

HOLMES CREEK

Emergency Information / Local Information

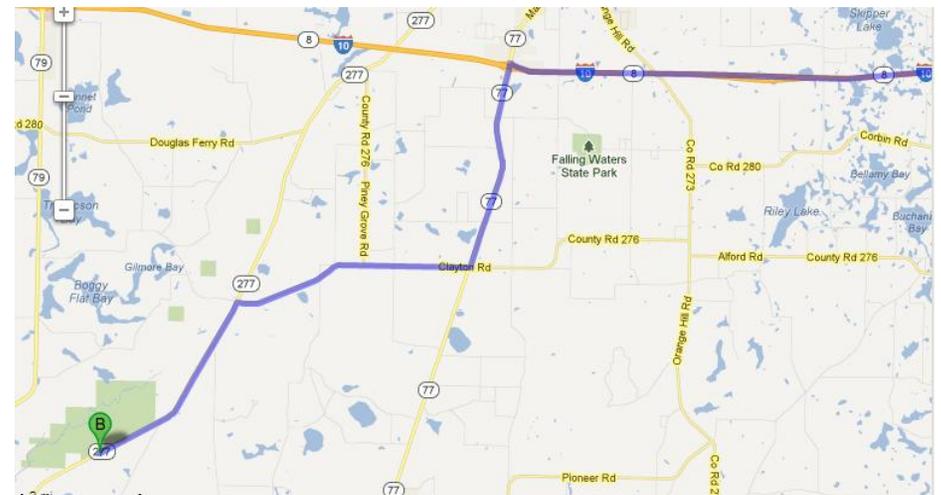
Jackson County and Washington County have 9-1-1 service, and for our wireless users, the Jackson County 9-1-1 office also has an e-mail link, jce911@jacksoncountyfl.com. Washington County advises us that their 9-1-1 service can't pinpoint cell phones so if you have to use it, work with the operators to get help to you.

Cotton Landing to Fanning Branch

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

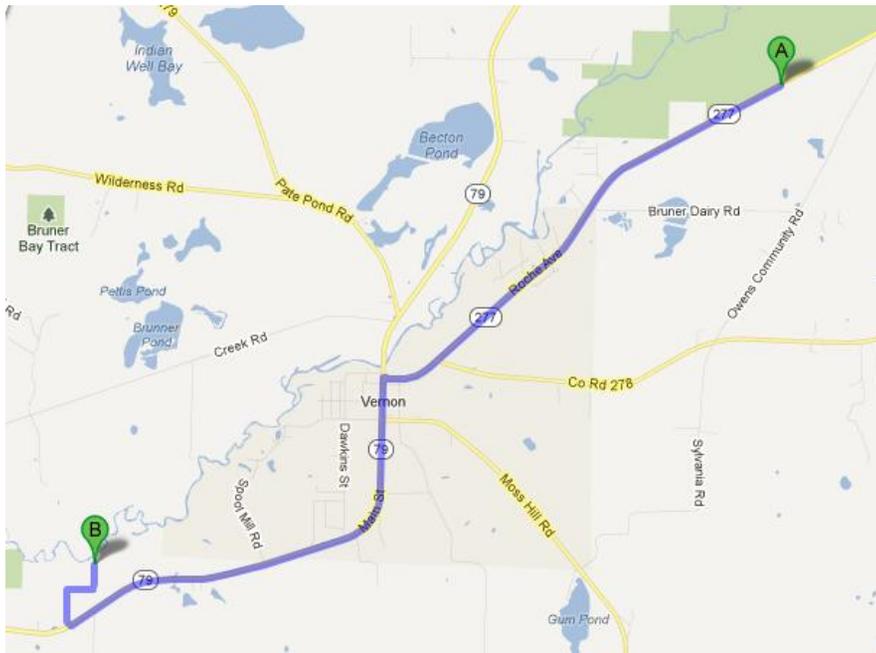
Holmes Creek is to west of Marianna, south of the town of Chipley. The river is fed with many cool springs and is a popular summertime spot. Property owners have fenced off the lands around some of the springs to discourage litterers and trespassing, but we can still paddle up to the springs. Today's trip will be about 7.5 miles, starting in thick forest.

From the Campground: It's a 35-mile trip to the put-in so make sure you have enough gas. There are porta-potties at the put-in installed by the Water Management District. We'll turn left, head down to I-10, and go right/west on I-10 toward Chipley. We'll get off at the Highway 77 exit, and turn left/south. Go 3.4 miles, and turn right on Clayton Road. Go left/south at the stop sign at Highway 277.



Note your mileage ó the put-in road is 3.6 miles south of this turn, and it's easy to overshoot. It's marked by a small sign near a couple of sections of split-rail fence at a road into the pines. This road leads to a boat launch and parking area.

Shuttle: When we're ready, drivers will head back out the dirt road, turn right on Highway 277, and go south toward Vernon. At downtown Vernon, the road meets Highway 77, and we turn left/south. Some 3.3 miles down the road, turn right into Two Creek Road. In about 200 yards do another right on King Culler Road, and this leads to another Water Management District boat ramp and picnic area.



On the River: The put-in is steep, so be careful, and lend a hand lowering boats into the water. Once you're in things get easier. We will pass about five springs on this stretch of Holmes Creek, and some of them are definitely worth paddling up against their current to get to.

The river is wooded here, and will soon have high banks on each side as we approach Vernon. As we get near town (you'll hear cars crossing the highway bridge) there's another boat ramp on the right, with facilities and trash cans at the top of the bank.

In town, there are number of riverbank homes on the left. They become less frequent as we head out of town and downstream.

The takeout at Fanning Branch will be on the left on a moderately high bank, with an improved boat ramp.

Going Home: We will drive out to the highway, turn left, and backtrack through Vernon to Highway 277. The right turn to 277 is a black after Court Avenue, near a green City of Vernon sign.

If you miss the turn, don't panic ó going straight up Highway 79 will also take you back to I-10 and a right-turn toward Marianna, just with a few more miles.

Going up 277, you don't meet I-10 (there's one of those flyovers there). So, 6.9 miles after that right turn on 277, turn right again on Clayton Road, go 4 miles, turn left and you'll be back at I-10. Turn right, head east, and get off at the second exit for Marianna, at Highway 71.