



Critical Habitat for the Florida Listed Mussels

Seven mussel species (in four northeast Gulf of Mexico drainages): Purple bankclimber (*Elliptoideus sloatianus*), Gulf Moccasinshell (*Medionidus pencillatus*), Ochlockonee maccasinshell (*Medionidus simpsonianus*), oval pigtoe (*Pleurobema pyriforma*), shinyrayed pocketbook (*Lampsilis subangulata*), Chipola slabshell (*Elliptio chipolaensis*), and fat threeridge (*Amblema neislerii*).

- (1) Critical habitat units are depicted on the maps below for the following counties in Florida: Alachua, Bay, Bradford, Calhoun, Columbia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Leon, Liberty, Union, Wakulla, and Washington.
- (2) The primary constituent elements of critical habitat for these listed mussel species are:
 - a. A geomorphically stable stream channel (a channel that maintains its lateral dimensions, longitudinal profile, and spatial pattern over time without a consistent aggrading or degrading bed elevation);
 - b. A predominantly sand, gravel, and/or cobble stream substrate with low to moderate amounts of silt and clay;
 - c. Permanently flowing water;
 - d. Water quality (including temperature, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, and chemical constituents) that meets or exceeds the current aquatic life criteria established under the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1251-1387); and
 - e. Fish hosts (such as largemouth bass, sailfin shiner, brown darter) that support the larval stages of the seven mussels

(6) Table of listed species and critical habitat units, and the States that contain those habitat units follows. Detailed critical habitat unit descriptions and maps appear below in paragraphs (7) through (17).

Species	Critical habitat units	States
Purple bankclimber (<i>Elliptioideus sloatianus</i>)	Units 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	AL, FL, GA
Gulf moccasinshell (<i>Medionidus penicillatus</i>)	Units 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	AL, FL, GA
Ochlockonee moccasinshell (<i>Medionidus simpsonianus</i>)	Unit 9	FL, GA
Oval pigtoe (<i>Pleurobema pyriforme</i>)	Units 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11	AL, FL, GA
Shinyrayed pocketbook (<i>Lampsilis subangulata</i>)	Units 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9	AL, FL, GA
Chipola slabshell (<i>Elliptio chipolaensis</i>)	Unit 2	AL, FL
Fat threeridge (mussel) (<i>Amblema neisleri</i>)	Units 2, 7, 8	AL, FL, GA

