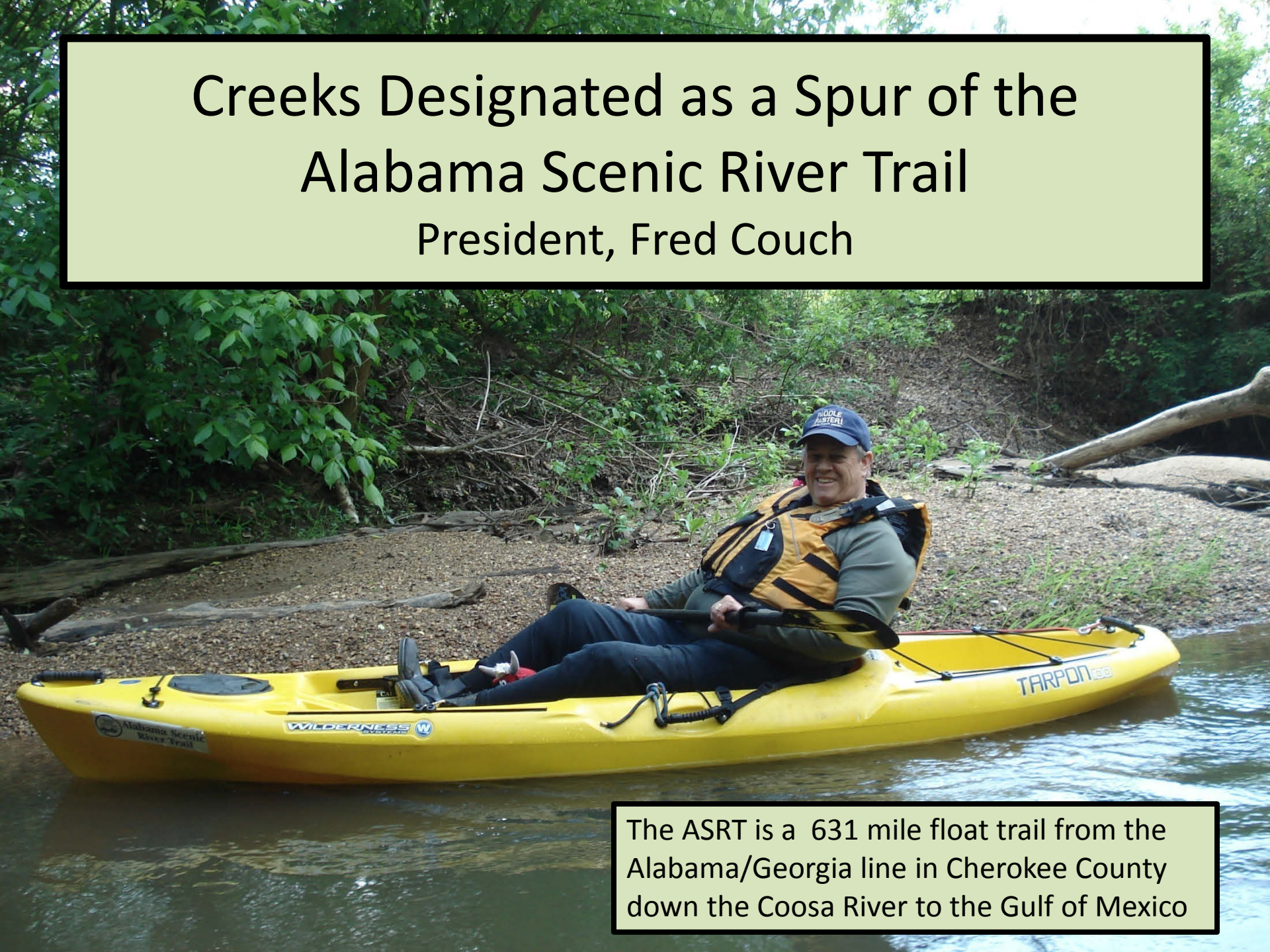
Goal: Develop a map to include a variety of topics and information :

- GPS locations of all launch sites
- Photos of unique features
- Public campsites
- Description of plants and animals
- Historical information
- Estimated travel time & distances
- Other general tips and contacts

The Expedition Crew

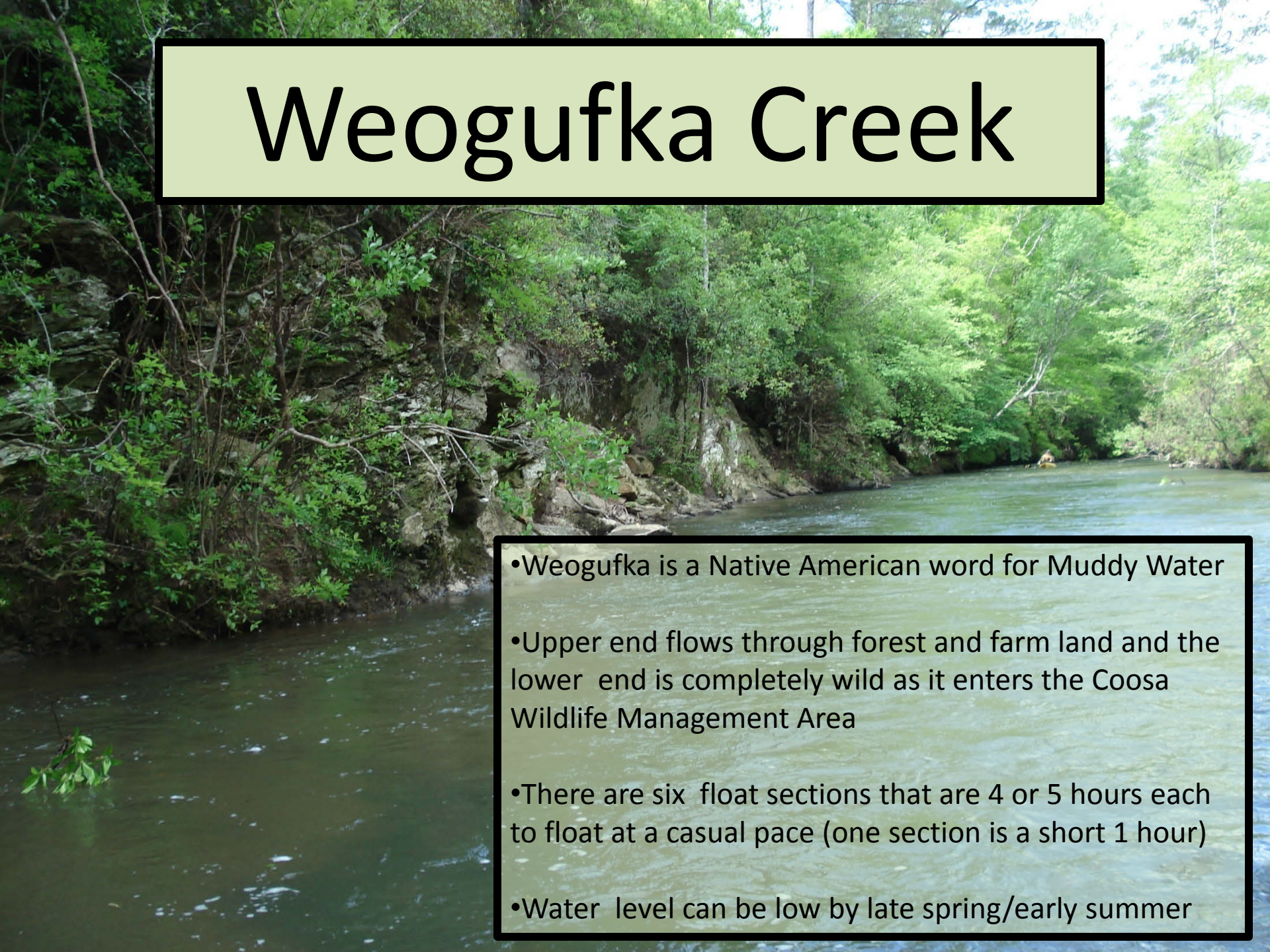
Creeks Designated as a Spur of the Alabama Scenic River Trail

President, Fred Couch



The ASRT is a 631 mile float trail from the Alabama/Georgia line in Cherokee County down the Coosa River to the Gulf of Mexico

