

## S28 Day Paddles - Lakes

### Cross Creek Paddle Information Sheet

**Description:** This paddle is along a mostly undeveloped creek that connects the Lochloosa Lake and Orange Lake, which are two very popular fishing lakes. The paddle starts out in Lochloosa Lake, which has the closest launch site, so the actual creek is a little less than 2 miles long. The area around the 325 bridge is developed and the famous Yearling Restaurant is only a couple blocks east of the bridge. The area is steeped in history surrounding the Pulitzer Prize winning author of "The Yearling", Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, who lived on the creek in the 1930s. You can visit her house in the State Park at the takeout. In 2007, the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings house and farmyard was designated as a National Historic Landmark, our nation's highest historic recognition.

**Skill Level:** Novice

**Distance/Approximate Time:** 4.7 Miles/2.5 Hours

**Launch Site:** Lochloosa Conservation Area Landing Paddle Launch

**Takeout Site:** Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park Ramp

**Special Considerations:** This paddle requires shutting vehicles. State Park entry fee.

#### 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.