



## Dr. John M. DeGrove Webinar Series

# Lessons from the Ocklawaha

# IMPORTANT!



We only offer professional certification credits  
for participants who attend the live webinar!



# 1000 Friends of Florida

## Building Better Communities & Saving Special Places



Florida's leading nonprofit advocate for sustainable communities

Work with citizens, community and state leaders, conservation and business groups

Educate, advocate and negotiate to protect Florida's high quality of life





# Dr. John M. DeGrove

May 4, 1924 – April 13, 2012

Icon of comprehensive planning  
both in Florida and across the nation

Co-founder of 1000 Friends of  
Florida

To find out more, please visit:  
[1000friendsofflorida.org/dr-degrove](http://1000friendsofflorida.org/dr-degrove)



# Dr. John M. DeGrove Webinar Sponsors

## FRIEND

Mr. Ronald L. Book, PA

Mr. Andy DeGrove

Ms. Kimberly A. DeGrove & Dr. Clyde Partin

Dickman Law Firm

Florida Power & Light Company

William Howard Flowers, Jr. Foundation

Kitson & Partners/Babcock Ranch

Dr. Jim Nicholas

Robert Parks, P.L.

The Perkins Charitable Foundation

Mr. Robert M. Rhodes



# Dr. John M. DeGrove Webinar Sponsors

## **SPONSOR**

Mr. Thomas J. Baird

Mr. William M. DeGrove

DPZ CoDesign, LLC

Ms. Susan Trevarthen

## **ANNIVERSARY CLUB**

Mr. David M. Orshefsky

## **SUPPORTER**

Mr. Lester Abberger

American Planning Association,  
Florida Chapter

Debra & Robert Bergstrom

Mr. David Flinchum, ASLA, AICP

Ms. Sara M. Fotopulos

Ms. Melissa Norman

Ms. Nancy Stroud

Treasure Coast RPC



# This webinar has been approved for credits for:

- *1.5 AICP CM for planners (#9232828)*
- *2 CLE for Florida attorneys (#2202789N)*
- *1 CEC for Certified Floodplain Managers*
- *1.5 credits for DBPR Florida Landscape Architects (#0012861)*

*Find credits for past webinars at  
[1000fof.org/upcoming-webinars/credits](http://1000fof.org/upcoming-webinars/credits)*



# Follow up survey, certificate and credits:

*In the follow up email for the LIVE WEBINAR you will receive:*

- A link to a **brief survey** to help us improve future webinars
- A **certificate of attendance** (use Google Chrome to download)

*Information on credits for past webinars are available at  
[1000fof.org/upcoming-webinars/credits](http://1000fof.org/upcoming-webinars/credits)*





# For DBPR Landscape Architects



1000 Friends is only approved for credits through the **Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation**

Only those who attend the **live webinar** are eligible for DBPR credits

Due to changes in State of Florida reporting requirements, 1000 Friends will submit your credits on your behalf



# Upcoming Webinars

**The DeGrove Webinar Series will resume in  
September 2022**



# Support 1000 Friends!

## DONATE

at [www.1000fof.org/donate](http://www.1000fof.org/donate)

(you may designate it for DeGrove Education Fund if you wish)

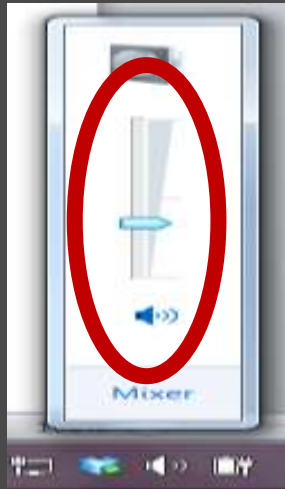
## SPONSOR

the DeGrove webinars by emailing  
[vyoung@1000fof.org](mailto:vyoung@1000fof.org) to find out more

## AMAZON SMILE

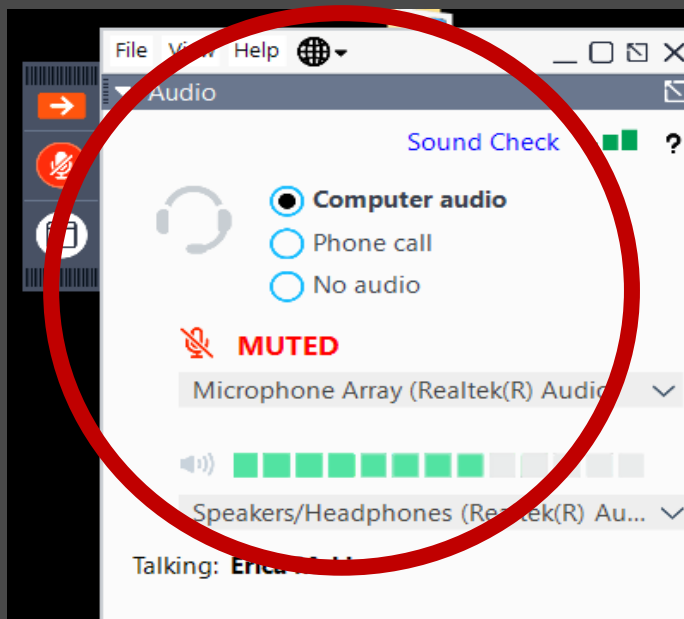
will make a donation to 1000 Friends  
every time you purchase through  
[smile.amazon.com/ch/59-2761163](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-2761163)






## If you have sound issues:

1. Make sure the speaker on your computer is turned on
  - a. Adjust the volume on your computer
2. On Go-to-Webinar control panel click arrow to maximize control box
  - a. Click on arrow by Audio box to maximize it
  - b. Do Sound Check OR
  - c. Switch to Phone call and it will provide you with a number and pin





The PowerPoint is posted under “What’s New” at [1000fof.org](http://1000fof.org)



2022 Session | Priorities | Toolkit | Webinars | M-CORES | 2070 Project | Outreach | About Us


[f](#) [t](#) [i](#)

DONATE

Saving Special Places • Building Better Communities

Search

Find Out More . . .



### 2022 Florida Legislative Update

Find out what legislation is being considered this session and how you can make a difference.

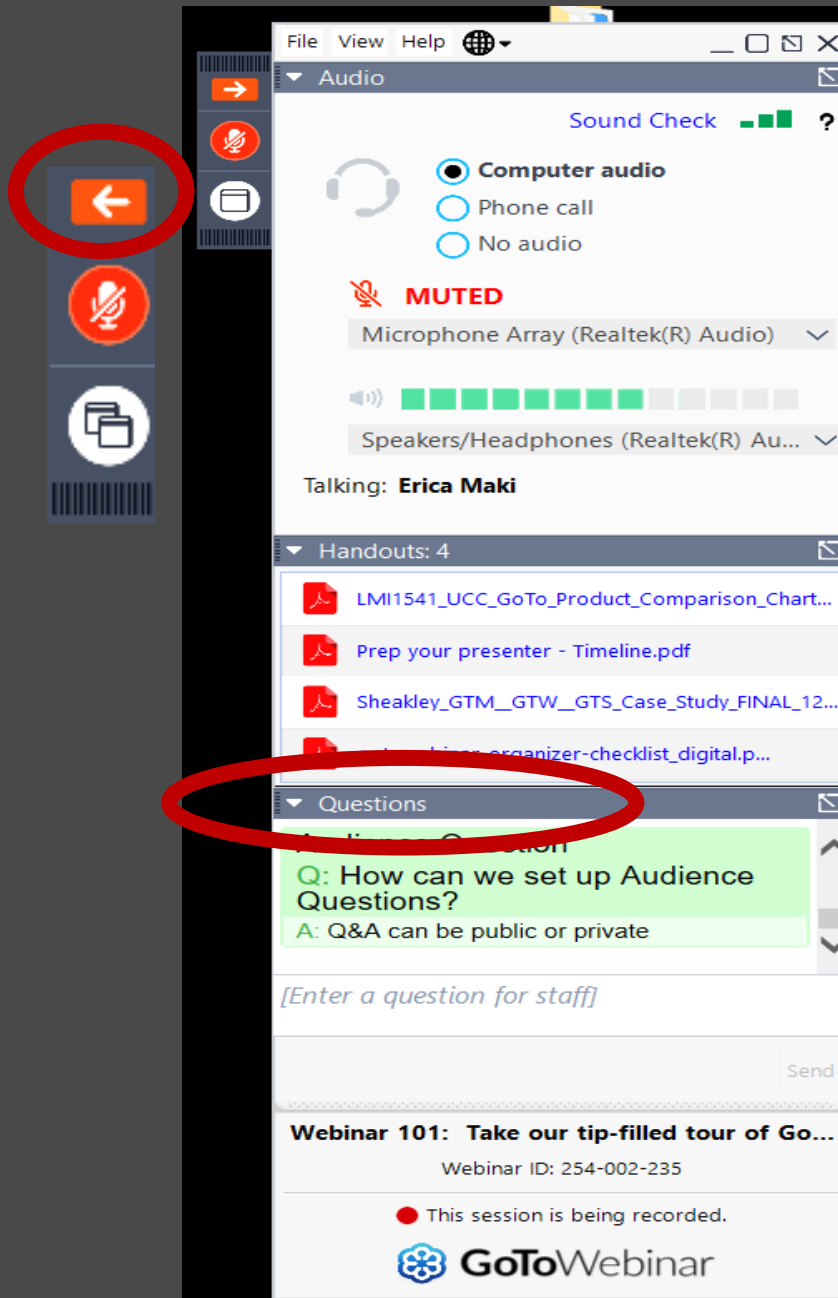
[Find out more](#)

### What's New?

Get Ready for the 2022 Florida Legislative Session!

NEW: Transportation Planning in Florida Paper

NEW: Community Planning in Florida Paper



# Please ask questions!

- Click on arrow at top right of your screen to maximize control panel
- Click arrow next to “Questions” to maximize the questions box
- Please type any questions in this box
- Please refer to the slide number and/or speaker when you post your question
- Please keep your questions succinct!
- Staff will ask the presenters questions, as time permits

# Presenters



Margaret Spontak

Chairperson, Free the  
Ocklawaha Coalition for  
Everyone



Casey Fitzgerald

Leadership & Science Committee  
Chair, Free the Ocklawaha  
Coalition for Everyone



Dominic Calabro

President & CEO  
Florida TaxWatch



Lisa Rinaman

St. Johns Riverkeeper



**Margaret Hankinson Spontak** is currently full-time volunteer chairperson for Free the Ocklawaha Coalition for Everyone, involving more than sixty national, state, and local organizations. The Coalition's mission is to restore the Ocklawaha as a free-flowing River, reconnecting the Ocklawaha and St. Johns rivers and Silver Springs.

