



OCKLAWAHA RIVER RESTORATION THREE-PART LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

1. PARTIAL RESTORATION OF THE OCKLAWAHA RIVER

Develop and implement the partial restoration plan for the Ocklawaha River outlined in the Department of Environmental Protection's 1997 environmental resource permit application for the Ocklawaha River Restoration Project, the 2001 United States Forest Service Environmental Impact Statement for restoring the Ocklawaha River, and the 2018 Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway Plan.

Partial Restoration shall restore river hydrology and floodplain functions to preconstruction conditions by breaching of the dam, with limited removal and/or alteration of structures and alteration of topography, resulting in a free-flowing Ocklawaha River, unobstructed by the Kirkpatrick Dam, along its historic channel. Due to safety considerations, the project must begin by October 1, 2023, with a goal of completing the restoration project by December 31, 2027.

2. RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE IN MARION AND PUTNAM COUNTIES

Develop or upgrade recreation infrastructure in Putnam and Marion Counties to foster continued fishing opportunities and provide diverse outdoor recreation and nature tourism experiences for residents of the area and tourists from around the world. Priority should be given to projects identified by stakeholders, and may include:

- 1) Upgrading the current Rodman Recreation Area
- 2) Repurposing the Buckman Lock Area to create an angler and outdoor center
- 3) Providing supporting amenities for bank fishing along the restored Ocklawaha River, and
- 4) Modifying existing boat ramps and facilities to be useable in a restored river environment.

Priority recreation projects along the Ocklawaha River in Putnam and Marion Counties should address the needs of diverse users, address long-standing angler concerns, be environmentally appropriate and consider impacts to existing businesses and landowners. Public-private partnerships for enhanced recreational facilities and experiences shall be promoted.

3. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE FOR PUTNAM COUNTY

Develop and support an economic development package for Putnam County in conjunction with restoration of the Ocklawaha River.

BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Funds to be used from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund.

\$10 million over five years for restoration = \$50 million

\$5 million over five years for recreation = \$25 million

Development, funding, and permitting for the recreation infrastructure and economic development package shall not affect the timeline for restoration.