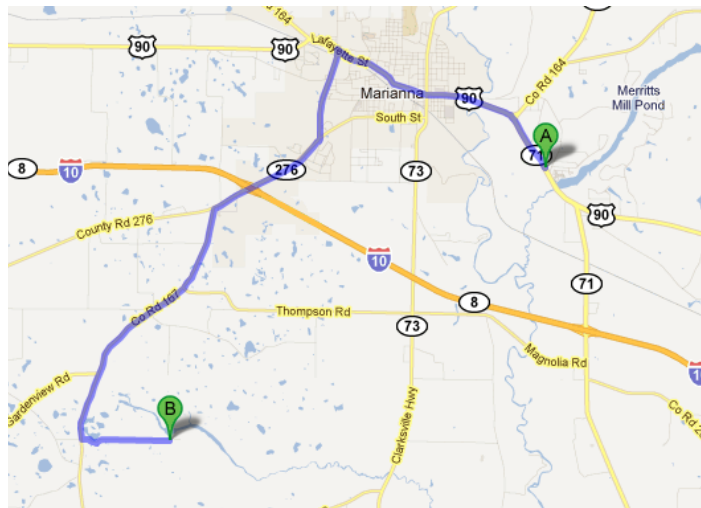


DRY CREEK

- **How to Get There**
- **The Shuttle Route**
- **How to Get Back to the Campground**

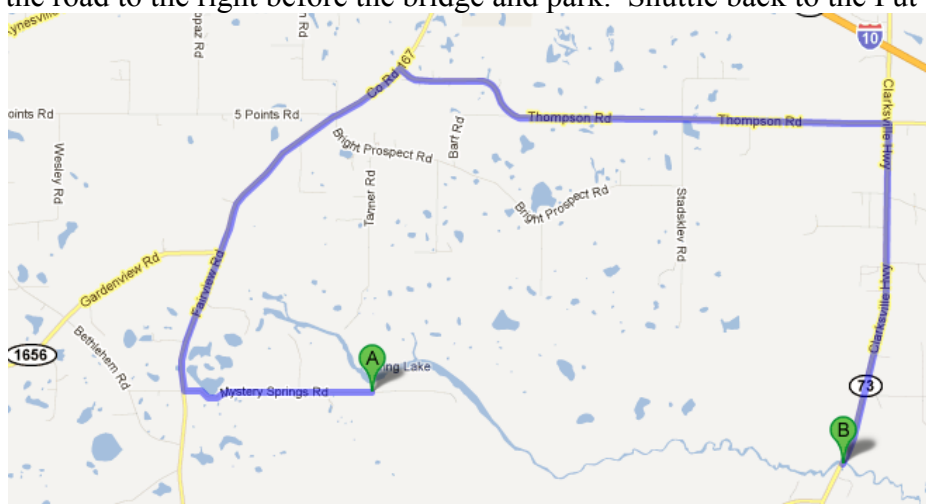
Jackson County's Dry Creek is a relative unknown for our group, as we usually prefer larger creeks in the area. It's a series of spring vents and mostly shallow, with a firm sand bottom. You will see almost no signs of buildings until just before the take-out.

From the Campground: Head west through Marianna on US 90 until we get to County Road 276. Head left / south. After we go past Interstate-10, go another half mile and veer left on Highway 167, or, Fairview Road. Follow it about 3½ or 4 miles, turn left on Mystery Springs Road. You've got to love a name like that.



A little more than a mile on Mystery Springs Road is a narrow track on the left leading to the put-in. It's just before the woods open up into sod fields. Now: This is private property but the landowners have tolerated people putting in here. So we should be on good behavior. They have a sign saying it will stay open as long as it's not abused.

Shuttle: Go out to the Highway, turn right, go 3 miles. Turn right to Thompson Road, go to SR 73. Turn right at SR 73 (there's a defunct country store across the road from where we turn), and go south to the crossing of Dry Creek. Pull off the road to the right before the bridge and park. Shuttle back to the Put-In.



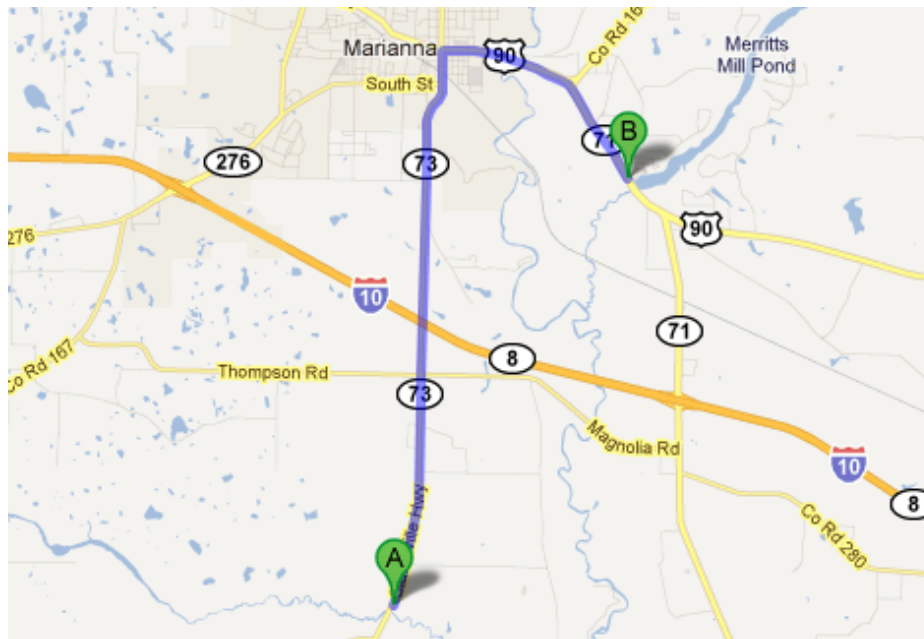
On the Creek: The put-in looks like a swamp. Don't be afraid, it opens up. Get in, and paddle to the left through the weeds or vegetation. You're in a backwater from the main channel. This is part of a spring vent called Black Hole, and Double Spring, Mill Pond Spring and the improbably named Springboard Spring feed it. You will quickly come to a deep blue bowl-shaped spring in the woods. Cross it, go through another patch of woods, and you come out in the river-rise part of Dry Creek. It's wide and shallow, and it will soon get narrower and faster. Eventually it will be very shaded, and surrounded by cypress trees.

If you encounter a blow down or a similar log obstacle, it's usually easiest to just get out and move the boat over the log. The sand bottom is generally firm, for easy footing.

Just before the SR 73 bridge, you will see some houses on the right. We will take out on the left, just before the bridge.

Some people have asked about going under the SR 73 bridge and going to the Chipola River. It could be done, but, the creek is very densely tangled below the bridge, and it would be a long day's work.

Going Home: Go north on SR 73, past I-10, to downtown Marianna. Turn right on US 90 in the middle of town, go 2½ miles to the campground, on your left just before Merritt's Millpond.



Emergency Information / Local Information

Jackson County has 9-1-1 service, and the 9-1-1 office also has an e-mail link, jce911@jacksoncountyfl.com

If you need gas on the way back, or want to head to one of the hotels off of I-10, take SR 73 north to the crossroads, turn right on Magnolia Road, take that past the Chipola River bridge, and you will come out to SR 71. Turn left, and there will be an assortment of gas stations, restaurants and motels on the way back to US 90.

When you get to US 90, turn left to get back to Arrowhead Campground.