Spontak has a long history of protecting land and water resources including serving as director of development for Audubon Florida, director of policy and planning for St. Johns River Water Management District, sales and promotions manager for Silver Springs and Weeki Wachee Springs.

She has facilitated dozens of community and river planning workshops from the St. Mary's River to the St. Johns River to the Wekiva Parkway. As a volunteer leader, she created the campaign that passed the \$20 million Marion County land referendum, "Pennies for Parks," and branded "The Silver River Society," to advocate for purchase of lands comprising Silver River State Park. Partnering with 1000 Friends of Florida, she challenged Marion County's original comprehensive plan in the 90s.

Spontak received her BS in Communications from Florida State University and an MBA for Nova Southeastern University.



**Margaret Spontak**





Casey Fitzgerald

**Casey Fitzgerald** has been involved in natural resource protection, restoration and management for over 40 years. He served in the state capital as the Bureau Chief of State Lands Management in the former Florida Department of Natural Resources, and as the Assistant Director of the Florida Conservation Association.

In his 27 years at the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), Mr. Fitzgerald served primarily as the Assistant Director of the Department of Water Resources overseeing regional ecosystem restoration programs for the St. Johns River, Indian River Lagoon and Lake Apopka, among others. His final role was as Director of the district's Springs Protection Initiative.

In his retirement since December 2020, Mr. Fitzgerald has been serving on the following NGO boards: Free the Ocklawaha River Coalition for Everyone - Leadership Team and Science Committee Chair; Florida Springs Institute – President; Florida Springs Council and Three Rivers Trust - Board of Directors.

**Dominic M. Calabro** has led Florida TaxWatch as President & CEO for nearly its entire 41-year existence, after joining its research staff in 1980. Under Calabro's leadership, Florida TaxWatch has earned and maintained the respect of the state's most highly regarded and influential leaders and has earned the credibility and respect of the citizens of Florida as well as the highly independent state and national media.

Over his 41 years at the helm of TaxWatch, Calabro has been appointed to numerous task forces and study groups by every Governor going back to Governor Bob Graham. He has been named a “Must-Know Floridian” by Florida Trend magazine, and one of Florida Trend's "500 Most Influential Business Leaders", for each of the last three years.

A lifetime member of Leadership Florida, Class IV, Dominic is an immediate past member of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Secretary/Treasurer and has served as Chairman of Leadership Florida's Finance Committee and Audit Committee.

Dominic received his bachelor's degree with highest honors from Florida International University. He also holds a Master's degree in Social Work from Florida State University and will soon receive a second Master's degree in Public Administration, public finance, and budgeting from FSU.



**Dominic M. Calabro**



**Lisa Rinaman**

**Lisa Rinaman** is the St. Johns Riverkeeper, the chief advocate and public's voice for the St. Johns River. Responsibilities include: supporting regulatory agencies to hold those polluting the river accountable; identifying and advocating for solutions that will protect and restore the river; working with government entities, businesses, community leaders and citizens to resolve problems that impact the river's health; and communicating with the media and the public to educate and raise awareness about important river-related issues.

As a former senior staff member for Jacksonville Mayors John Delaney and John Peyton, Lisa Rinaman has extensive experience building consensus around issues and helped implement numerous environmental initiatives and river friendly policies.

Lisa was instrumental in the creation of Waterkeepers Florida, a formal collaboration of 15 Waterkeeper Alliance programs united across the state. She is also one of the founding members of the Free the Ocklawaha River Coalition working to reunite Silver Springs, the Ocklawaha and the St. Johns as the Great Florida Riverway.





# Ocklawaha River Restoration: Lessons Learned



Ocklawaha River



Silver Springs



St. Johns

*Three Rivers, Fifty Springs, One Solution*





# Campaign Goals

- 1. To build public awareness and support for Ocklawaha River restoration.**
- 2. To influence Governor DeSantis and legislative leaders to authorize project and funding.**
  - Funding for Partial Restoration**
  - Economic Package for Putnam County**
  - Recreation Improvements to Support a Positive Transition**

# A New Strategy: A Different Way of Thinking



**Multi-county System Focus: Three Rivers, 50 Springs, 1 Solution**



**Identifying and addressing stakeholder concerns**



**Working with agencies and key leaders through united coalition**



**Building a big tent – everyone, empathy, economics**



**Helping people envision recreation and restoration opportunities**



# We have dramatically shifted public awareness and support

*Five years ago, **only 27%** of local recreational users were very informed there was an issue with the dam*

## 2017

**44%** of respondents to a UF Economic Study were **in support** of restoration of the river

## 2022

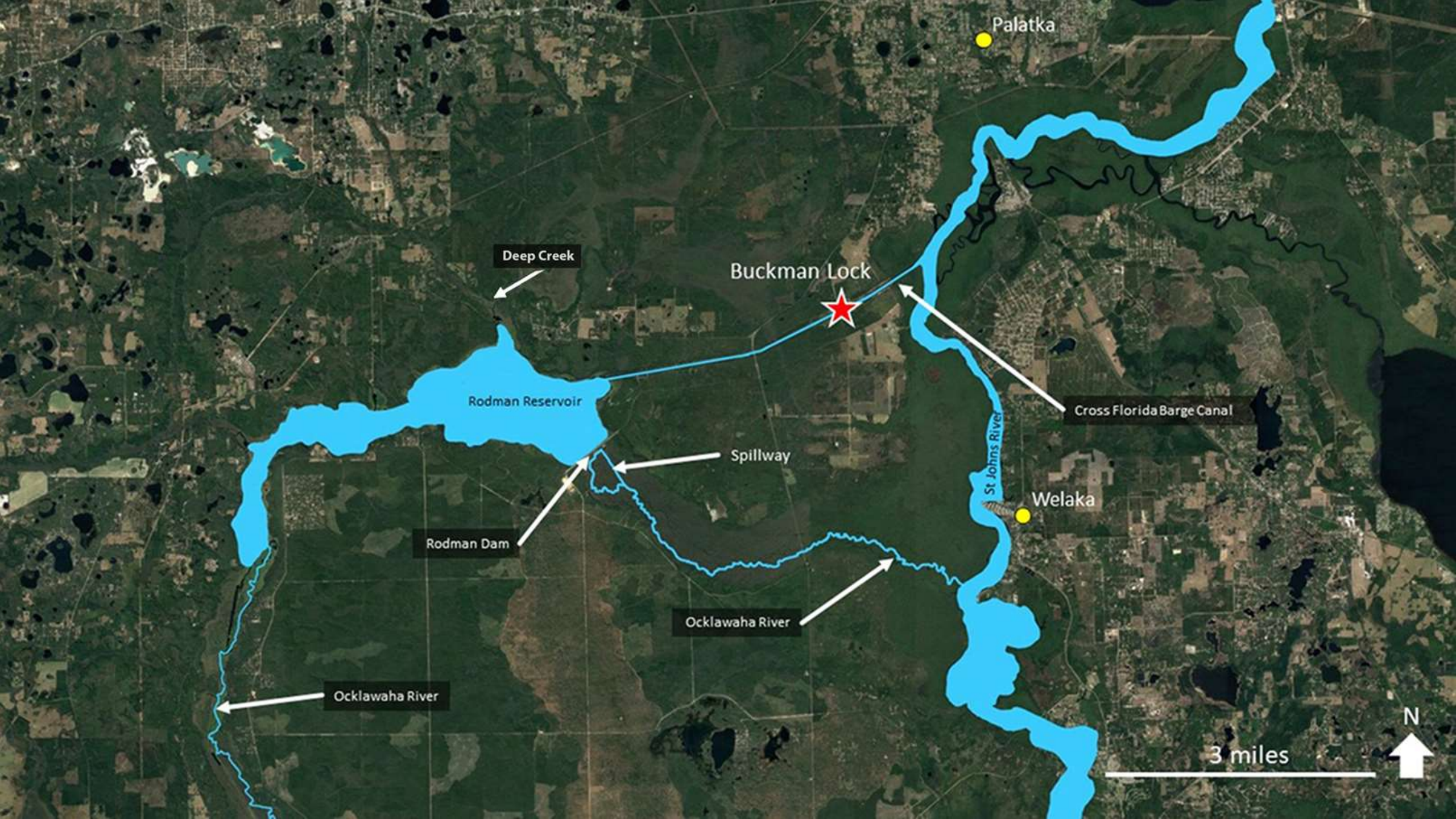
**77%** of Marion/Putnam county respondents to a Barcelo & Co poll were **in support** of restoration of the river



University of Florida College of Design, Construction and Planning  
Center for Landscape and Conservation Planning  
Faculty: Tom Hctor, PhD & David Barth, PhD