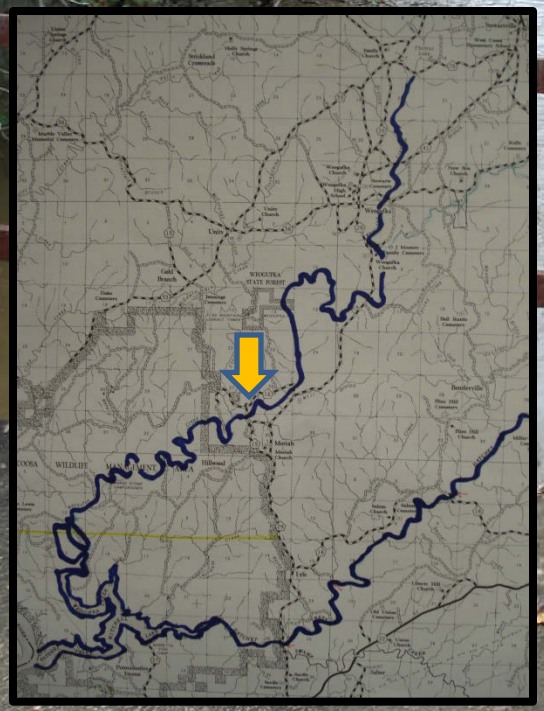
Weogufka Creek



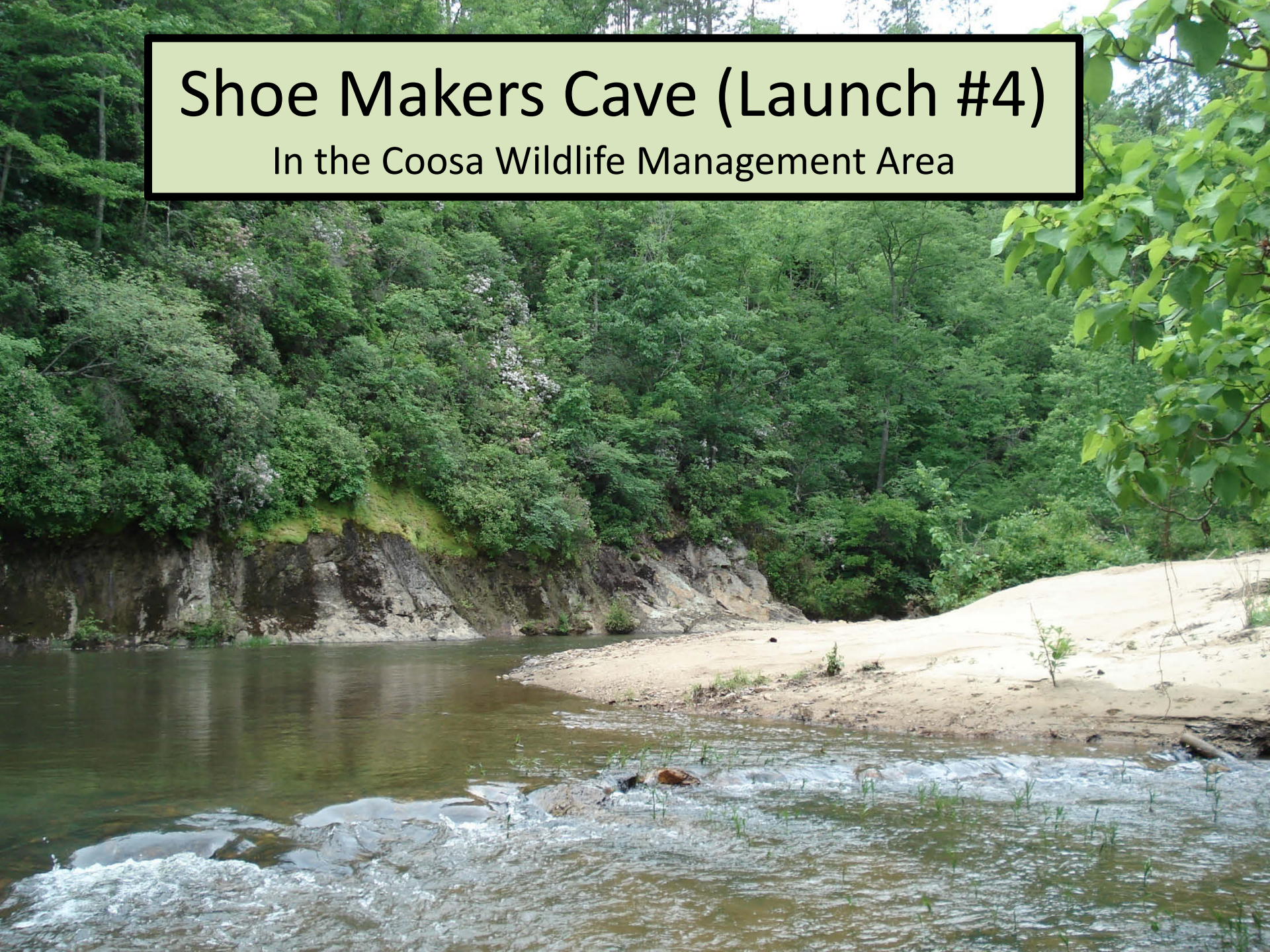
- Weogufka is a Native American word for Muddy Water
- Upper end flows through forest and farm land and the lower end is completely wild as it enters the Coosa Wildlife Management Area
- There are six float sections that are 4 or 5 hours each to float at a casual pace (one section is a short 1 hour)
- Water level can be low by late spring/early summer

Mt. Moriah (Launch #3)