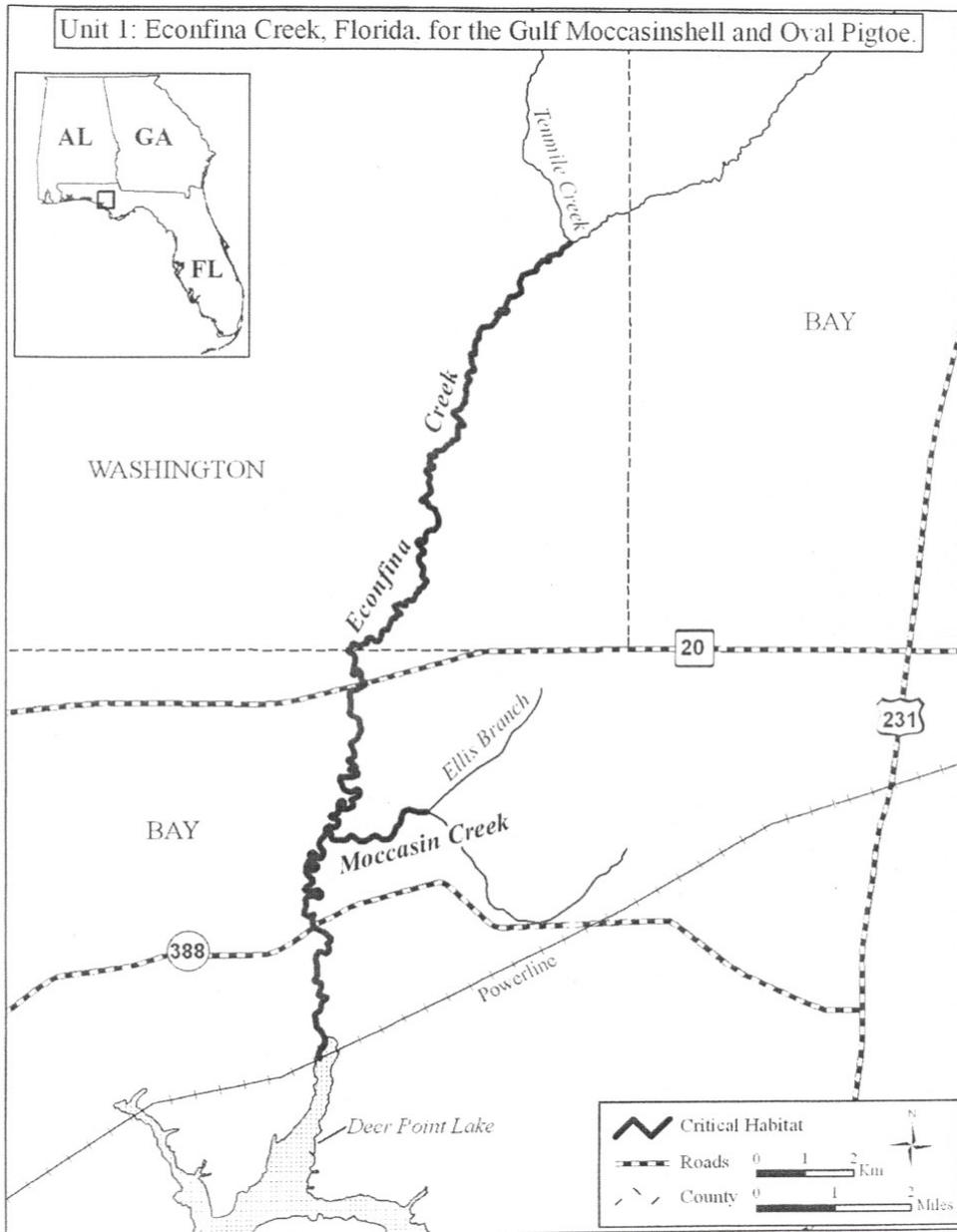
(7) Unit 1. Econfina and Moccasin creeks, Bay and Washington Counties, Florida. This is a critical habitat unit for the Gulf moccasinshell and oval pigtoe.

(i) *General Description:* Unit 1 includes the main stem of Econfina Creek and one of its tributaries, Moccasin Creek, encompassing a total stream length of 31.4 kilometers (km)

(19.5 miles (mi)). The main stem of Econfina Creek extends from its confluence with Deer Point Lake at the powerline crossing located 3.8 km (2.3 mi) downstream of Bay County Highway 388 (-85.56 longitude, 30.36 latitude), Bay County, Florida, upstream 28.6 km (17.8 mi) to Tenmile Creek (-85.50 longitude, 30.51 latitude), Washington

County, Florida; and Moccasin Creek from its confluence with Econfina Creek upstream 2.8 km (1.7 mi) to Ellis Branch (-85.53 longitude, 30.41 latitude), Bay County, Florida.

(ii) Note: Unit 1 map follows:
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(8) Unit 2. Chipola River and Dry, Rocky, Waddells Mill, Baker, Marshall, Big, and Cowarts Creeks in Houston County, Alabama, and in Calhoun, Gulf, and Jackson counties, Florida. This is a critical habitat unit for the fat threeridge, shinyrayed pocketbook, Gulf moccasinshell, oval pigtoe, and Chipola slabshell.

