



## Burnt Sock Landing Opens Along Holmes Creek

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**VERNON--** Kayakers and canoers now have a new public access ramp to Holmes Creek.

Wednesday morning, officials with the Northwest Florida Water Management District held a ribbon cutting ceremony at the renovated site.

Frances Stone is excited to be paddling from Burnt Sock Landing.

"We're happy and anxious to get on the creek. Burnt Creek Landing has been here quite a while, but they've renovated it, and this is the first time that I've ever paddled from Burnt Creek Landing," she explained.

Renovations that started about six months ago resulted in the site being closed.

But Wednesday morning officials cut this ribbon signaling its re-opening.

"What we did is we hardened the old dirt boat ramp with tri-lock and went over that with rock and sandbags to stabilize the sides so people don't 'love our creeks and springs to death'," said NFWFMD Executive Director Jon Steverson.

The site also includes road improvements as well as a parking area.

This project is a win-win for paddlers and the environment.

"I hope that they get to come and enjoy the natural resources, and appreciate the beauty we have here in Northwest Florida. While putting together a little bit of the understanding of how the water quality directly relates to the water quantity and what they get to drink, downstream and coming out of the ground," explained Steverson.

For Stone, it means better travel.

"It gives a nice, length of paddle. From here to Vernon is about 6.4 miles. And so that's just a lovely...it's not an all-day paddle but it's just a nice length of paddle.

Steverson also says you can help protect the creek by not throwing trash in it as well as avoid eroding the bank by using the hardened surface placed in the creek.