Co. Rd 15 NW of Mt. Moriah Church

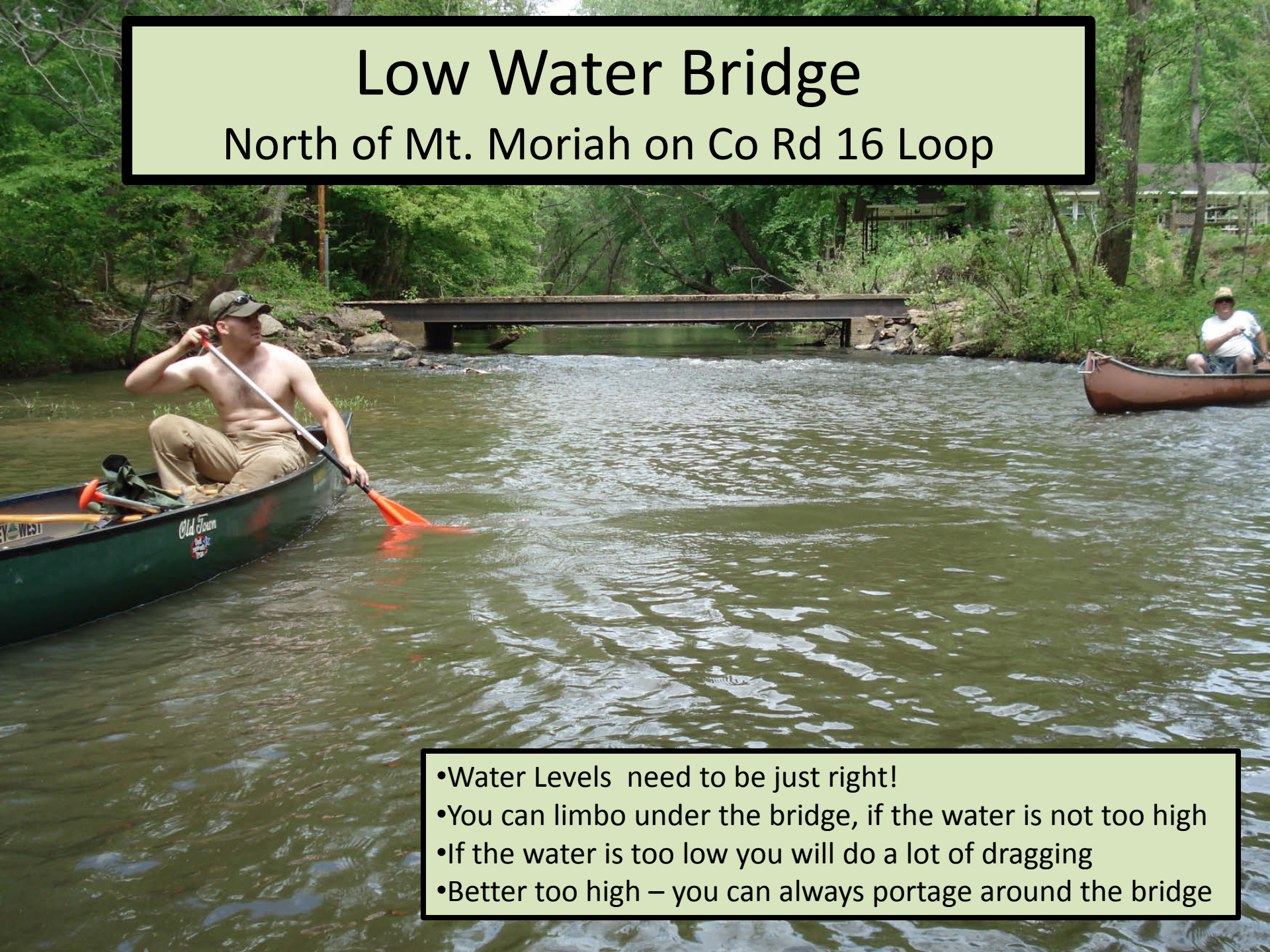


There is an easy launch site on the west side of the bridge and nice spot to park a vehicle


Shoe Makers Cave (Launch #4)
In the Coosa Wildlife Management Area

Low Water Bridge

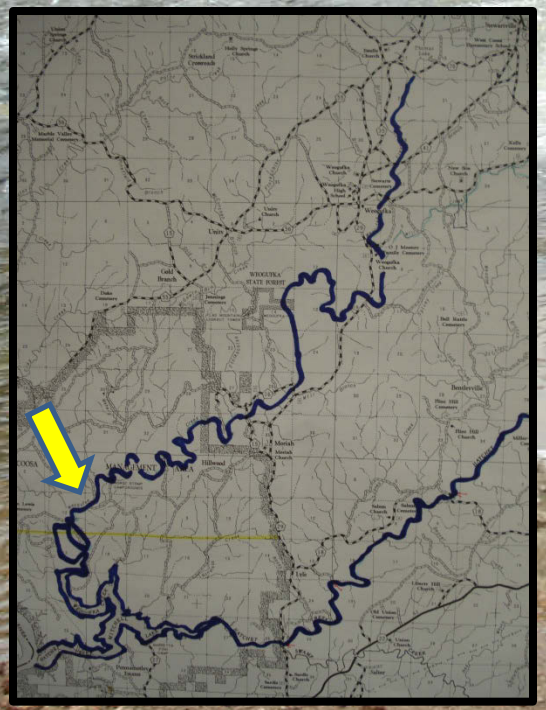
North of Mt. Moriah on Co Rd 16 Loop



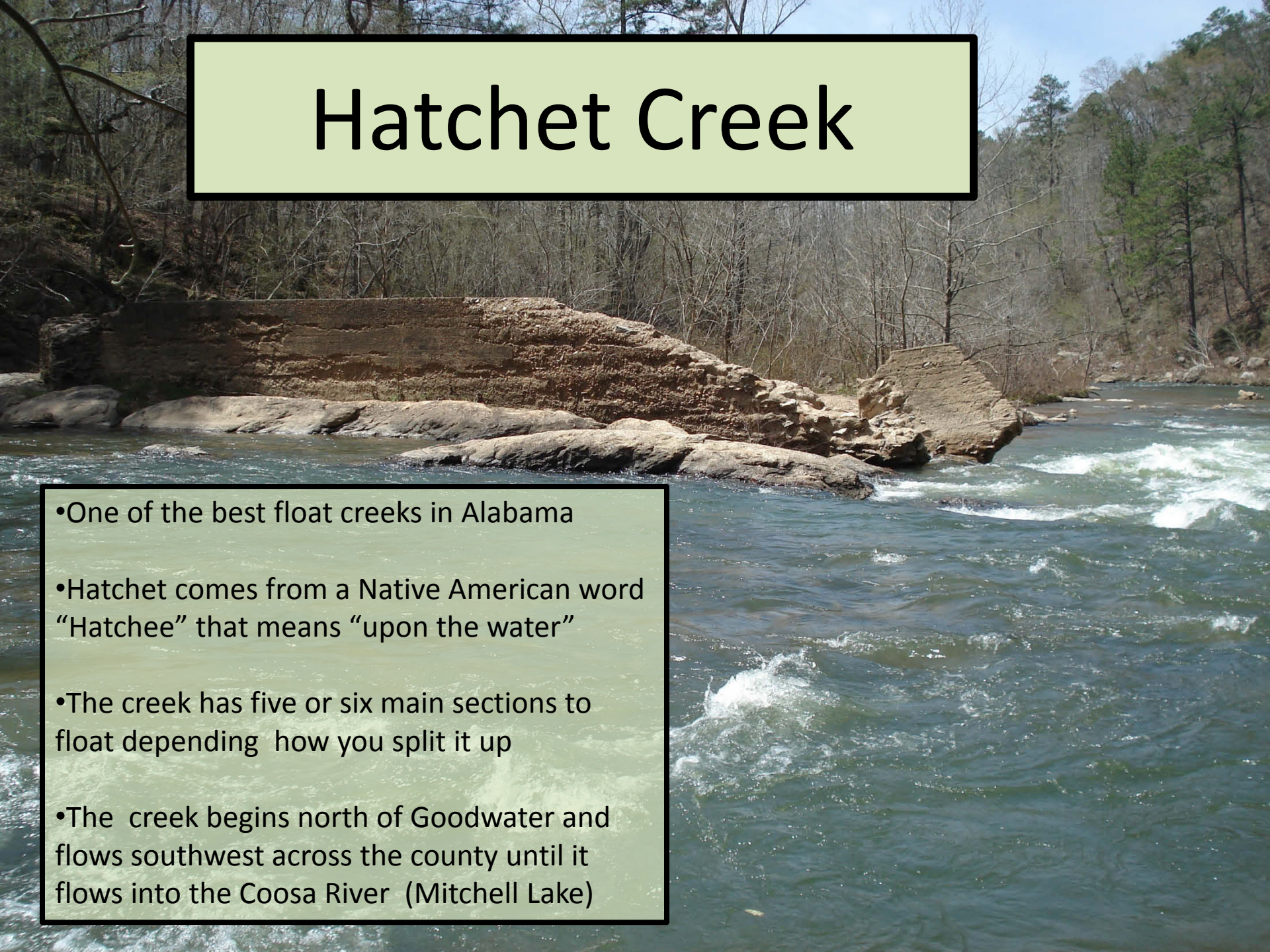
- Water Levels need to be just right!
- You can limbo under the bridge, if the water is not too high
- If the water is too low you will do a lot of dragging
- Better too high – you can always portage around the bridge

Underwater Bridge Launch #5

5 miles west of Coosa WMA Checking Station



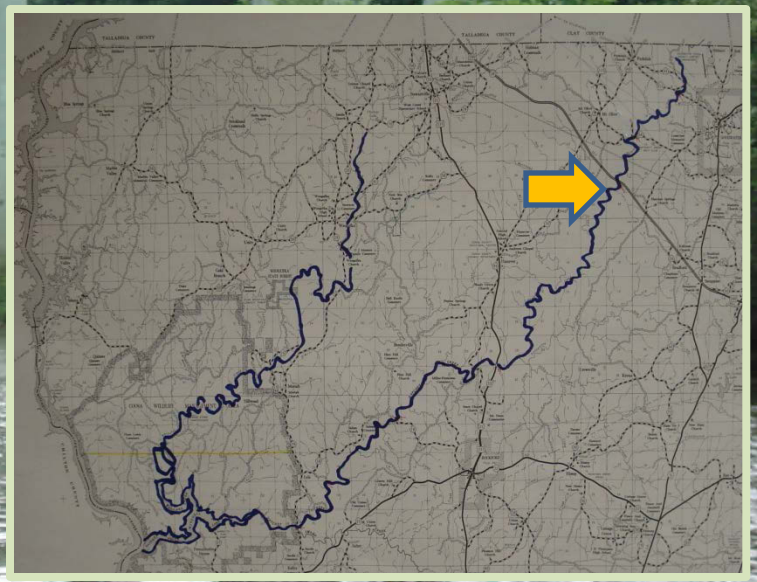
Hatchet Creek



- One of the best float creeks in Alabama
- Hatchet comes from a Native American word "Hatchee" that means "upon the water"
- The creek has five or six main sections to float depending how you split it up
- The creek begins north of Goodwater and flows southwest across the county until it flows into the Coosa River (Mitchell Lake)

Hwy 280 Launch #3

Easy launch site with good parking



Goodwater Dam Portage

The best portage is on the right side of the creek along an old roadbed and trail.