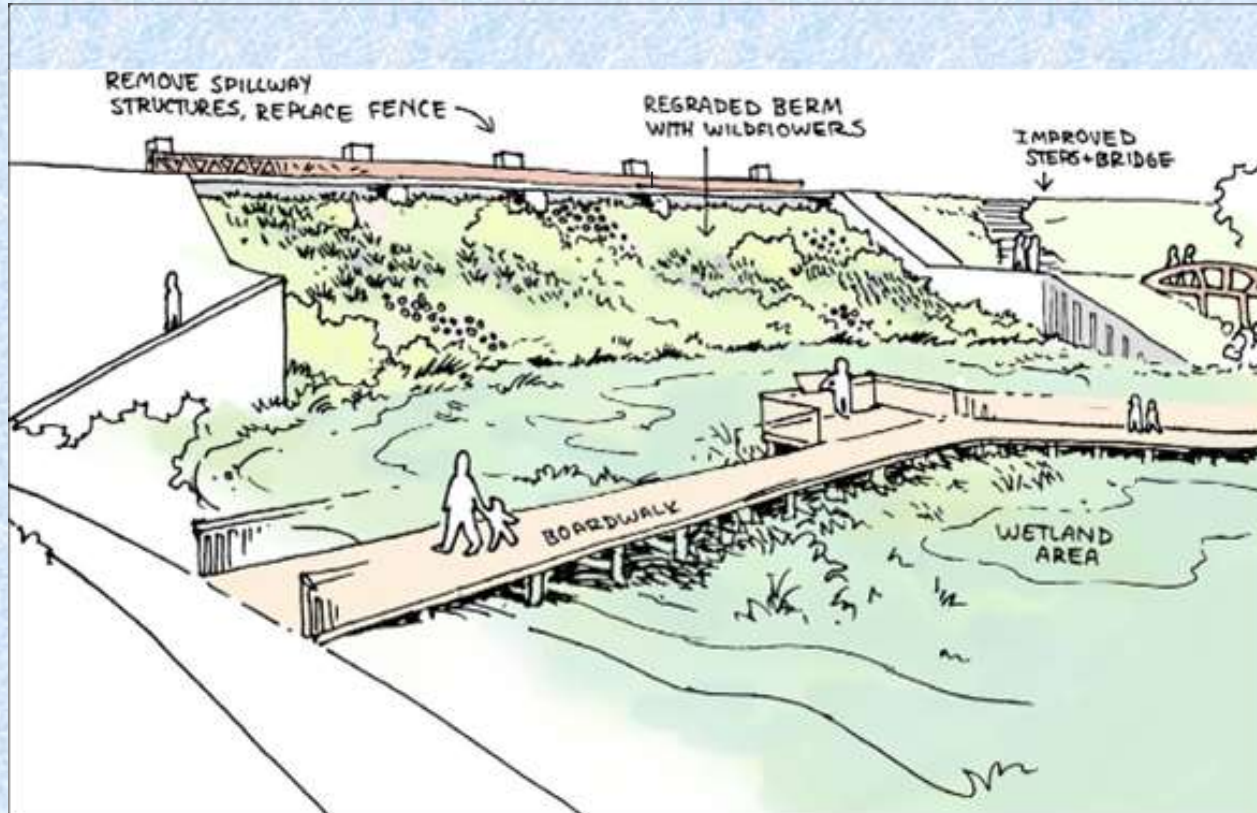




# Two Different Treatments for Dam Spillway Area

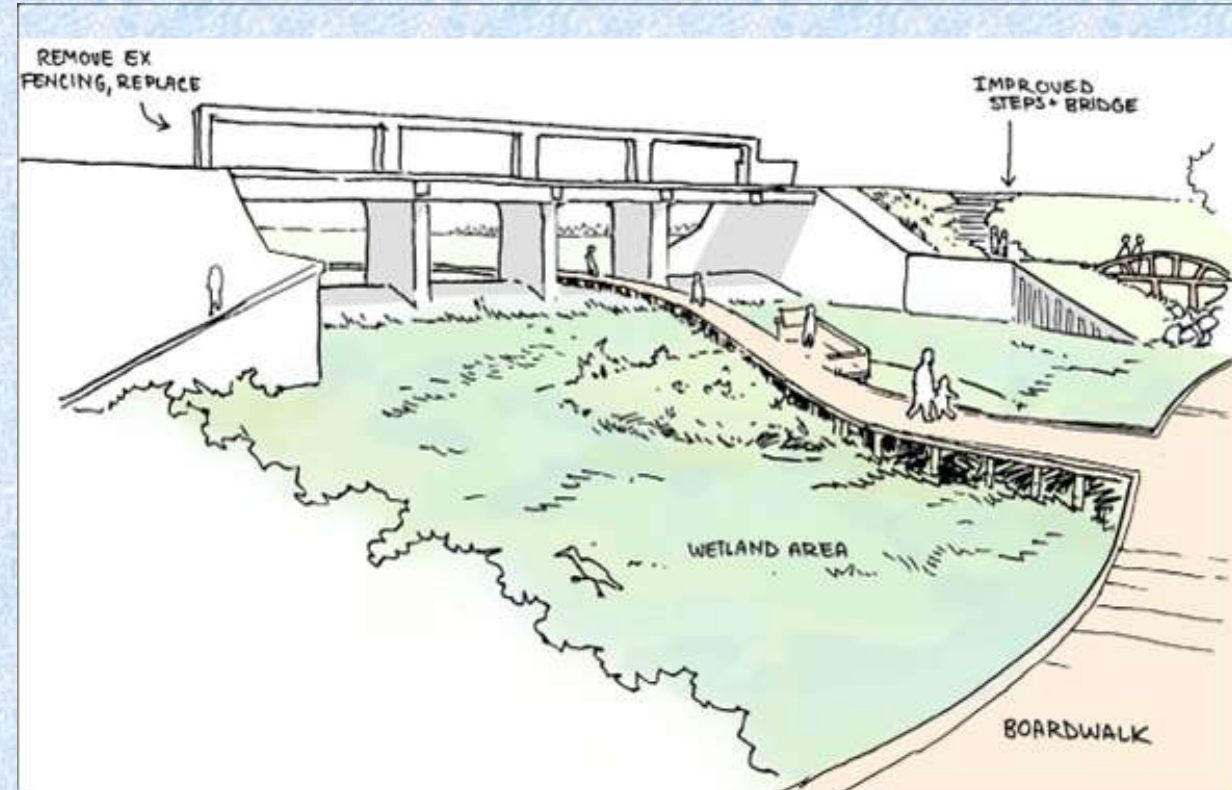
## OPTION 1

Following the 2001 EIS, the spillway structure and its mechanical elements will be deconstructed. The berm will be filled and the existing area will be regraded to form a shallow pool adjacent to the former spillway.



## OPTION 2

The mechanical elements will be removed from the spillway and the remaining structure will be refurbished as a lookout point. Removal of the gates will create a view through the dam and allow for pedestrian passage via boardwalk.







## Aerial Views of the Rodman/Kirkpatrick Dam

### Current view:

- Historic fish, manatee and boat passage blocked
- Two recreation areas disconnected with no pedestrian crossover
- Log and debris buildup on opposite side
- Rusted and aging structures and walkways
- Remnant Cross Florida Barge Canal in top right



### One proposed concept:

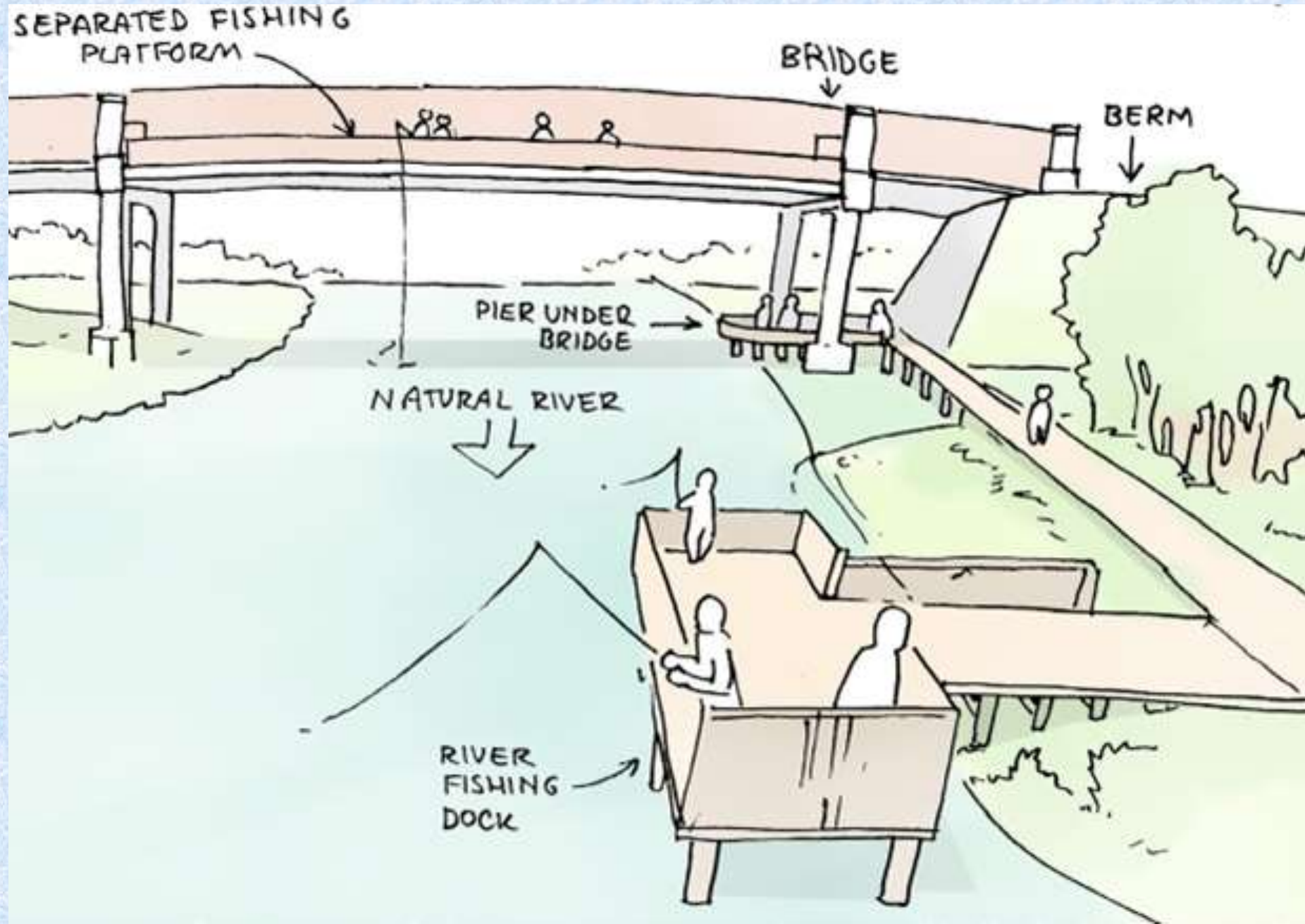
- Historic fish, manatee and boat passage restored to left of picture in natural channel
- Boat ramp maintained and improved
- Paddling launch improved
- Recreation areas connected for better access and Florida Trail crossing
- Parking, picnic and playground areas added and improved
- Historic interpretive signage throughout