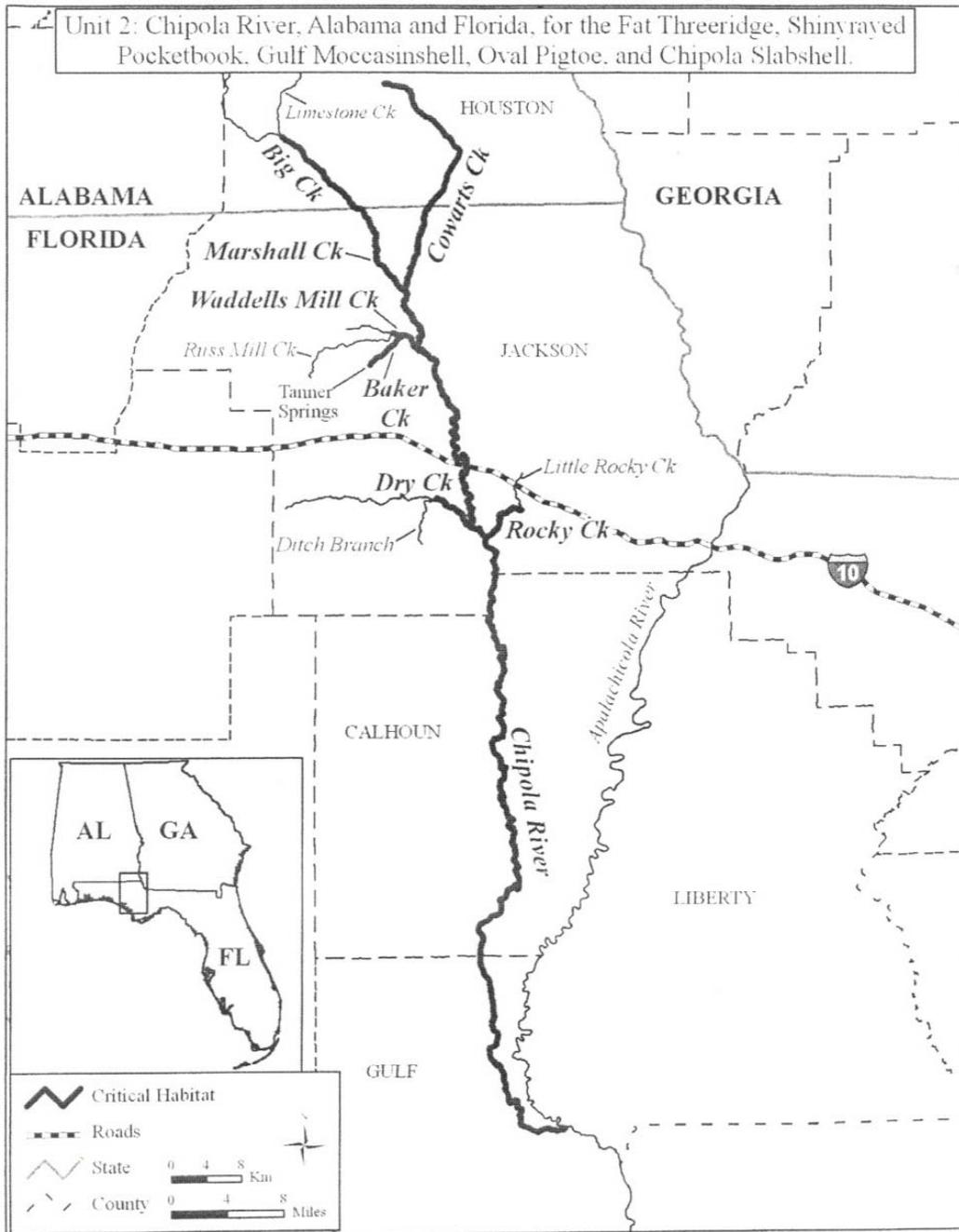
(i) *General Description:* Unit 2 includes the main stem of the Chipola River and seven of its tributaries, encompassing a total stream length of 228.7 km (142.1 mi). The main stem of the Chipola River extends from its confluence with the Apalachicola River (−85.09 longitude, 30.01 latitude) in Gulf County, Florida, upstream 144.9 river km (90.0 river mi), including the reach known as Dead Lake, to the

confluence of Marshall and Cowarts creeks (−85.27 longitude, 30.91 latitude) in Jackson County, Florida; Dry Creek from the Chipola River upstream 7.6 river km (4.7 river mi) to Ditch Branch (−85.24 longitude, 30.69 latitude), Jackson County, Florida; Rocky Creek from the Chipola River upstream 7.1 river km (4.4 river mi) to Little Rocky Creek (−85.13 longitude, 30.68 latitude), Jackson County, Florida; Waddells Mill Creek from the Chipola River upstream 3.7 river km (2.3 river mi) to Russ Mill Creek (−85.29 longitude, 30.87 latitude), Jackson County, Florida; Baker Creek from Waddells Mill Creek upstream 5.3 river km (3.3 river mi) to Tanner Springs (−85.32 longitude, 30.83 latitude), Jackson County, Florida; Marshall Creek

from the Chipola River upstream 13.7 river km (8.5 river mi) to the Alabama–Florida State line (−85.33 longitude, 31.00 latitude), Jackson County, Florida; Cowarts Creek from the Chipola River in Jackson County, Florida, upstream 33.5 river km (20.8 river mi) to the Edgar Smith Road bridge (−85.29 longitude, 31.13 latitude), Houston County, Alabama; and Big Creek from the Alabama–Florida State line upstream 13.0 river km (8.1 river mi) to Limestone Creek (−85.42 longitude, 31.08 latitude), Houston County, Alabama. The short segment of the Chipola River that flows underground within the boundaries of Florida Caverns State Park is not included within this unit.

