

## S12FC Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips

## Fisheating Creek - Ingrahams Crossing to Fisheating Creek Outpost

### Paddle Information Sheet

**Description:** Fisheating Creek is about 45 miles long, however only the area from Ingraham Crossing to Hwy 27 is regularly maintained by the FWC and kept open. Occasionally an area east of Hwy 27 is maintained and cleared as well. The trick to paddling Fisheating Creek is water levels. The creek is only navigable when the water level is between 1.5' and 7' at the Hwy 27 bridge. This is an incredibly beautiful and pristine creek. The lower half from Burnt Bridge is marked with blue trail blazes. During the dry season the creek bed actually becomes a hiking trail that runs from lake to lake. This paddle is only available through the Fisheating Creek Outpost on Hwy 27 in Palmdale. They are the only people that have key access to the launch sites up river. Shuttling is provided for a fee, and rentals are available.

**Skill Level:** Advanced

**Distance/Time:** 15 Miles/6 - 7 Hours

**Launch Site:** Ingraham Crossing

**Special Considerations:** Call the Outpost to check on water levels before planning a paddle. GPS recommended, especially for the upper section, which can be tricky. However the blue blazes on the lower section are excellent navigational aids. If you are not familiar with blazed trails, one blaze means straight ahead, and two blazes means a significant turn. If one side is higher than the other, it means to turn in the direction of the higher blaze.

#### Skill Level Definitions

**Beginner:** New to paddling and may need tips and or instructions about paddling strokes, safety procedures, and entering/exiting kayaks. Comfortable on short trips of 1 to 3 miles on protected waters, when wind does not exceed 5 mph.

**Novice:** Paddlers acquainted with basic paddle strokes and can manage kayak handling independently in winds not exceeding 10 mph on protected waters. Comfortable on trips up to 6 miles.

**Intermediate:** Paddlers with experience in basic strokes and some experience on different venues, including some open water. Comfortable on trip distances of 6 to 10 miles, winds not exceeding 15 mph.

**Advanced:** Seasoned paddlers who possess skills and experience to paddle all venues and conditions. Experienced in self-rescues. Should be comfortable paddling more than 10 miles in a day.

**NOTE:** Great care has been taken to ensure this guides accuracy, but weather, tides, and water conditions can change rapidly and create hazardous conditions. These maps are for visual reference only, please consult NOAA Charts for navigation. Paddlers should have all proper safety equipment and check conditions before departure. All paddlers should always wear PFDs while on the water, and leave a float plan. There are inherent dangers in any paddle sport. There are special hazards along the Florida coast due to shifting tides, changing wind and weather, shallow waters, and treacherous bottoms with soft mud, rocks, and oyster bars. It is up to each paddler to be aware of these dangers, to accept and be prepared for the risks involved, and to be certain they have the skills to safely paddle in these conditions.