Old Grist Mill Campsite

Free Public Camping
Property of Norman Ray
One hour below Hwy 280

N 33°01’34” W 86°07’48”

Dunnam's Halfway Campsite

Public Camping on property of Tommy and Beverly Bass about 4 hours below Hwy 280

Located halfway between Hwy 280 and Hwy 231 which is the longest stretch of the creek between take outs.

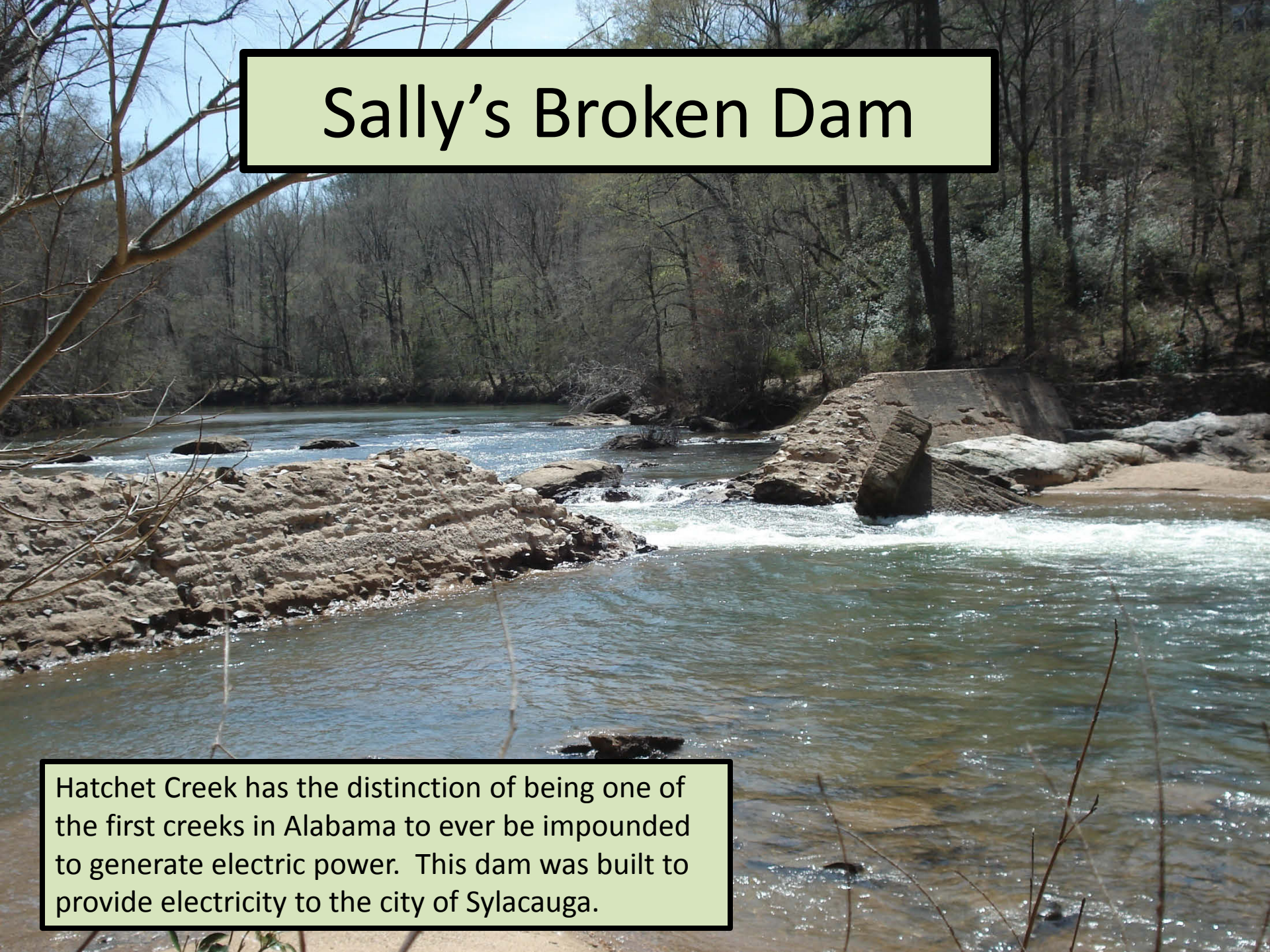
Sally's Broken Dam Campsite

Short distance below Hwy 231

Public Camping on the property of Sally Holland

N 32°56'46" W 86°12'29"

Sally's Broken Dam



Hatchet Creek has the distinction of being one of the first creeks in Alabama to ever be impounded to generate electric power. This dam was built to provide electricity to the city of Sylacauga.

Privet Cove Campsite

One hour below Hwy 231

N 32°56’20” W86°13’11”