## New Bridge and Fishing Features Over Restored Ocklawaha River





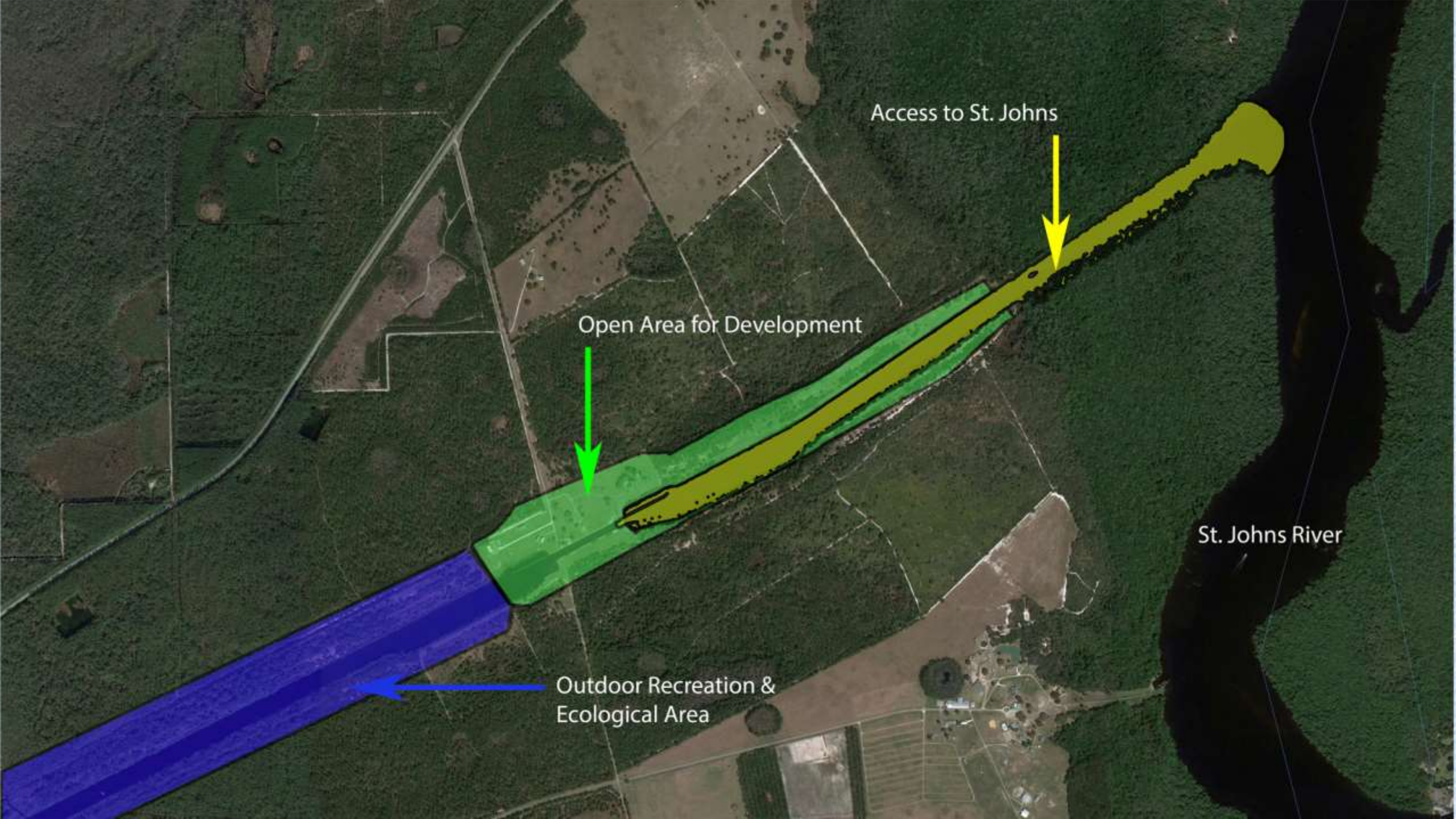


Bartram Outpost

Creation of a State-of-the-Art Sports Fishing and Hunting Hub providing access and amenities for St. Johns River fishing and outdoor sports focusing on serious anglers and hunters and their families.

Juan Garcia \* Anthony Paparella \* Christian Brewer





Access to St. Johns

Open Area for Development

Outdoor Recreation &  
Ecological Area

St. Johns River





Photo by John Moran

## [GreatFloridaRiverway.com](http://GreatFloridaRiverway.com)

- Student work
- Documentary
- Interactive Map

## [FreetheOcklawaha.com](http://FreetheOcklawaha.com)

- Advocacy site
- Science fact sheets
- Past newsletters and news stories
- Sign-up for newsletter



Casey Fitzgerald





# **Ocklawaha Restoration The Science is Clear – The Time is Now**

Photo by Julie O'Brien



# **Ocklawaha Restoration**

## **The Science is Clear – The Time is Now**

### **I. Orientation and Historical Context**

### **II. The “Partial” Restoration Alternative Explained**

### **III.A Tale of Four Ecosystems**

### **IV.The Science Team**

### **V. Specific Environmental and Ecological Benefits of Restoration**

- A. Help restore the ecology of Silver Springs
- B. Recover twenty “Lost Springs”
- C. Greatly improve populations of numerous migratory fish species such as Striped Bass, American Shad, Atlantic Sturgeon American Eel and Striped Mullet
- D. Provide critical warm water winter habitat for hundreds of manatees
- E. Improve water quality, habitat and fisheries of the Lower St. Johns River estuary
- F. Reestablish a critical link in the Florida Wildlife Corridor

### **VI.Closing Observations**





## Why was the Rodman Dam, Lock and Reservoir System Built?

- Not Water Supply
- Not Flood Protection
- Not Power Generation
- It was created as an initial component of the ill-fated **Cross Florida Barge Canal** that, if completed, would have devastated surface and ground water resources north-central Florida.



# Abbreviated Timeline

<b>1963</b>	Congress funds construction.
<b>1968</b>	Rodman Dam, Lock and Reservoir completed.
<b>1969-1970</b>	Environmental Defense Fund, Florida Defenders of the Environment, Congressman MacKay and others apply pressure.
<b>1971</b>	US District Court issues injunction. <b>Nixon halts construction of canal due to environmental concerns (NEPA).</b>
<b>1971-1993</b>	State and federal agencies recommend restoration. Canal deauthorized by Congress.
<b>1995-1997</b>	Gov. Chiles directs “partial” restoration. ERP application submitted. Cost estimate: \$25M.
<b>2001</b>	USFS completes EIS. Florida accepts restoration responsibility. Governor and legislature have yet to execute.



# Partial Restoration Plan



## Ten Key Steps to Partial Restoration

1. A phased drawdown of the reservoir over three years to restore the natural Ocklawaha river channel and floodplain.
2. Removal of a portion of the Rodman/Kirkpatrick earthen dam to create a free-flowing river allowing for natural movement of fish, wildlife, and boats from Silver Springs to the Atlantic Ocean while improving water flow and quality.
3. Restoration of Deep Creek.
4. Restoration of Camp Branch channel and floodplain.
5. Closure and securing of Buckman Lock, filling west side of the canal and leaving eastside open to the St. Johns River.
6. Partial filling of the spillway tailrace to natural grade to prevent future algae blooms or fish kills.
7. Restoration of 7,500 acres of floodplain forest upstream of the dam connecting a significant wildlife corridor. Revitalization of 8,000-plus other acres upstream and downstream.
8. Recovery of 20 freshwater springs and respective runs currently drowned by the waters behind the dam.
9. Limited planting of native trees.
10. Limited removal of structures. Facilities and boat ramp at the dam will remain or be upgraded.



# A Tale of Four Ecosystems



## Ed Lowe, PhD

Former Director of Environmental  
Sciences and Chief Scientist, St. Johns  
River Water Management District,  
Palatka, Florida



Ocklawaha River



Silver River & Silver Springs



St. Johns River



Atlantic Ocean



Ed Lowe, PhD  
(audio only)

# Free the Ocklawaha River Coalition - for Everyone

## Science Committee

### Co-Chairs

- **Ed Lowe**, PhD, Former Director, Environmental Sciences & Chief Scientist, SJRWMD - Aquatic and wetland ecology
- **Casey Fitzgerald**, Former Assistant Director, Water Resources Department, SJRWMD - Environmental policy
- **Kimberleigh Dinkins**, Senior Conservation Associate, Save the Manatee Club - Soil and Water Science

### Additional Members

- **Chris Farrell**, Northeast Florida Policy Associate, Audubon Florida - Community ecology
- **Jim Gross**, Executive Director, Florida Defenders of the Environment - Hydrogeology
- **John Hendrickson**, Former Supervising Environmental Scientist, SJRWMD - Water Quality
- **Bob Knight**, PhD, Executive Director, Florida Springs Institute - Springs and wetlands ecology
- **Jack Putz**, PhD, Distinguished Professor, Department of Biology, UF of Florida - Botany
- **Pat Rose**, Executive Director, Save the Manatee Club - Aquatic biology
- **Pete Sucsy**, PhD, Former Technical Program Manager, SJRWMD - Hydrodynamics
- **Ken Sulak**, PhD, Scientist Emeritus, USGS Wetland and Aquatic Research Center - Fish biology
- **Bob Virnstein**, PhD, President, St. Johns River Institute & Owner, Seagrass Ecosystems Analysts - Estuarine ecology
- **Quinton White**, PhD, Director, Marine Science Research Institute, Jacksonville University - Marine biology



## Website Resources for Scientific Assessments

- **Documents** - Technical fact sheets and white papers on key topics typically authored by Science Committee members and often peer reviewed by other experts in the field.
- **Interviews** - Numerous online interviews with science committee members and other subject matter experts.

Go to: [freetheocklawaha.com](http://freetheocklawaha.com).



