

There is also anecdotal evidence, such as the [strong smell of cattle manure on Beatty Branch at Cat Creek Road](#), and [a smell of sewage where Cat Creek joins the Withlacoochee River](#).

See also the [ANNUAL REPORT, Lowndes County Impaired Streams Monitoring 2022-04-07](#), which says about Fecal Coliform, *E. coli*, and Mercury that, “Lowndes County has not identified any point sources within the drainage areas that can be attributed to the widespread exceedances. Based on the limited data collected to date, it is the opinion of Lowndes County that the cause of the exceedances is from natural conditions.”

WWALS test results have already covered more detail, including after rains, and upstream from Lowndes County. They indicate that more testing, especially after heavy rains, could be useful in finding the contamination sources.

The only way to sort this out is more testing, including DNA testing. That's how for a previous creek contamination problem (Okapilco Creek out of Brooks County) WWALS determined the source was cattle. <https://wwals.net/?p=53260>

DNA tests can also distinguish hogs, birds, cats, dogs, and humans. <https://wwals.net/?p=55966>

However, DNA tests are much more expensive than traditional Georgia Adopt-A-Stream (AAS) biological (*E. coli*) and chemical monitoring (including Dissolved Oxygen or DO).

It wouldn't hurt to do PFAS testing as well, because those forever chemicals come from numerous sources, ranging from no-stick frying pans and raingear to firefighting chemicals. Plus Moody AFB spilled PFAS into Beatty Branch and groundwater some years ago, according to its own 2016 report on the subject. <https://wwals.net/?p=47812>

WWALS found PFAS in the Withlacoochee River in 2022 tests, although not as high as in many rivers elsewhere in that nationwide survey organized by Waterkeeper Alliance. <https://wwals.net/?p=59860>

Like DNA tests, PFAS tests are quite expensive.

This Plan lays out potential costs and a roadmap for how to test to find the contamination sources and what to do about them.