Public Camping on the property of
David and Loraine Kelley

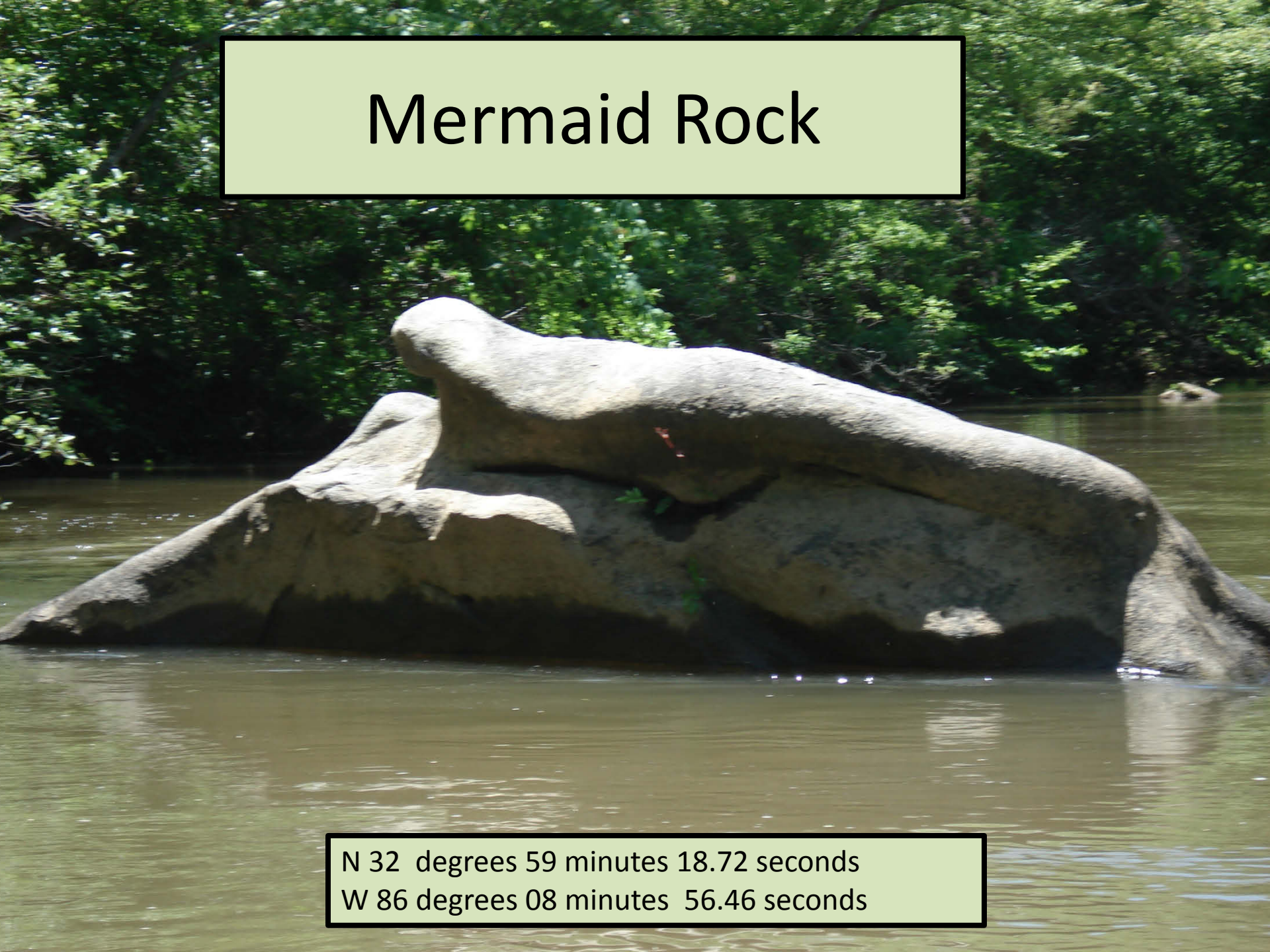
Big Bend Shoals

N 32 degrees 58 minutes 59.04 seconds
W 86 degrees 09 minutes 32.58 seconds

Boulder Island

N 32 degrees 56 minutes 28 seconds
W 86 degrees 13 minutes 26 seconds

Mermaid Rock

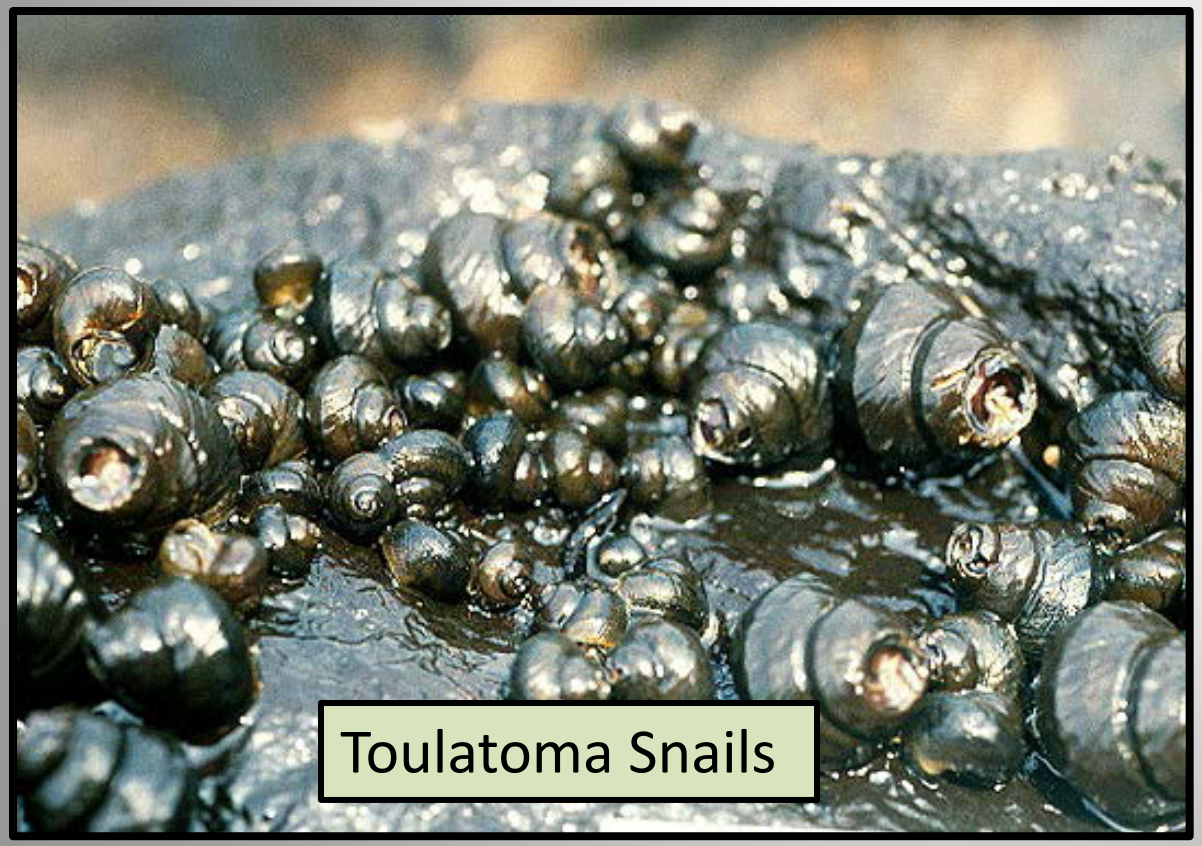


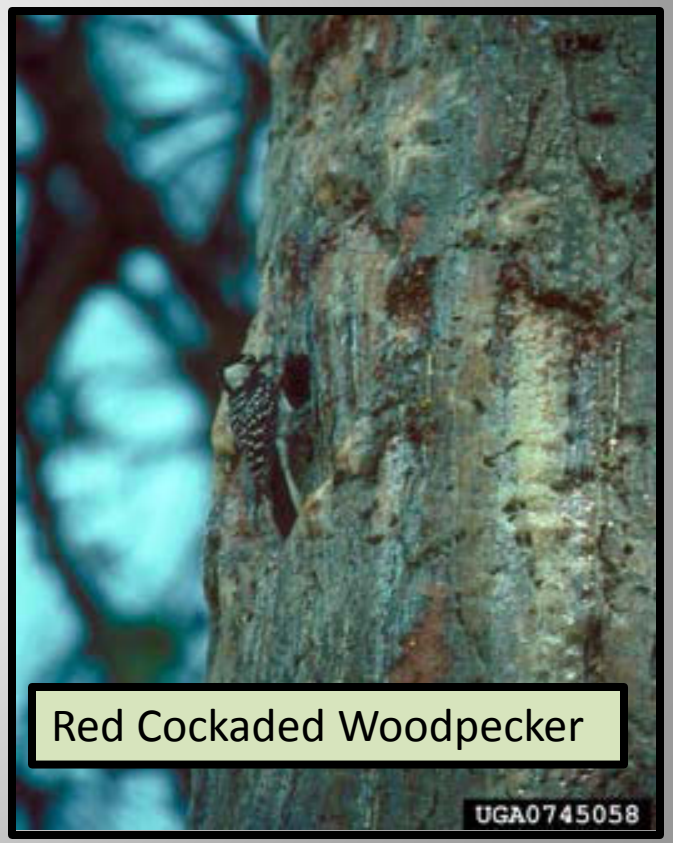
N 32 degrees 59 minutes 18.72 seconds
W 86 degrees 08 minutes 56.46 seconds