### Restoring Silver Springs and the “Lost Springs” of the Ocklawaha

Reviewed for accuracy by Robert L. Knight, Ph.D. Springs Ecology and Casey Fitzgerald, SJRWMD Springs Initiative Director (retired)

#### Free-Flowing Artesian Springs

Florida is home to more than 1,000 artesian springs, the highest concentration of large springs in the world (Knight 2015). Yet these springs and their associated spring runs are the most endangered ecosystems in Florida, with a total of only 10,000 acres. Springs and spring runs are unique freshwater ecosystems with naturally high productivity of plants and wildlife. Clear water allows sunlight to fuel high primary productivity which translates up the aquatic food web to naturally high and diverse populations of reptiles, fish, mammals, and birds. Constant water temperature, combined with ideal nutrient levels, and flowing water, put healthy springs near the top of ecosystem productivity.

#### Silver Springs

The Silver Springs Group includes at least 25 springs that collectively create the 5-mile-long spring run called the Silver River. Mammoth Spring at the river's source has the highest long-term recorded flow of a single spring outlet in the world. More than 150 years of scientific efforts have focused attention on the Silver Springs and the Silver River. Research conducted in 1979-1980 and in 2004-2005 documented a severe reduction in fish populations in Silver Springs. In addition to observed flow declines and increasing nitrate pollution, the >90% reduction in fish populations was attributed to the exclusion of migratory fish that previously migrated inland from the Atlantic Ocean via the free-flowing Ocklawaha River. This reduced



## Help restore the ecology of Silver Springs





## Key Ecological Indicators: Profound Fish Species and Biomass Shift

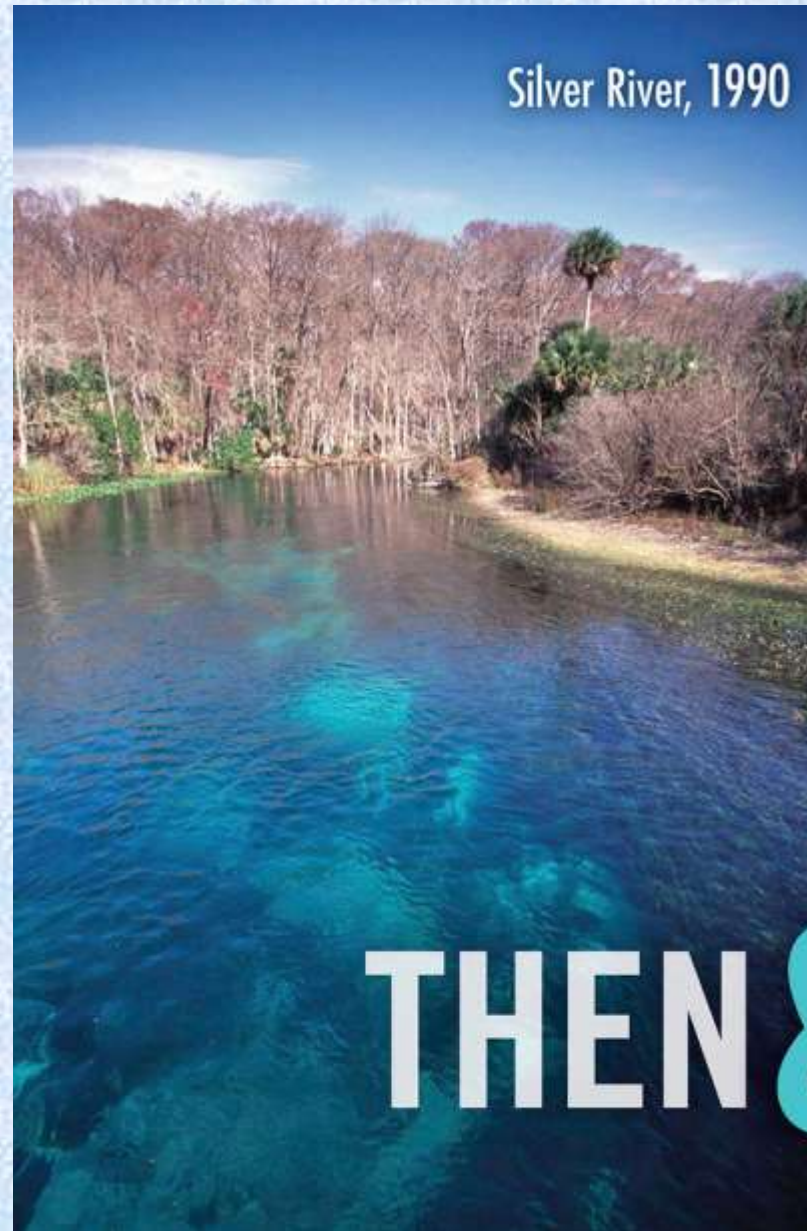




# Silver Springs Health Depends on a Free-Flowing Ocklawaha

*“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.”*

**Robert Knight** PhD, Executive Director, Florida Springs Institute





# Recover the Lost Springs of the Ocklawaha

**Twenty** springs are inundated and flows greatly suppressed by the waters impounded behind Rodman Dam.

Breaching the dam will uncover these springs, restore their ecology and increase flows to the Ocklawaha and St. Johns Rivers.

Coupled with the benefits to Silver Springs, Ocklawaha restoration quite simply represents the **most profound and cost effective springs restoration** project in Florida, by far.

Photo by John Moran





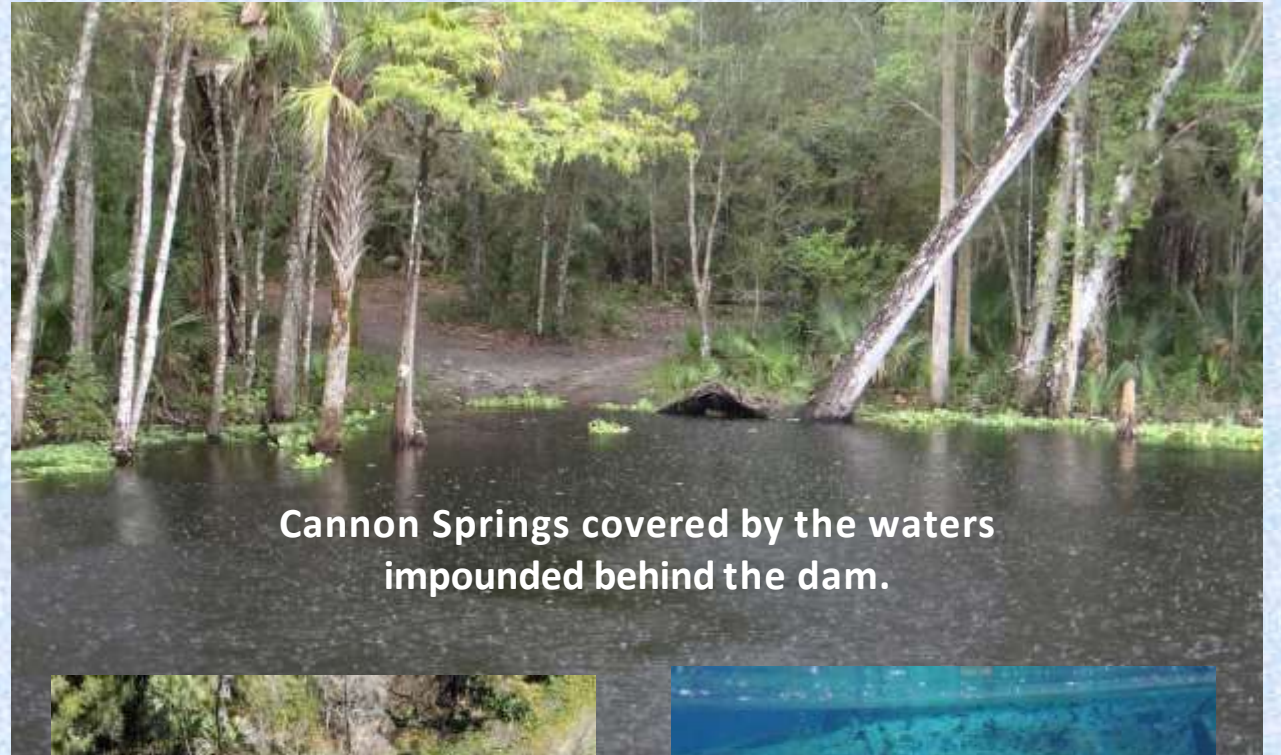
# MARION BLUE AND CANNON SPRINGS

## Marion Blue Springs

A Painting Before the Dam and Current View



Painting by Elizabeth W. Smith



Cannon Springs covered by the waters impounded behind the dam.



A view of Cannon Springs during drawdown from above and below.



**Enhance and/or reestablish numerous  
migratory fish species throughout the four ecosystems**





Channel Catfish



White Catfish



American Shad



Striped Mullet



Atlantic Striped Bass



Blue-nosed Shiner



Tessellated Darter



American Eel



Atlantic Sturgeon



# Provide critical warm water winter habitat for hundreds of manatees



- **Unusual Mortality Event** under the Marine Mammal Protection Act - Over 1100 manatees died in 2021. Over 600 have already died in 2022.
- 60% of Florida's manatees depend on artificial warm water refugia to survive the winter.
- Manatees need food and warm water habitat to survive the winter
- ***Restoring natural warm water refugia with nearby food sources are essential to preventing future die-offs. (Warm Water Action Plan)***

# Ocklawaha Restoration: A Permanent, Natural Lifeline for Manatees

- Twenty “Lost Springs” recovery would add additional warm water refugia
- Silver Springs would provide substantial forage and warm water refugia
- FWC/FWS 2008 Report: Ocklawaha restoration would provide essential warm water winter habitat for “hundreds of manatees”