(ii) Note: Unit 2 map follows:

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(14) Unit 8. Apalachicola River, Chipola Cutoff, Swift Slough, River Styx, Kennedy Slough, and Kennedy Creek in Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, and Liberty Counties, Florida. This is a critical habitat unit for the fat threeridge and purple bankclimber.

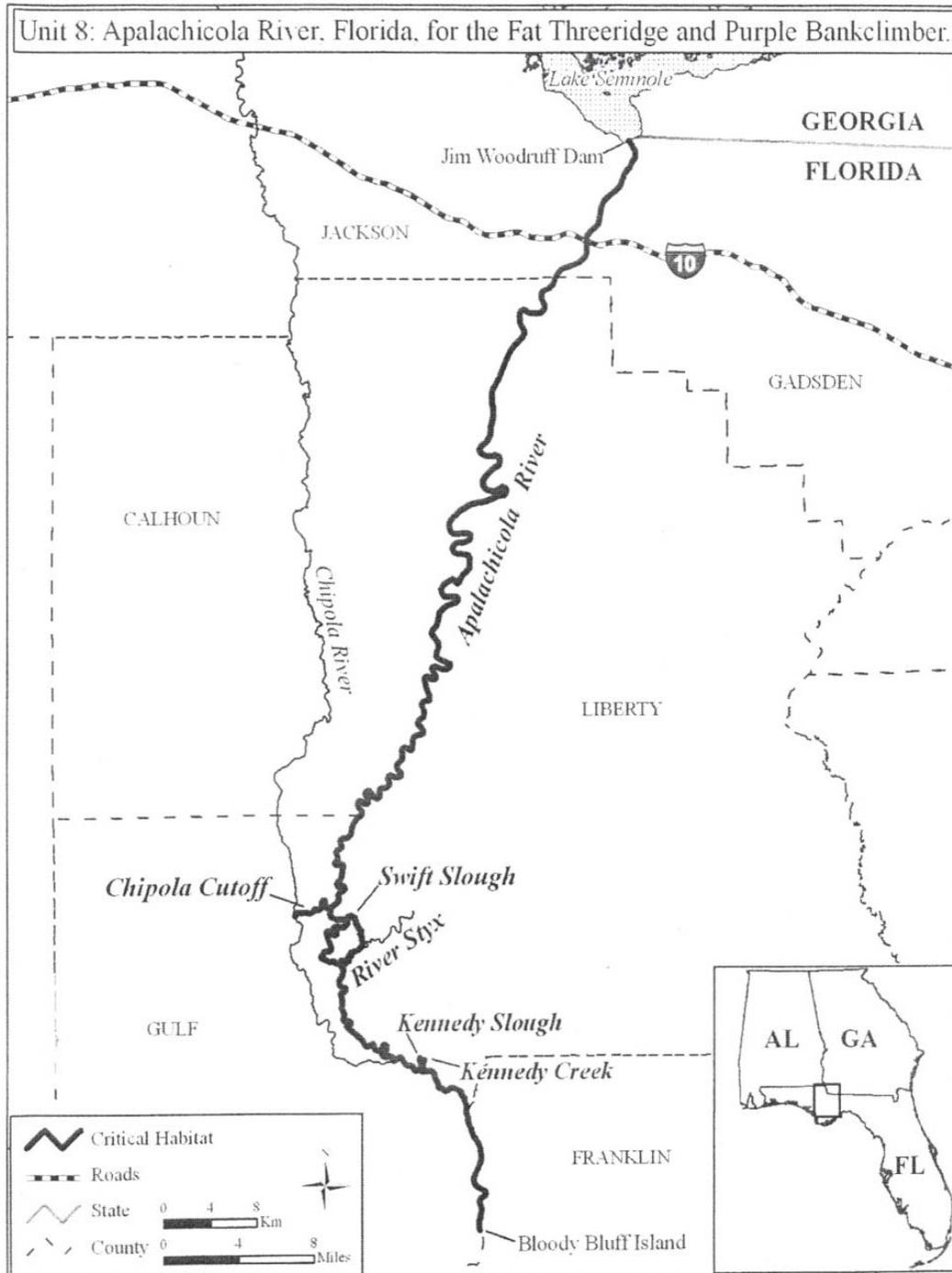
(i) *General Description:* Unit 8 includes the main stem of the Apalachicola River, two of its distributaries, Chipola Cutoff and Swift Slough, and three of its tributaries, River Styx, Kennedy Slough, and Kennedy Creek, encompassing a total length of 161.2 river km (100.2 river mi). The main stem of the Apalachicola River extends from the downstream end of