Cahaba Lily Shoals

A Chance to See Something Rare

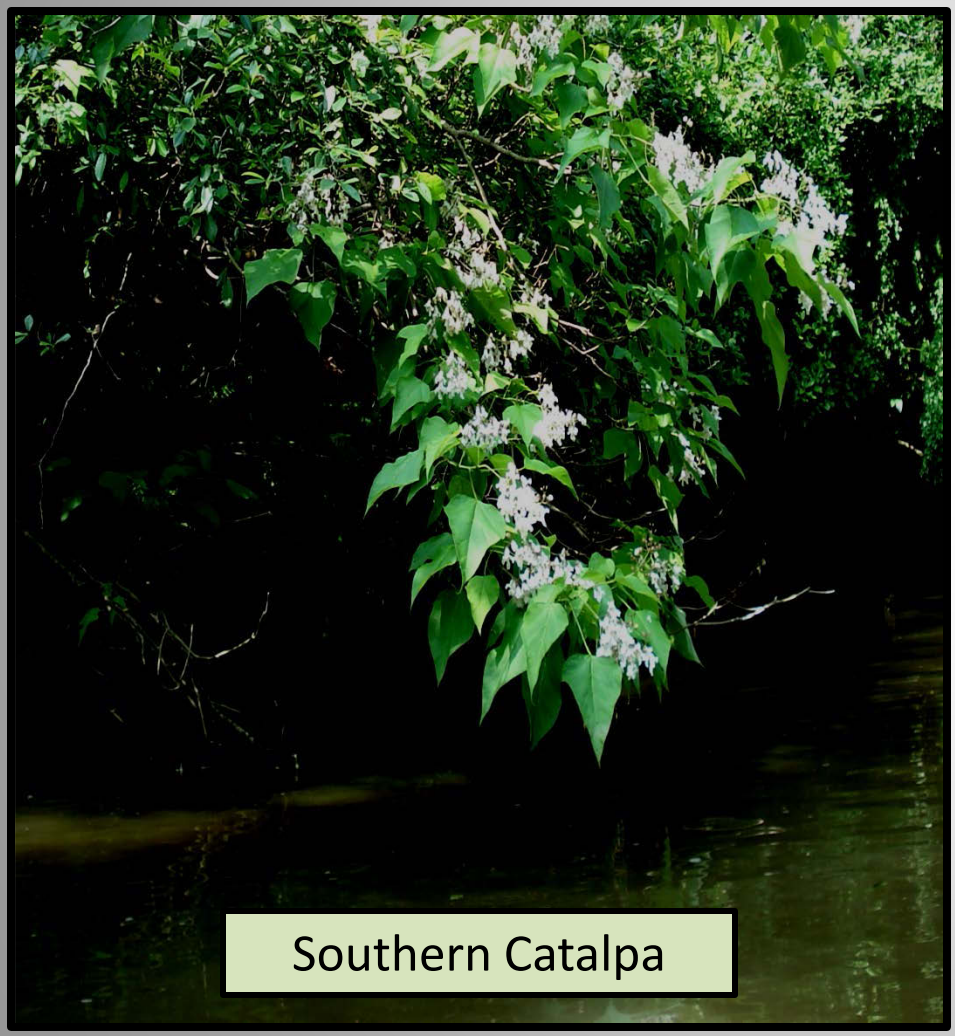
Threatened or Endangered Species





Beautiful Flowers

Riparian Trees



Southern Catalpa

Bigleaf Magnolia

Interesting Fish and Wildlife

Great Blue Heron Rookery

Turtle Laying Her Eggs

Alligator Gar

Historical Sites

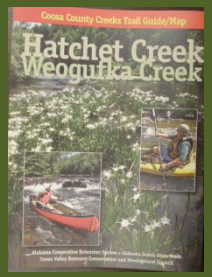
Goodwater Train Trestle

Sylacauga Power Plant

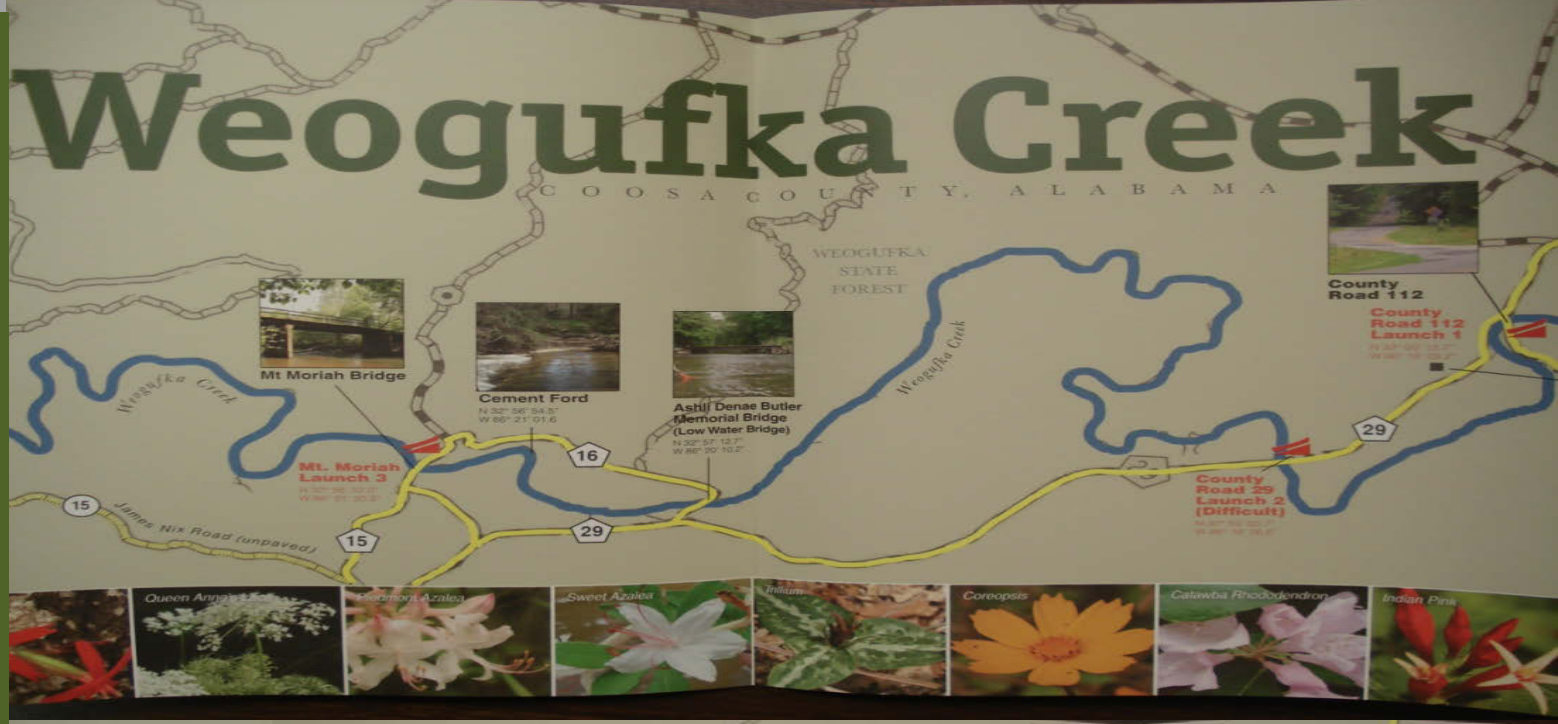
Goodwater Power Plant

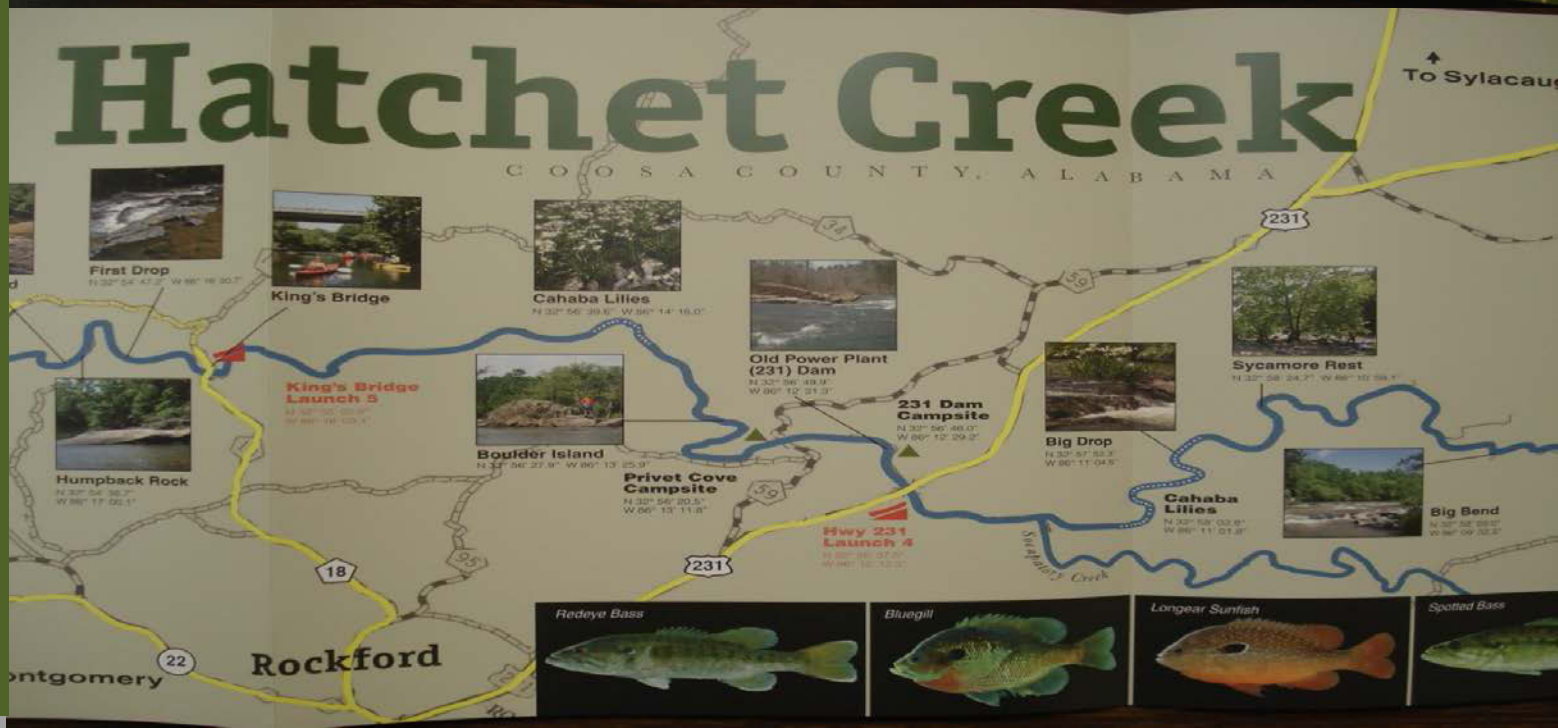
Old Grist Mill Foundation

The final product is a map with Weogufka Creek on one side and Hatchet Creek on the other.