Photo credit: Thinkstock

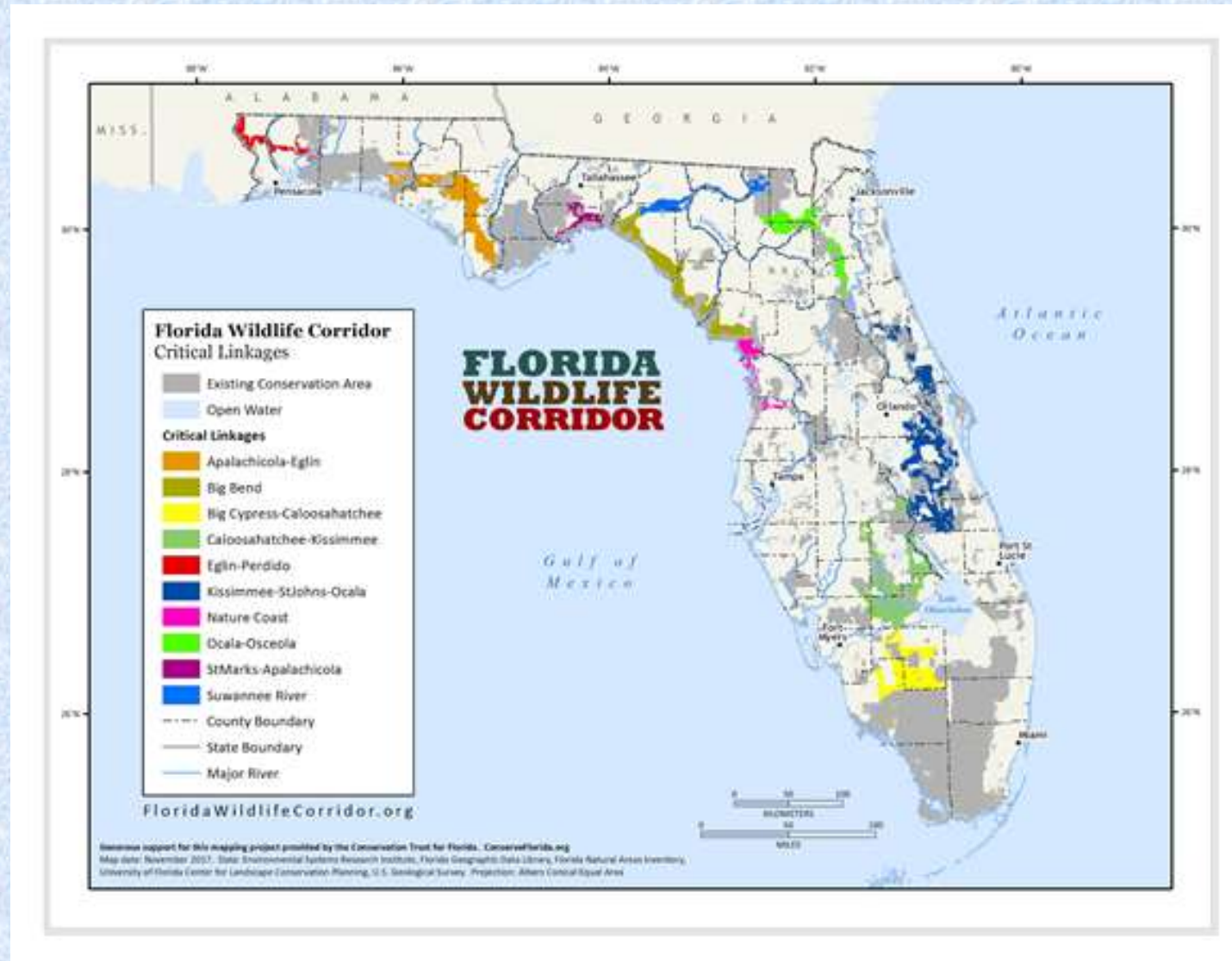


# Improve water quality, habitat and fisheries of the Lower St. Johns River estuary

- Restoration will deliver over 150 MGD of clearer and cooler freshwater to St. Johns River and Estuary
- Support restoration of decimated eelgrass communities in the St. Johns River and support healthy seagrass communities further downstream
- Offset saltwater intrusion, enhancing coastal resiliency
- Improve water quality and help prevent blue-green algae and other harmful algal blooms
- Support more productive commercial and recreational fisheries

