



Assessment Decision Report

Hurricane Creek

Assessment Unit ID: AL03160112-0504-100

Pathogens (Fecal Coliform), Metals (Aluminum, Iron), and
Turbidity

Alabama Department of Environmental Management
Water Quality Branch
Water Division
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Table of Contents

1.0	Executive	
	Summary.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
	Figure 1.1: Hurricane Creek Watershed Map.....	3
	Table 1.1: Hurricane Creek Assessment Information.....	4
2.0	Data Collection & Analysis.....	4
3.0	Conclusion.....	4
4.0	Appendix.....	5
	Table 4.1: Data Collected at Station H-1 (2021 & 2024).....	5

1.0 Executive Summary

Hurricane Creek is classified as *Fish and Wildlife (F&W)*. It is located in Tuscaloosa County within the Black Warrior River basin. The entire segment of Hurricane Creek was placed on Alabama's 303(d) list of impaired waterbodies in 1996 for Pathogens (Fecal Coliform), Metals (Aluminum, Iron), and Turbidity. Abandoned surface mining and land development were listed as the sources for pathogens and turbidity. Surface mining, mill tailings, and subsurface mining were listed as the sources for aluminum and iron. Figure 1.1 shows a map of the Hurricane Creek watershed and Table 1.1 lists the Creek's assessment information.

Figure 1.1: Hurricane Creek Watershed Map

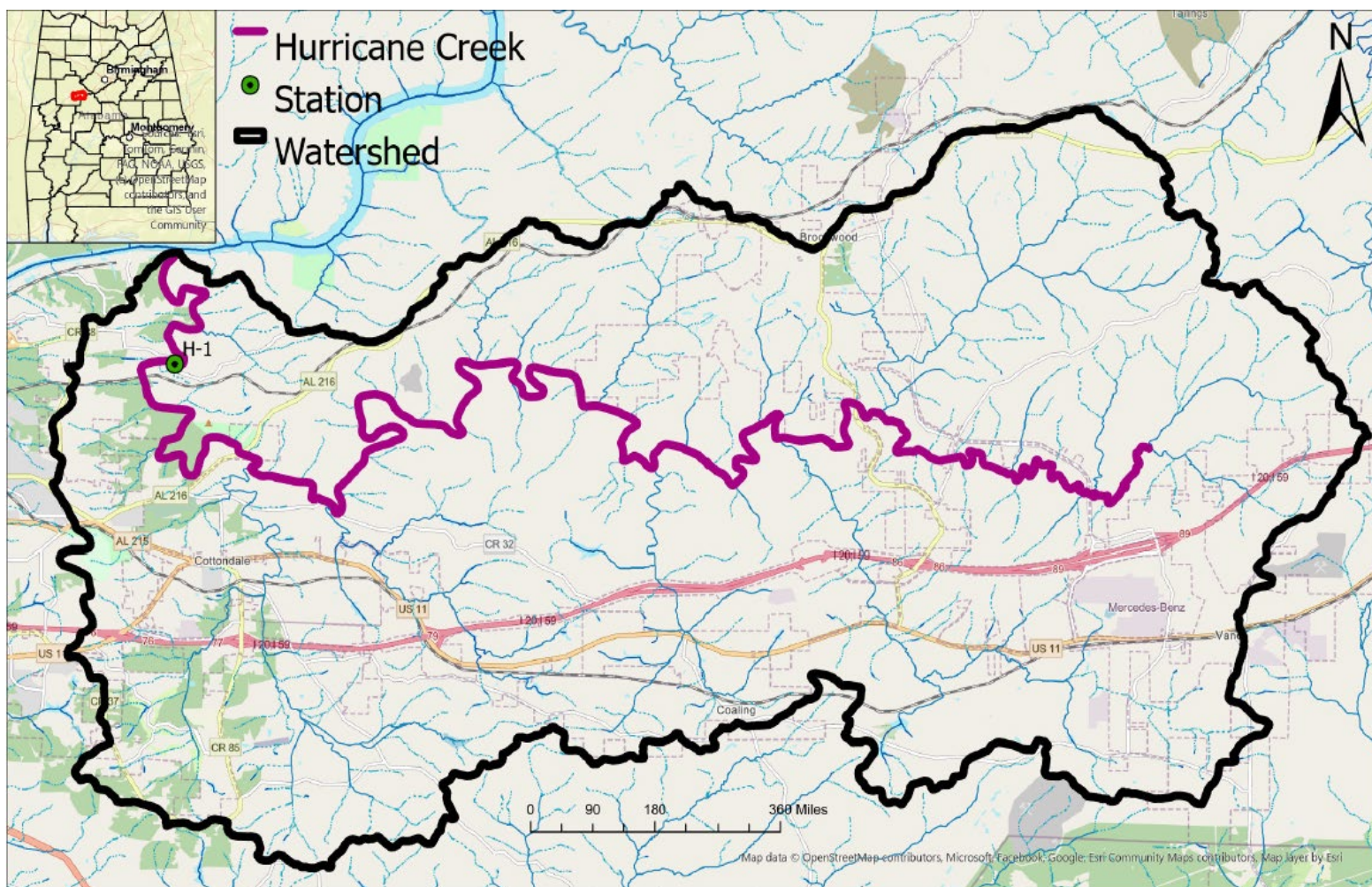


Table 1.1: Hurricane Creek Assessment Information

Assessment Unit ID	Waterbody Name	Downstream	Upstream	Size
AL03160112-0504-100	Hurricane Creek	Oliver Lake	Its Source	31.5 miles