The maps were printed on semi-water proof paper.

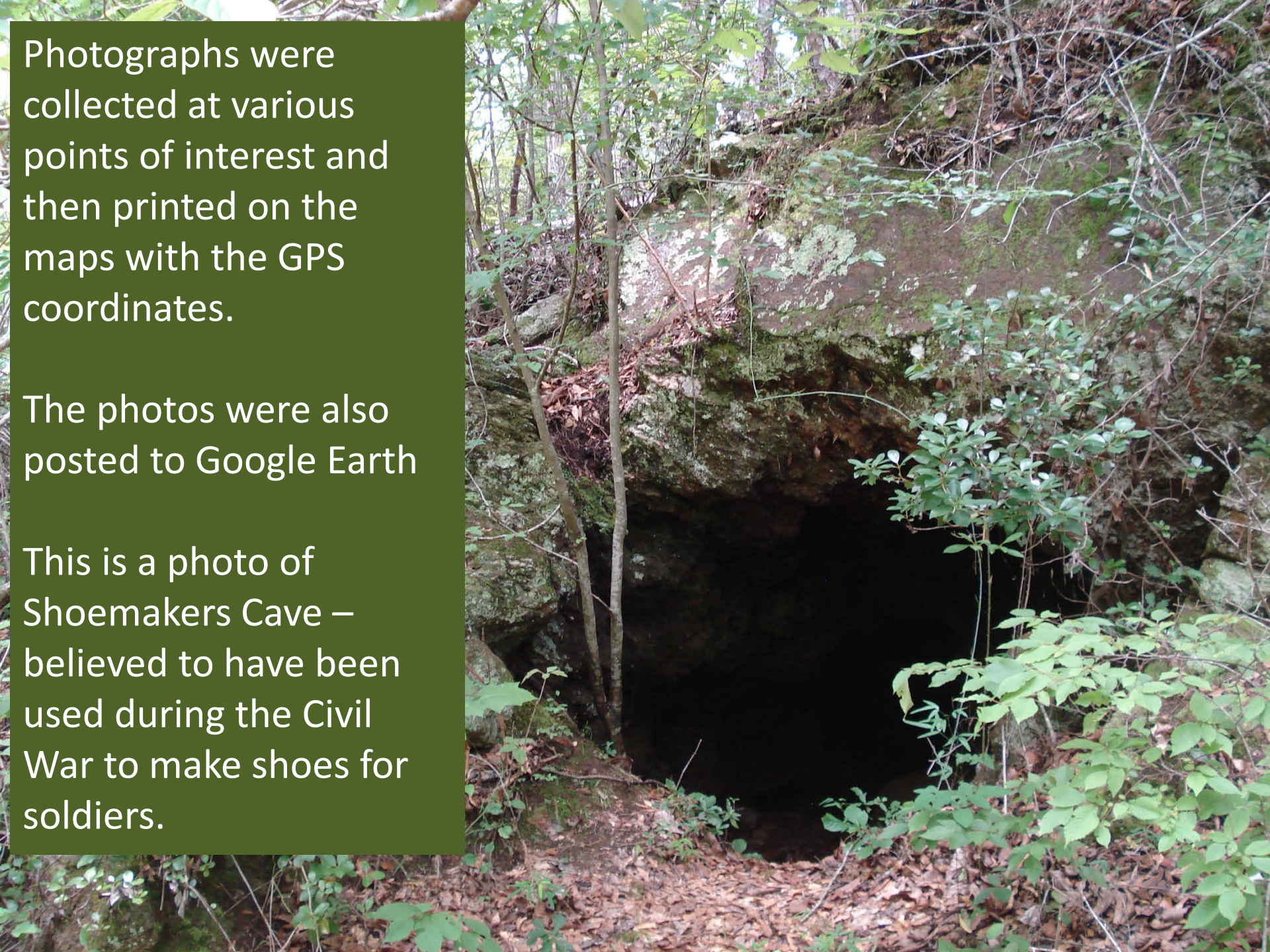




Photographs were collected at various points of interest and then printed on the maps with the GPS coordinates.

The photos were also posted to Google Earth

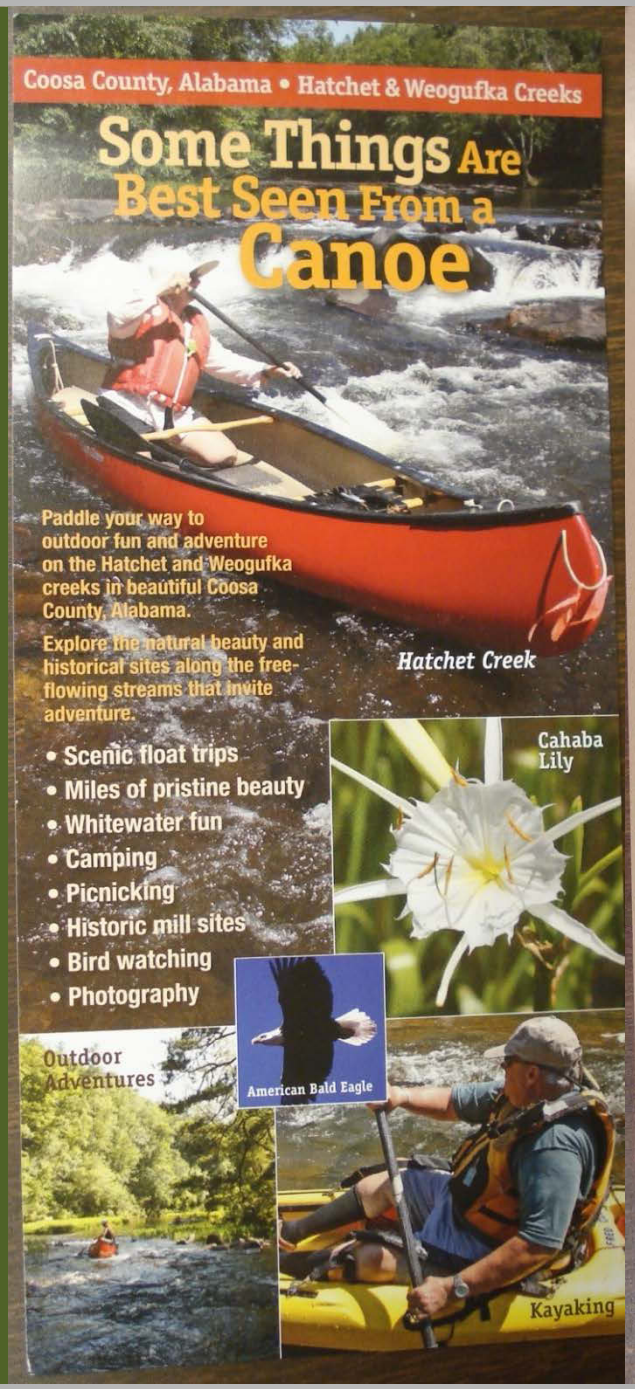
This is a photo of Shoemakers Cave – believed to have been used during the Civil War to make shoes for soldiers.