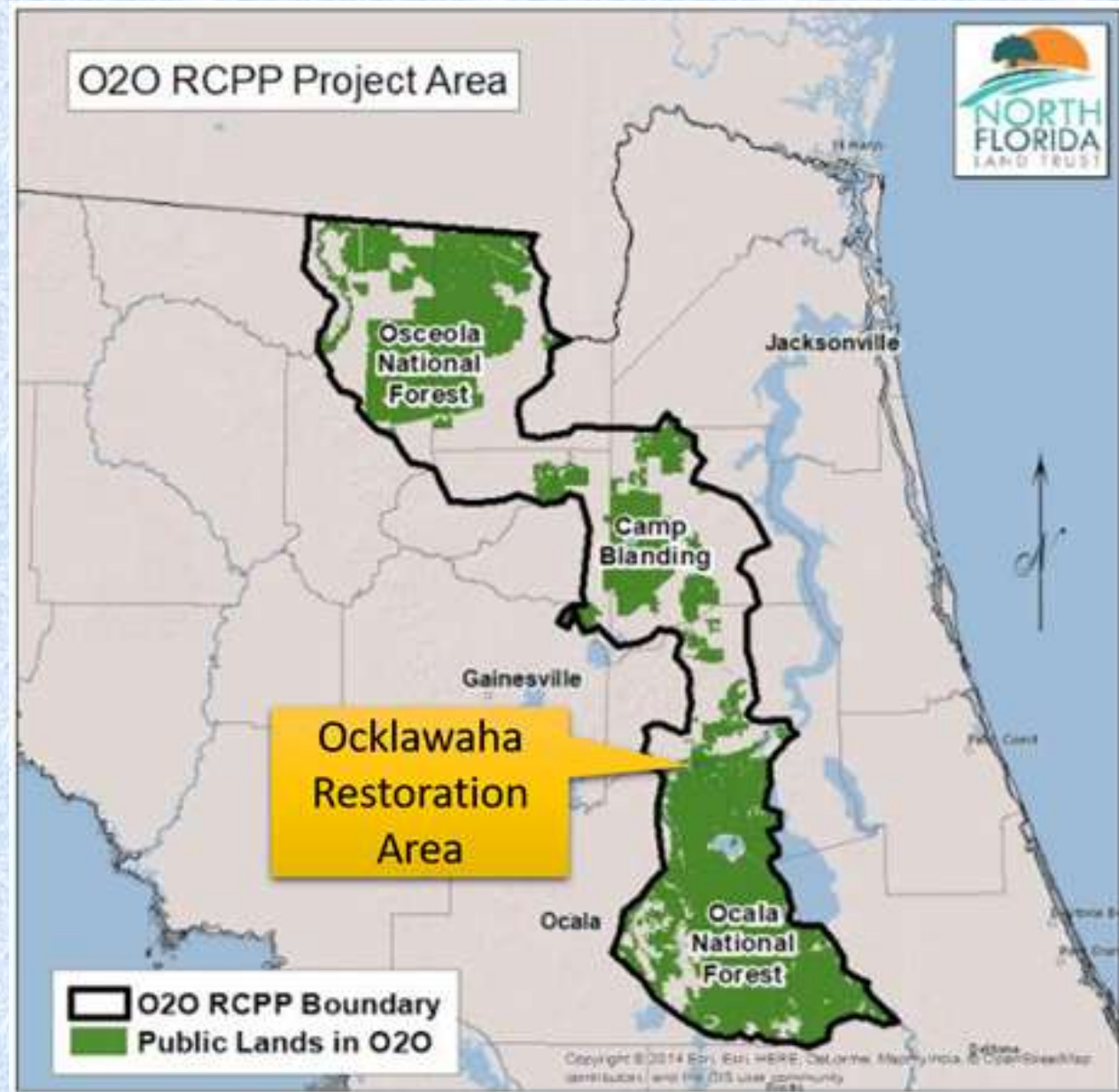


# Reestablish a critical link in the Florida Wildlife Corridor

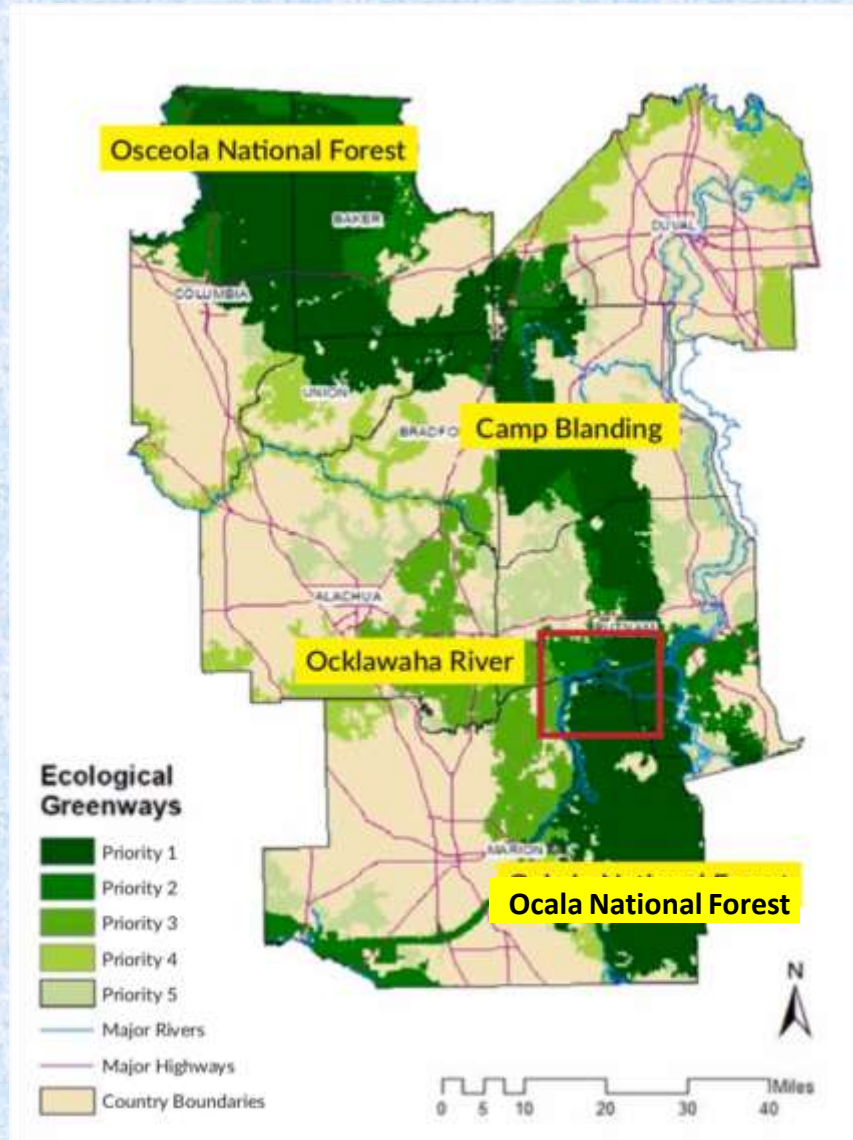




## Osceola to Ocala National Forest ("O2O") Corridor



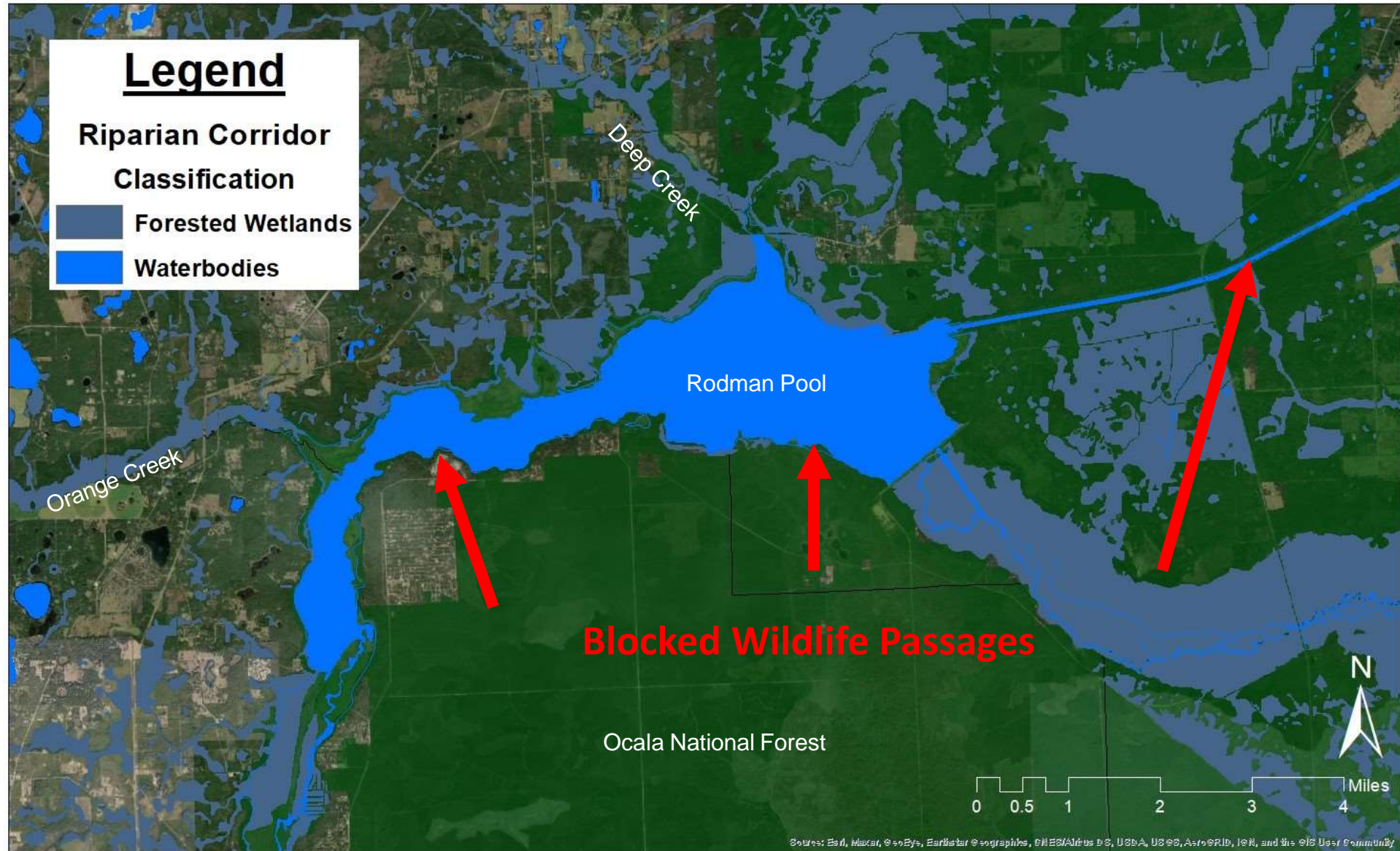
# Ocala to Osceola National Forest (“O2O”) Corridor



- Restores 7,500 acres of currently-flooded forested wetland habitat (Rodman Pool)
- Reconnects corridor benefitting wide-ranging species: panther and black bear
- Supports avian and terrestrial species like wood storks, , wild turkey, and white-tailed deer



# Before Restoration





# After Restoration





# Return & Expansion of Numerous Species



# Closing Observations

## **Fundamental Concept**

- Restore original hydrology to recover original, multi-system ecological functions

## **Last major project for the 310-mile St. Johns River System**

- USJ Headwaters – USJRB Project SJRWMD/ACOE
  - Restored 156 square miles of wetlands @ ~ **\$1B** project in today's dollars
- Ocklawaha Headwaters - Lake Apopka & Harris Chain of Lakes
  - Restored 25K acres of wetlands @ ~**\$250M** in today's dollars

## **Most Comparable Florida Project - Kissimmee River**

- Restored 44 river miles and 27,000 acres of wetlands @ **\$900M**

## **Ocklawaha River Restoration**

- Restore 16 river miles, 7,500 acres of forested wetlands and reestablish biological flow throughout four significant ecosystems @ ~**\$25+M**

***The Science is Clear – The Time is Now.***





Dominic Calabro



# **A RIVER (NO LONGER) RUNS THROUGH IT: OCKLAWAHA RIVER RESTORATION**

**A February 2022 TaxWatch Briefing**

**Presentation to  
1000 Friends of Florida**

**May 17, 2022**

**Dominic M. Calabro  
President & CEO**





## CROSS FLORIDA BARGE CANAL

**1935**

200-mile, 30-foot deep ship channel connecting the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico authorized as part of FDR's New Deal. Construction stopped within 1 year.

**WWII**

Congress authorized a different canal to protect oil & gas shipments from the Texas oilfields to markets on the East Coast from German U-boats. At a depth of 12 feet and following the same channel route, the canal would be designed to accommodate barge traffic. No construction funds were appropriated.

**1964**

Funding was appropriated and construction began.

**1971**

Environmental activists convince President Nixon to "pull the plug" on the project.

**1991**

Congress deauthorizes the project and transfers land interest and structures to the state of Florida.



## **RODMAN DAM, RESERVOIR, AND RECREATION AREA**

**When construction stopped in 1971, the dam and adjoining reservoir had been completed.**

**Flow of the Ocklawaha River was closed, resulting in the loss of 16 miles of the river and 7500 acres of forested wetlands, and the covering of more than 20 freshwater springs.**

**Located around the dam is the Rodman Recreation Area, which is part of the state parks system.**

**Located atop the dam is the Marjory Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway.**

**In 1998, the dam was renamed the George Kirkpatrick Dam.**





## CHAPTER 93-213, LAWS OF FLORIDA

Directed FDEP to study the environmental and economic efficacy of the following alternatives:

**Full retention (do nothing)** --- retain the current size and depth of the reservoir, with limited removal/alteration of existing structures and topography

**Partial retention** --- reduce the water level in the reservoir, with limited modifications/alteration of existing structures and topography

**Partial restoration** --- restore river hydrology by breaching the dam, with limited alteration/removal of structures and topography

**Full restoration** --- restore river hydrology to pre-construction conditions, with all structures removed and original topography restored



## **CHAPTER 93-213, LAWS OF FLORIDA (CONTINUED)**

**1994**

**SJRWMD report to FDEP recommending the “partial restoration” option.**

**1995**

**Recommendation approved by Governor and Cabinet.**

**1997**

**FDEP submits state Environmental Resource Permit and federal Dredge and Fill Permit applications to implement the partial restoration alternative**

**2001**

**USDA Environmental Impact Statement recommends implementing “partial restoration” alternative.**

**2022**

**21 years later, still no action has been taken.**





## CONDITION OF THE KIRKPATRICK DAM

**2015**

FDEP inspection identifies no major deficiencies. 91 recommended repairs at an estimated cost of \$320,000.

**2019**

Limited inspection (specific structural elements) identified an estimated \$367,800 in repairs.

**2021**

Engineering analysis by Florida Defenders of the Environment found evidence of surface and subsurface erosion, which make the dam subject to failure.

The Kirkpatrick Dam has surpassed its 50-year life expectancy and state dam inspection reports have identified numerous deficiencies and weaknesses that, if unattended, could ultimately lead to the dam's failure.



## **PUBLIC POLICY DEBATE**

**Whether the dam and reservoir should remain in place  
(full retention).**

**or**

**Whether the dam should be breached to restore the  
natural flow of the Ocklawaha River (partial  
restoration).**





## **RECREATIONAL IMPACTS --- PARTIAL RESTORATION**

**Visitation increases more than 80% during drawdowns, suggesting visitors enjoy the river-like environment.**

**Facilities that support the river-like environment are likely to remain.**

**Freshwater fishing will likely remain the primary recreational activity.**

**Regional visitation is expected to increase 28% if the river habitat expands.**



## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS --- PARTIAL RESTORATION**

**Uncovering the 20 freshwater springs will restore an estimated 150 – 276 MGD of freshwater flow.**

**Increased velocity (flow) and reduced water temperature will improve water quality and help maintain critical freshwater/saltwater balance.**

**Build-up of invasive aquatic vegetation, nutrient loads, and blue-green algae blooms will be reduced.**

**Historic fish migration patterns will be reestablished.**

**Thousands of acres of floodplain forests and forested wetlands will be restored.**

**Additional habitat, warm water refuge, and food source for hundreds more manatees.**





## **ECONOMIC IMPACTS --- ANNUAL VISITOR SPENDING (2019)**

### **2019 University of Florida study**

**Multiplied average per group per day expenditures by the number of local and non-resident groups during 2016-17 to estimate total annual visitor spending.**

**Using economic multipliers from the economic model IMPLAN, total economic impacts for Putnam, Marion, and Alachua counties were estimated.**

