

Conservation on the Ground - Emergency Watershed Protection-



Marion County, Alabama by Lawayne Robinson, District Conservationist,
USDA-NRCS, Hamilton, AL

In cooperation with the Marion County Commission and the Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has completed an Emergency Water Protection (EWP) project on the Buttahatchee River. The project cost \$335,642, with NRCS providing \$268,514. The completed project stabilized 2000 feet of eroding streambank upstream from two significant cultural sites.



Looking downstream at the end of the project area after stabilization.

The streambank failure, caused by heavy rains on April 3, 2001, occurred approximately 400 feet upstream from a significant American Indian cultural site (1MR6) and a portion of the historic Jackson Trail (1MR509) where troops under the command of General Andrew Jackson crossed the river upon their return from the Battle of New Orleans (War of

1812). These and other prehistoric and historic cultural sites were researched and investigated by archaeologists and historians from Panamerican Consultants, Inc., for the City of Hamilton. A \$200,000 Transportation Enhancement Act grant from the Federal Highway Administration and the Alabama Department of Transportation was awarded to the City of Hamilton to conduct a cultural resources survey in and near Hamilton in an effort to identify and protect significant cultural sites and to create trails for public access to the sites. The Alabama Historical Commission concurred with the placement of the trail(s) and the recommendation to protect these cultural sites since they represent significant locations and events related to the prehistory of the area and to the history of the Territory of Alabama and to the United States.



Looking downstream at the end of the project area. American Indian cultural sites are on the left bank in the wooded area. Streambank erosion threatens the historical site.



Looking upstream at the beginning of the project area after stabilization.

The EWP site is visible from U. S. Highway 43. Both the streambank's damage and the repair have been of interest to local residents.

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