Bloody Bluff Island (river mile 15.3 on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Navigation Charts) (−85.01 longitude, 29.88 latitude), Franklin County, Florida, through Calhoun and Liberty Counties, Florida, upstream to the Jim Woodruff Lock and Dam (which impounds Lake Seminole) (−84.86 longitude, 30.71 latitude), Gadsden and Jackson Counties, Florida; Chipola Cutoff from the Apalachicola River in Gulf County, Florida, downstream 4.5 river km (2.8 river mi) to its confluence with the Chipola River; Swift Slough from the Apalachicola River in Liberty County, Florida, downstream 3.6 river km (2.2 river mi) to its confluence with the River Styx (−85.12 longitude, 30.10

latitude); River Styx from the mouth of Swift Slough (−85.12 longitude, 30.10 latitude) in Liberty County, Florida, downstream 3.8 river km (2.4 river mi) to its confluence with the Apalachicola River; Kennedy Slough from −85.07 longitude, 30.01 latitude in Liberty County, Florida, downstream 0.9 river km (0.5 river mi) to its confluence with Kennedy Creek; and Kennedy Creek from Brushy Creek Feeder (−85.06 longitude, 30.01 latitude) in Liberty County, Florida, downstream 1.1 river km (0.7 river mi) to its confluence with the Apalachicola River.

(ii) Note: Unit 8 map follows:

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(15) Unit 9. Upper Ochlockonee River and Barnetts and West Barnetts creeks, and the Little Ochlockonee River in Gadsden and Leon counties, Florida, and in Grady and Thomas counties, Georgia. This is a critical habitat unit for the shinyrayed pocketbook, Ochlockonee moccasinshell, oval pigtoe, and purple bankclimber.

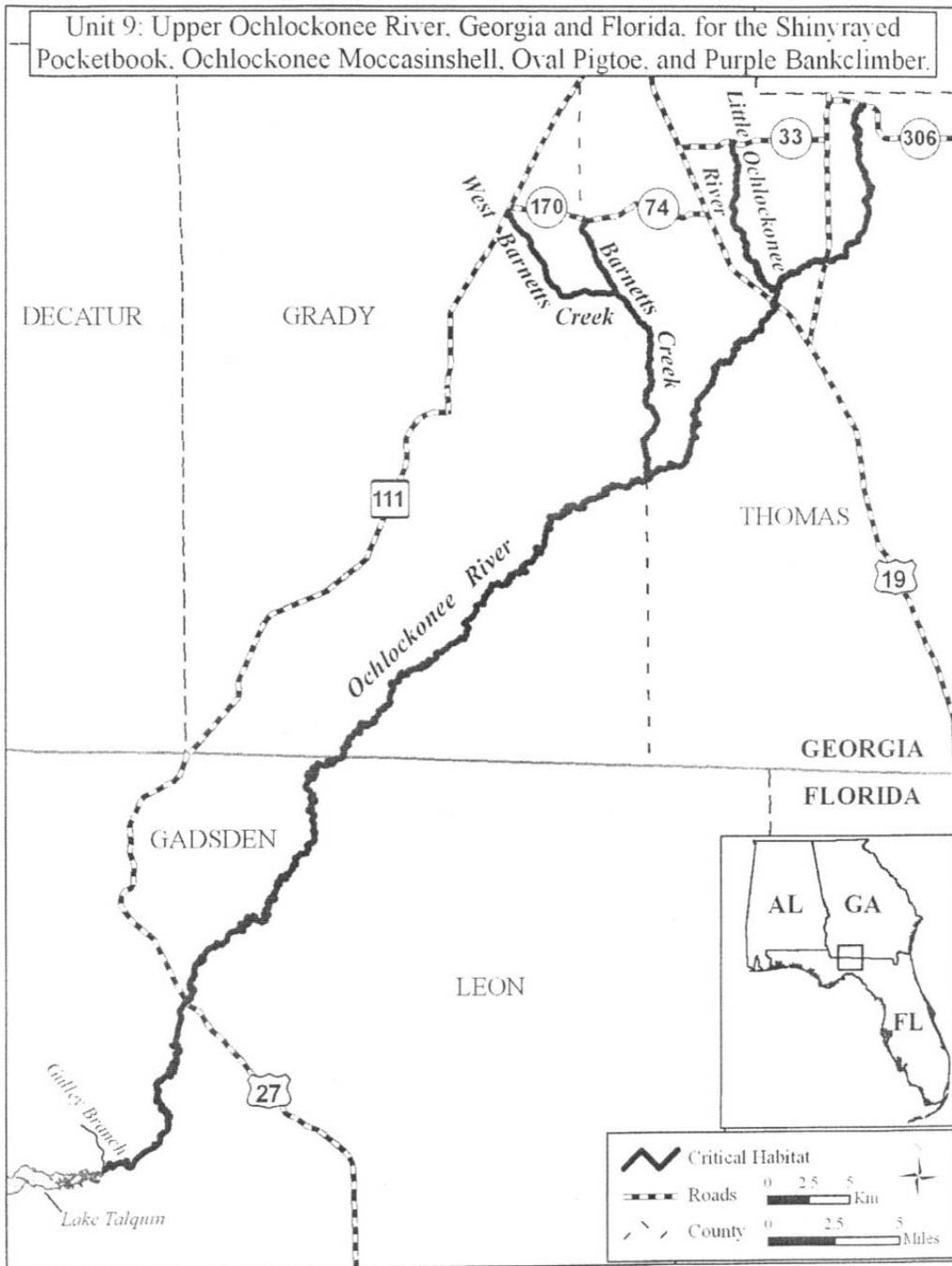
(i) *General Description:* Unit 9 includes the main stem of the Ochlockonee River upstream of Lake Talquin and three tributaries encompassing a total stream length of

