Recreational boating on the USR consists largely of canoeing and kayaking, with small powerboats also common downstream from White Springs. Fishing from small, shallow-draft motorized vessels also is a popular activity. Before accessing the river, paddlers and boaters are advised to assess water conditions based on water levels measured at White Springs. These readings are posted daily on the SRWMD website. Water level measurements at this location serve as an indicator of paddling conditions throughout the river reach. Canoes and kayaks used on the river have lengths of about nine to 16 feet but require only about six inches of water depth for navigation. Typical fishing and pontoon propeller engine shaft lengths range from 20 to 25 inches, which includes the boat transom height above the water (Iboats, 2009). Thus, a water depth of about two feet, or 1.5 feet more than required for paddling, is considered adequate for outboard motor clearance between the bottom of these vessels and the channel bottom to prevent prop scarring of submerged aquatic vegetation or physical damage to a boat motor.



Figure 61. Map of the Suwannee River Wilderness State Trail [Maps | Suwannee River Water Management District (mysuwanneeriver.com)]