TMDL Listing	NTTS ID	Approval Date	Pollutants
AL/03160112-120_01	11050	11/1/2004	Pathogens (Fecal Coliform), Metals (Aluminum, Iron), Turbidity

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) conducted sampling at station H-1 located near the Creek's confluence with Oliver Lake in 2019, 2021, and 2024. Station H-1 is the only station located on the Creek's segment that has had data collected in the previous 6 years. ADEM has collected data at station H-1 every year since 1990 except for 1997 and 2020.

The Hurricane Creek TMDL for Pathogens (Fecal Coliform), Metals (Aluminum, Iron), and Turbidity was developed and approved by EPA in 2004. This report summarizes the results of the analysis of pathogen and aluminum contamination as well as the turbidity issues for Hurricane Creek.

2.0 Data Collection & Analysis

All data compiled in this report was collected at one station (H-1) located on Hurricane Creek. Figure 1.1 shows the location of the station. According to Alabama's Water Quality Assessment and Listing Methodology, the minimum data requirements for assessment of a wadeable Fish & Wildlife classified stream is 8 conventional samples (concerning Turbidity), 8 bacteriological samples (concerning Pathogens), and three inorganic samples (concerning Metals). ADEM collected data for Turbidity, Pathogens (E.coli), Aluminum, and Iron in 2021 and 2024.

Evaluation of data collected in 2021 and 2024 indicates no Pathogens (E.coli) samples exceeded the water quality criteria. In addition, none of the Turbidity, Aluminum, or Iron samples were found to be exceeding the parameter's ecoregional reference guideline benchmark for sub-ecoregion 68f (shown in Table 4.1).

3.0 Conclusion

Based on the evaluation of the 2021 and 2024 water quality data and information related to Hurricane Creek, there are no issues regarding Pathogens (E.Coli), Turbidity, Aluminum, or Iron. Consequently, ADEM has determined that these impairments do not currently exist. A summary of the data can be found in Table 4.1.

4.0 Appendix

Table 4.1: Data Collected at Station H-1 (2021 & 2024)

Data Collected at Station H-1 (2021 & 2024)																						
Turbidity			Pathogens (E.coli)			Dissolved Aluminum			Total Aluminum			Dissolved Iron			Total Iron							
Sample Date	Result (NTU)	Turbidity Ecoregional Reference Guideline Benchmark (NTU)	Sample Date	Result (MPN/DL)	Bacteria Criteria for Fish and Wildlife Waterbodies (colonies/100 ml)	Sample Date	Result (mg/l)	Diss. Al Ecoregional Reference Guideline Benchmark (mg/l)	Sample Date	Result (mg/l)	Tot. Al Ecoregional Reference Guideline Benchmark (mg/l)	Sample Date	Result (mg/l)	Diss. Fe Ecoregional Reference Guideline Benchmark (mg/l)	Sample Date	Result (mg/l)	Tot. Fe Ecoregional Reference Guideline Benchmark (mg/l)					
06-30-21	4.04	68.32	06-30-21	31.3	Samples collected from May - October cannot exceed 298	06-30-21	.023	0.100	06-30-21	.059	0.964	06-30-21	.112	0.707	06-30-21	.298	1.190					
08-23-21	7.19		08-23-21	160.7		04-18-24	.017		04-18-24	.046		04-18-24	.13		04-18-24	.238						
10-12-21	2.53		10-13-21	58.3		06-19-24	.009		06-19-24	.045		06-19-24	.061		06-19-24	.14						
10-13-21	2.78		03-14-24	96		08-22-24	.011		08-22-24	.057		08-22-24	.042		08-22-24	.125						
03-14-24	8.07		04-18-24	27.2		10-24-24	.004		10-24-24	.032		10-24-24	.064		10-24-24	.131						
04-18-24	3.23		05-23-24	52.8																		
04-24-24	8.91		06-19-24	10.9																		
05-23-24	2.93		07-18-24	19.9																		
06-19-24	2.71		08-22-24	22.3																		
07-18-24	3.87		09-19-24	40.2																		
08-22-24	3.82		10-24-24	23.1																		
09-19-24	5.59																					
10-24-24	2.72																					