WHAT THE SCIENTISTS SAY

Improving Rivers, Springs and the Atlantic Fishery

"Breaching the Rodman Dam near Palatka would reunite and help restore four ecosystems: the Ocklawaha River, Silver Springs, the Lower St. Johns River and the coastal Atlantic Ocean of the southeastern United States."

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Ed Lowe, PhD, Former Director of Environmental Sciences & Chief Scientist, SJRWMD

St. Johns River Estuary

"As we shut off and slowed down the freshwater flow into the St. Johns River from the Ocklawaha River, we have lost submerged aquatic vegetation, decreasing habitat for fish and other aquatic species, and salinity has increased. The impacts to economically important fish and shellfish are significant."

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Quinton White, PhD, Director, Marine Science Research Institute, Jacksonville University

Silver Springs Health Depends on a Free-Flowing Ocklawaha

"Silver Springs will never be fully restored without the breaching of the Rodman/Kirkpatrick Dam on the Ocklawaha River. Migratory fish from the Atlantic Ocean and St. Johns River, including striped bass, channel catfish, striped mullet, American shad, American eels and Atlantic sturgeon, are critical to a productive Silver Springs ecosystem."

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Robert Knight, PhD, Executive Director, Florida Springs Institute

Water Resource Benefits of a Free-Flowing River

"In an updated analysis of the downstream water quality effects of Ocklawaha restoration, SJRWMD concluded that restoration of a free-flowing river enhances water quality of the Lower St. Johns River by augmenting low flow, increasing dissolved oxygen, and providing a more balanced nutrient supply."

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John Hendrickson, Former Supervising Environmental Scientist, SJRWMD

Added Flow Essential to the Resiliency of the

The Rodman Reservoir is not a Cost-effective or Reliable Water Supply Source

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"Using Rodman Reservoir as a source of water supply is simply impractical. The production, treatment, and transmission costs for drinking water from Rodman would likely be two to four times more expensive than the traditional source - the Floridan aquifer. Furthermore,since the Rodman pool is very broad and shallow, there is very limited water storage capacity."

Jim Gross, Hydrogeologist and Executive Director,
Florida Defenders of the Environment

Ocklawaha Restoration to Increase Flows

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"Ocklawaha River restoration will increase downstream flows by 156 to 276 million gallons per day by reducing lake surface evapotranspiration and by uncovering more than 20 springs flooded by the Rodman Pool."

Wycoff, R.L., Lower Ocklawaha River Basin Hydrologic Data Review and Discharge Analysis, SJRWMD SJ2010-SP10

An Essential Link for the Florida Wildlife Corridor

Stock photo

"It is my opinion that restoring of the Ocklawaha River would have a significant habitat connectivity benefit for wide-ranging and landscape-dependent focal species in Florida including the Florida panther and Florida black bear."

Thomas Hoctor, PhD, Director, Center for Landscape Conservation Planning

Ocklawaha Ranks 2nd in Florida for Restoration Value

© John Moran

"Reestablishing a free-flowing Ocklawaha River to its historic channel will result in 377 miles of additional network connectivity upstream of the dam ....and one of the largest artesian springs in America. More than 20 additional springs and spring runs submerged by the dam's impoundment will be uncovered."

Southeastern Aquatic Resources Partnership and Conservation: A collaboration of natural resource and science agencies, conservation organizations and private interests in 14 states.