

## S23 Day Paddles - Econlockhatchee River

### Lower Econlockhatchee River Paddle Information Sheet

**Description:** Ideal paddling by either kayak or canoe. Water levels of this tannic river can vary significantly depending on rainfall. The section from Snow Hill Road to SR 46 (State Designated Trail) through the Little Big Econ State Forest is wide, with mostly sand bottom. Many sand bars offer opportunities to stretch and picnic. This lower section is rarely blocked by downfall. Paddlers can see a diverse array of wildlife including sandhill cranes, bald eagles, ospreys, hawks, wading birds, wood storks, roseate spoonbills, waterfowl, shorebirds, deer, turkey and sometimes horses. The Muscogee name for the river means “River of Many Mounds”, named for the multitude of Indian mounds found along this waterway.

**Skill Level:** Intermediate to Advanced (due to distance).

**Distance/Approximate Time:** 11.8 Miles/4 to 7 Hours

**Launch Site:** Snow Hill Road Bridge Paddle Launch

**Takeout Site:** CS Lee Boat Ramp, or nearby Jolly Gator Fish Camp Paddle Launch, just to the north. Both on your left.

**Special Considerations:** Check USGS gage (near Chuluota) for water levels; river is at flood stage if gage is over 7 feet. No launch fee. This paddle requires shuttling vehicles.

#### 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.