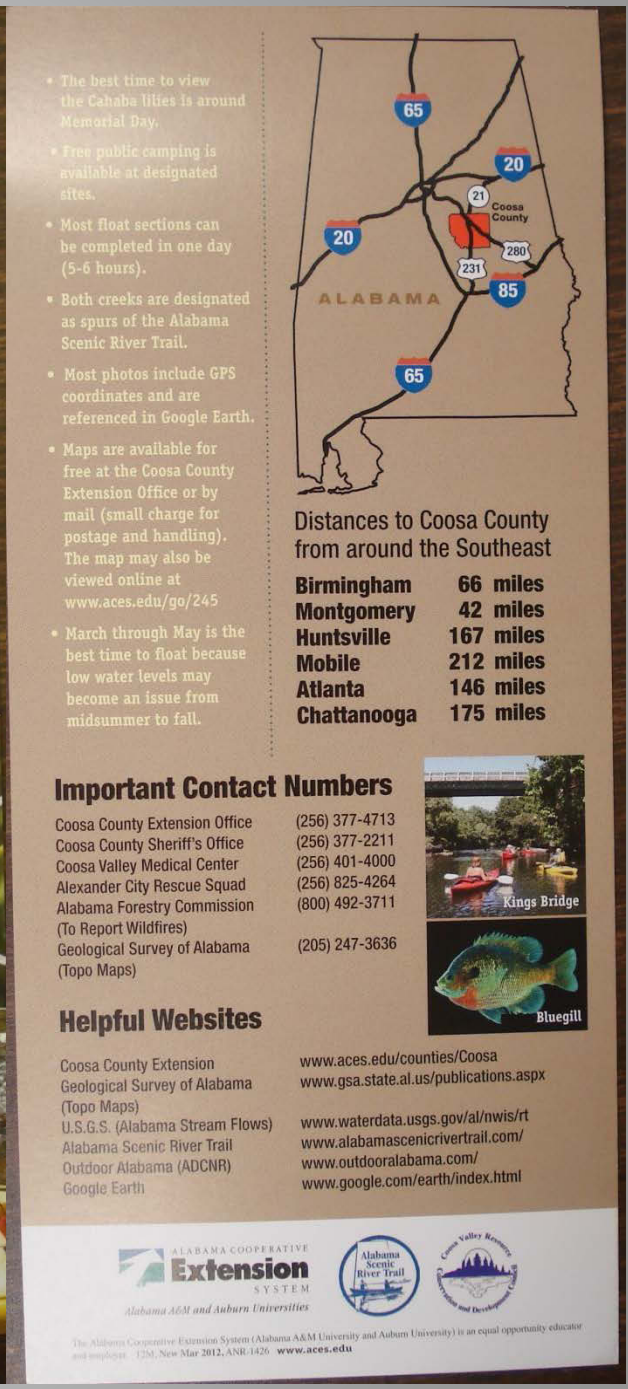


Rack cards were designed and printed.

These cards will be distributed at all the State Visitor Centers.

The purpose of the card is to arouse interest, while the maps themselves are distributed through the County Extension Office.





2013 First Hatchet Creek Festival
Rockford, AL
MAY 18-19, 2013

2014 Second Hatchet Creek Festival
Rockford, AL
May 31-June 1,
2014

Unloading and Parking Assisted
by the Coosa Sheriff Department

Camping Gear Loaded for Shuttle

The Bus Shuttle for Drivers
TRAILWAYS
southerntrailways.com

The Big Launch

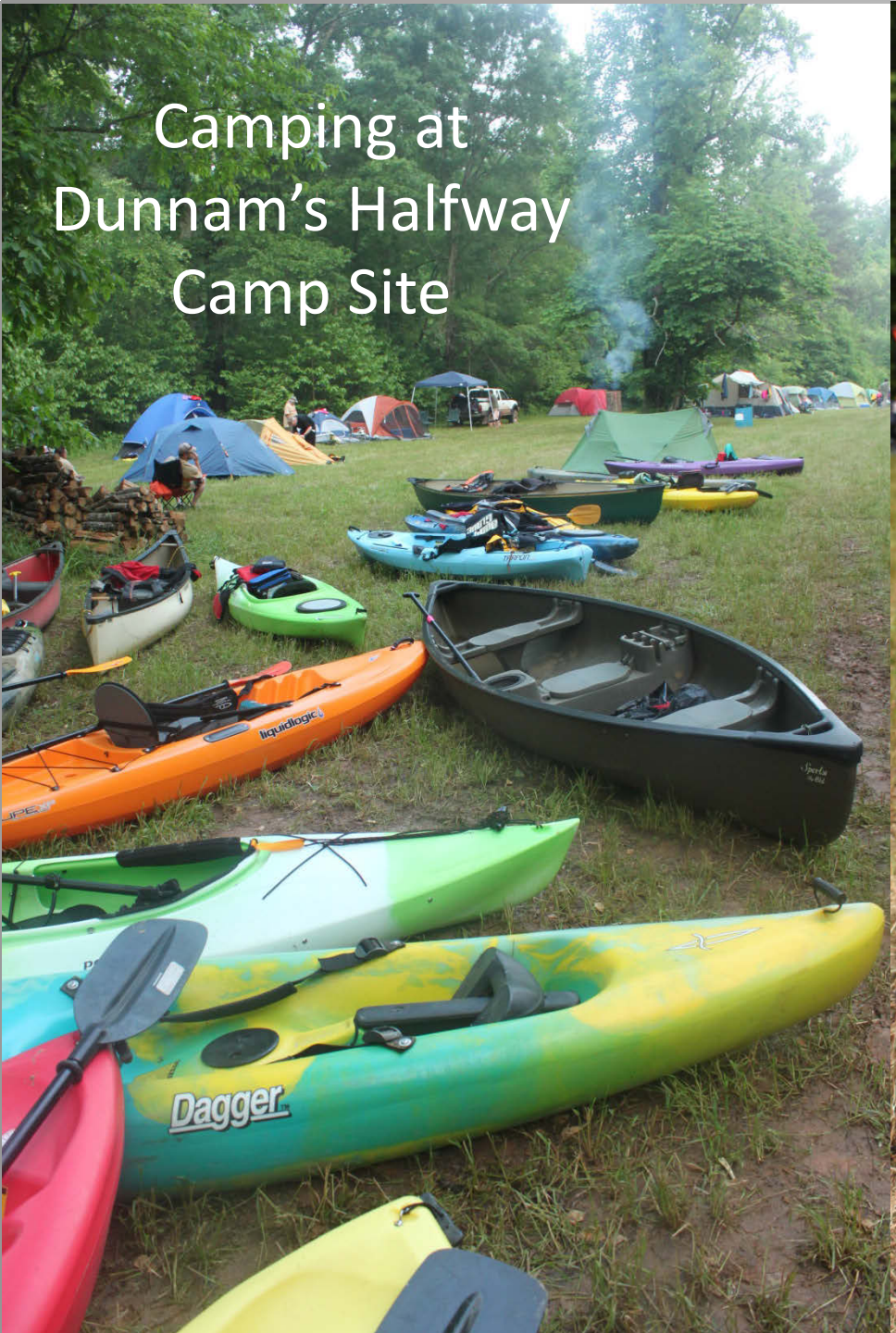
Racers Start Your Engines

While Some Raced to the Finish
Others Took It Slow and Easy
Temptation

Racers Crossing the Finish Line

Rockford, AL
MAY 18-19, 2013
HATCHET CREEK
FESTIVAL
FLOAT · CAMP · MUSIC · FOOD
www.ACCE.edu/Hatchetcreek
Hatchet Creek Festival
Kayak Race
First Place
Hatchet Creek Festival
Kayak Race
Second Place
Hatchet Creek Festival
Kayak Race
Third Place

Camping at Dunnam's Halfway Camp Site



Catered Catfish Supper

Free Time for Horseshoes and Games

Live Music Provided by local Songwriters Club

Guest Speaker From the Alabama Department of Conservation

Catered Breakfast and Sunday Morning Devotion
by Retired NFL Coach, Bobby Jackson

The Cahaba Lilies – A Sight to See

The Take Out – The Easy Way

Thanks for Listening and Yall Come Back Now, Ya Hear?

A Project of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Coosa County Office And the Coosa Valley R.C.& D Council

ALABAMA COOPERATIVE Extension SYSTEM

Alabama A&M and Auburn Universities

Coosa Valley Resource Conservation and Development Council