

## Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Ochlockonee River Area

## Wood Lake Paddle Information Sheet

**Description:** Launch at the Wood Lake access site and head upstream (to the right). Be aware of all the side creeks as you go. Continue up this pristine creek all the way to the Ochlockonee River. Once in the river, head down stream and past the Sanborn Cutoff on your right. About a quarter mile past the cutoff the river takes a sharp right hand turn. Do not take this turn, but continue straight (northward). In a very short distance you will see the entrance to Wood Lake on your left which is worth exploring. Come out of the lake via the same entrance and take a left and back to the launch site, which is on your right.

**Skill Level:** Intermediate

**Distance/Time:** 8.3 Miles/Approximately 3.5 hours

**Launch Site:** Wood Lake Camp off Wood Lake Road

**Special Considerations:** Several side creeks on both sides, as well as the entrance to Wood Lake can make navigation challenging. Map and GPS are recommended.

### 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.