

Black Cypress Bayou

Black Cypress Bayou begins at the confluence with Black Cypress Creek east of Avinger in southern Cass County and flows southeasterly about 20 miles where it empties into Big Cypress Bayou in Marion County. The upper reach of the bayou is within the same 12,800-acre area of priority bottomland hardwoods as Black Cypress Creek, thus it supports the same diverse mix of oak, sweetgum, black gum, river birch, ironwood, mayhaw, and cypress. Also like Black Cypress Creek, the bayou has high species value to white-tail deer, waterfowl, furbearers, American alligators, squirrels, turkeys, raptors, colonial waterbirds, and other migratory birds (USFWS, 1985). This section of the bayou, like much of the Big Cypress Bayou Basin, is within the target recovery area set by the TPWD for the state threatened paddlefish (Pitman, 1992). The candidate segment is from the confluence with Big Cypress Bayou in south central Marion County upstream to the confluence with Black Cypress Creek east of Avinger in south Cass County.

- (1) Biological Function- priority bottomland hardwood forest displays significant overall habitat value (USFWS, 1985).
- (2) Hydrologic Function- bottomland forest and associated wetlands provide valuable hydrologic function relating to water quality.
- (3) Riparian Conservation Area- none identified.
- (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 state threatened paddlefish (TPWD, 1998b).