177.3 km (110.2 mi). The main stem of the Ochlockonee River extends from its confluence with Gully Branch (the approximate upstream extent of Lake Talquin) (−84.44 longitude, 30.46 latitude), Gadsden and Leon counties, Florida, upstream 134.0 km (83.3 mi) to Bee Line Road/County Road 306 (−83.94 longitude, 31.03 latitude), Thomas County, Georgia; Barnetts Creek from the Ochlockonee River upstream 20 km (12.4 mi) to Grady County Road 170/Thomas County Road 74 (−84.12

longitude, 30.98 latitude), Grady and Thomas counties, Georgia; West Barnetts Creek from Barnetts Creek upstream 10 km (6.2 mi) to Georgia Highway 111 (−84.17 longitude, 30.98 latitude), Grady County, Georgia; and the Little Ochlockonee River from the Ochlockonee River upstream 13.3 km (8.3 mi) to Roup Road/County Road 33 (−84.02 longitude, 31.02 latitude), Thomas County, Georgia.

(ii) Note: Unit 9 map follows:

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(16) Unit 10. Lower Ochlockonee River in Leon, Liberty, and Wakulla counties, Florida. This is a critical habitat unit for the purple bankclimber.

(i) *General Description:* Unit 10 encompasses a total stream length of

75.4 km (46.9 mi) and includes the main stem of the Ochlockonee River from its confluence with Syfrett Creek (–84.56 longitude, 30.02 latitude), Wakulla County, Florida, upstream 75.4 km (46.9

mi) to the Jackson Bluff Dam (which impounds Lake Talquin) (–84.65 longitude, 30.39 latitude), Leon and Liberty counties, Florida.

(ii) Note: Unit 10 map follows:



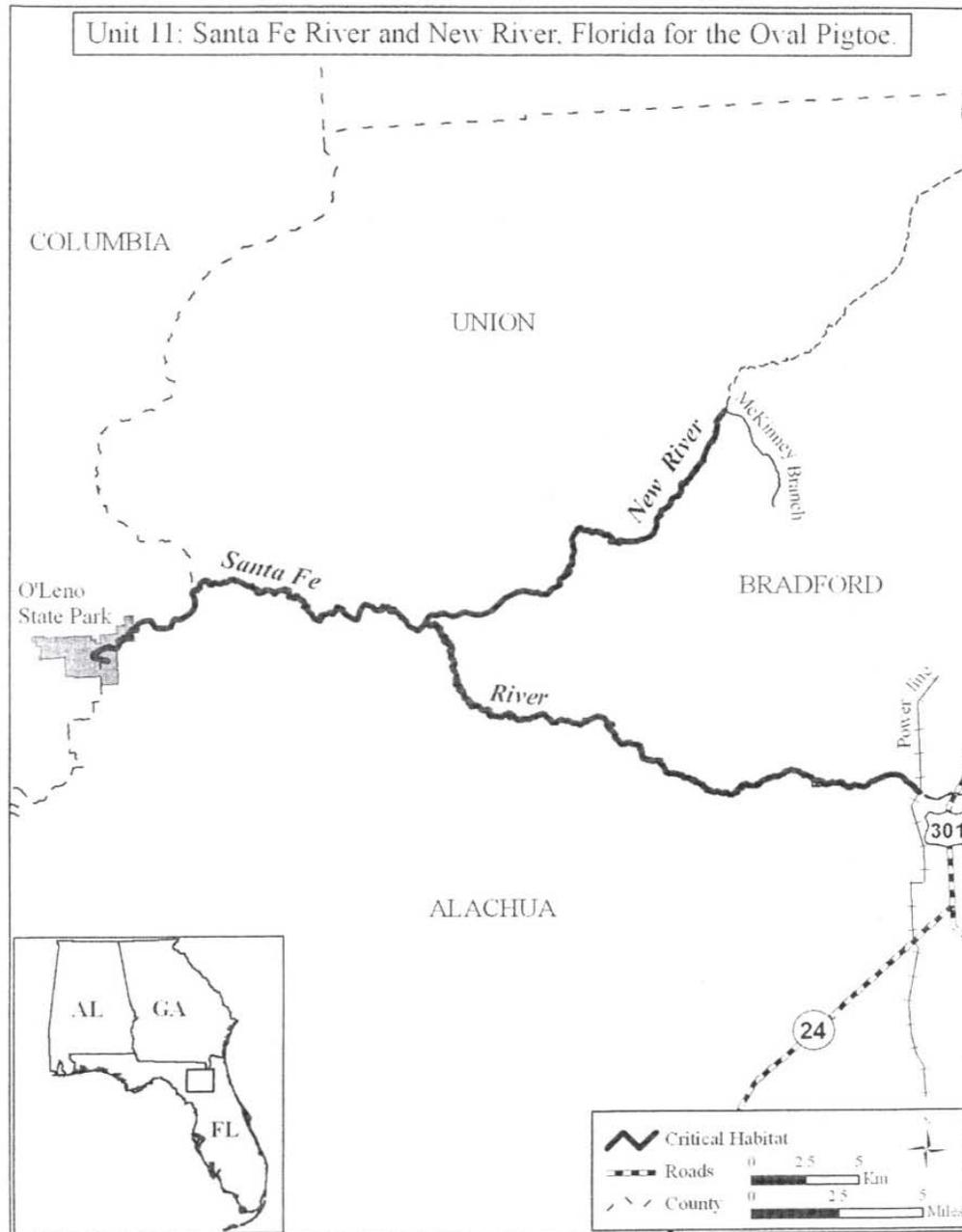
(17) Unit 11. Santa Fe River and New River in Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, and Union counties, Florida. This is a critical habitat unit for the oval pigtoe.

(i) *General Description:* Unit 11 includes the main stem of the Santa Fe River and its tributary the New River encompassing a total stream length of 83.1 km (51.6 mi). The main channel of

the Santa Fe River extends from where the river goes underground in O'Leno State Park (-82.57 longitude, 29.91 latitude), Alachua and Columbia counties, Florida, upstream 60.2 km (37.4 mi) to the powerline crossing located 1.9 km (1.2 mi) downstream from the U.S. Highway 301 bridge (-82.18 longitude, 29.84 latitude) in

Alachua and Bradford counties, Florida; and the New River from its confluence with the Santa Fe River at the junction of Alachua, Bradford, and Union counties, Florida, upstream 22.9 km (14.2 mi) to McKinney Branch (-82.27 longitude, 30.01 latitude) in Bradford and Union counties, Florida.

(ii) Note: Unit 11 map follows:



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Dated: October 31, 2007.
 David M. Verhey,
 Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and
 Wildlife and Parks.
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