**Rodman Reservoir adds \$6.6 million to local economy and provides income of \$4.2 million and 155 jobs.**

**Ocklawaha River adds \$9.7 million to local economy and provides income of \$6.1 million and 201 jobs.**



## ECONOMIC IMPACTS --- ANNUAL VISITOR SPENDING (2019)

	Rodman Reservoir	Ocklawaha River	Total
Industry Output (Revenues)	\$11,561,386	\$16,741,385	\$28,302,771
Value Added (GDP)	\$6,580,767	\$9,650,026	\$16,230,793
Labor Income (Salaries, Wages, Employment (Full & Part Time Jobs)	\$4,185,320 155	\$6,072,109 201	\$10,257,429 356





## **ECONOMIC IMPACTS --- PARTIAL RESTORATION**

### **2021 UF/JU Factsheet**

**Diversification of outdoor recreational offerings and the overall improvements in the condition of the river will increase annual regional visitation by an estimated 28%.**

**Uncovering the 20 “drowned” springs will expand manatee viewing and attract additional visitors --- annual economic impact is estimated at 30,000 visitors and \$3 million in new revenue.**

**Restoring the natural flow of the Ocklawaha River may actually improve the fishing.**

**Restoring the natural flow of the Ocklawaha River will eliminate the more than \$57 million in economic risk that would result from an unplanned dam failure.**

**The state would save an estimated \$4 million - \$14 million in repairs to bring the Kirkpatrick Dam to accepted standards, as well as an estimated \$364,000 in annual costs to maintain the dam and spillway.**



**ECONOMIC IMPACTS  
--- PARTIAL  
RESTORATION  
(CONTINUED)**

**Estimated project price tag --- \$25.8 million over 10 years.**

**Estimated return on investment (ROI) --- \$1.76 return on each \$1 invested.**

**Impact of additional visitors on Putnam, Alachua, and Marion county business revenues --- \$8.1 million annually.**

**Cumulative net benefit over 10 years --- \$47.2 million.**





## **PUBLIC OPINION VARIES**

### **2017 UF Survey (n=641)**

**When asked whether the dam should or should not be breached ---**

**15% would breach the dam.**

**56% would leave the dam as is.**

**29% were unsure.**

**When asked whether breaching the dam would affect their visits ---**

**39% would decrease or stop their visits.**

**25% would not be affected.**

**One-third were unsure or didn't answer.**



## **PUBLIC OPINION VARIES**

### **2021 SJRWMD Statewide Survey (n=9,793)**

**When asked what they would like to see happen to the dam and reservoir ---**

**86.5% would breach the dam.**

**5.9% would leave the dam as is.**

**7.6% had no clear position.**

#### **Marion County**

**75.3% favored breaching the dam.**

**16.5% favored maintaining the dam.**

#### **Putnam County**

**63.6% favored breaching the dam.**

**19.5% favored maintaining the dam.**





## **PUBLIC OPINION VARIES**

### **2021-22 Ocklawaha Restoration Benchmark Poll Survey (n=604)**

**When asked what they would like to see happen to the  
dam and reservoir ---**

**81% expressed general approval of restoring  
natural flow of the Ocklawaha River.**

**6% opposed restoring natural flow of the  
Ocklawaha River.**



## **CONCLUSIONS**

**Florida TaxWatch thinks that what was a good idea in 1994 is a good idea in 2022.**

**Florida TaxWatch supports the breaching of the Kirkpatrick Dam and the partial restoration of the natural flow of the Ocklawaha River.**

**Florida TaxWatch recommends the legislature appropriate funding to bring about this partial restoration.**





Lisa Rinaman



## Lessons Learned

- Solid Science + High ROI + Overwhelming Public Support *does not always equal* Political Will
- It Takes Time to Right the Ship
- All Politics are Local
- Watershed-wide Trust & Engagement are Essential



# 2022/2023 Recharge



**Improve, target & streamline messaging**



**Connect fully w/ local communities & leaders**



**Ignite consolidated campaign to chart path forward**



**Unite fishermen, anglers, hunters and outdoorsmen in support**



**Get Out on the Water Together**





# Thank You!



Ocklawaha River



Silver Springs



St. Johns

*[Freetheocklawaha.com](http://Freetheocklawaha.com)*



# Questions



Margaret Spontak

Chairperson, Free the  
Ocklawaha Coalition for  
Everyone



Casey Fitzgerald

Leadership & Science Committee  
Chair, Free the Ocklawaha  
Coalition for Everyone



Dominic Calabro

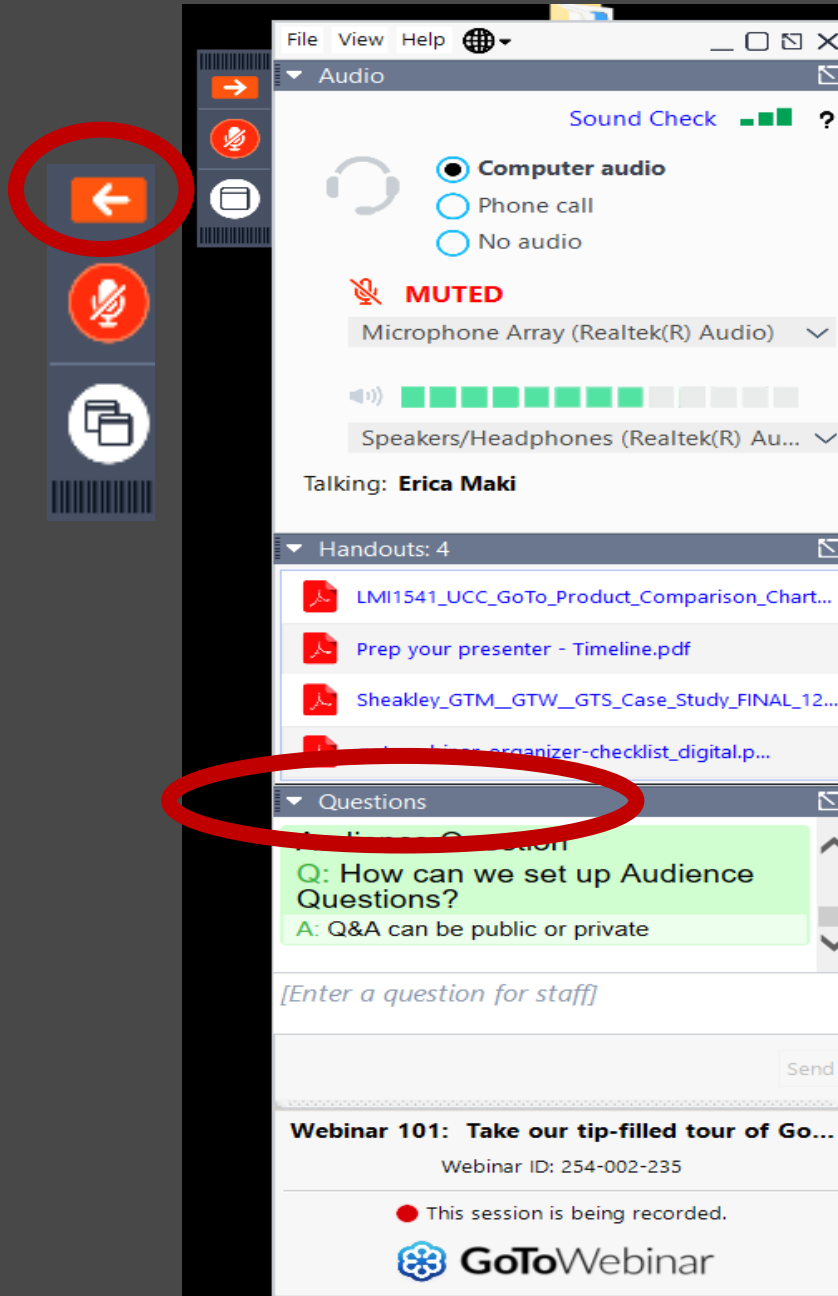
President & CEO  
Florida TaxWatch



Lisa Rinaman

St. Johns Riverkeeper





# Please ask questions!

- Click on arrow at top right of your screen to maximize control panel
- Click arrow next to “Questions” to maximize the questions box
- Please type any questions in this box
- Please refer to the slide number and/or speaker when you post your question
- Please keep your questions succinct!
- Staff will ask the presenters questions, as time permits



# This webinar has been approved for credits for:

- *1.5 AICP CM for planners (#9232828)*
- *2 CLE for Florida attorneys (#2202789N)*
- *1 CEC for Certified Floodplain Managers*
- *1.5 credits for DBPR Florida Landscape Architects (#0012861)*

*Find credits for past webinars at  
[1000fof.org/upcoming-webinars/credits](http://1000fof.org/upcoming-webinars/credits)*



# Follow up survey, certificate and credits:

*In the follow up email for the LIVE WEBINAR you will receive:*

- A link to a **brief survey** to help us improve future webinars
- A **certificate of attendance** (use Google Chrome to download)

*Information on credits for past webinars are available at  
[1000fof.org/upcoming-webinars/credits](http://1000fof.org/upcoming-webinars/credits)*





# For DBPR Landscape Architects



1000 Friends only provides  
certificates of attendance for  
those who attend the  
**live webinar**

Due to changes in State of Florida  
reporting requirements, 1000  
Friends will submit your credits  
on your behalf



# Dr. John M. DeGrove Webinar Sponsors

## FRIEND

Mr. Ronald L. Book, PA

Mr. Andy DeGrove

Ms. Kimberly A. DeGrove & Dr. Clyde Partin

Dickman Law Firm

Florida Power & Light Company

William Howard Flowers, Jr. Foundation

Kitson & Partners/Babcock Ranch

Dr. Jim Nicholas

Robert Parks, P.L.

The Perkins Charitable Foundation

Mr. Robert M. Rhodes





# Upcoming Webinars

**The DeGrove Webinar Series  
will resume in September 2022**

Find out more and register at  
[1000fof.org/upcoming-webinars](https://1000fof.org/upcoming-webinars)



# Support 1000 Friends!

## DONATE

at [www.1000fof.org/donate](http://www.1000fof.org/donate)

(you may designate it for DeGrove Education Fund if you wish)

## SPONSOR

the DeGrove webinars by emailing  
[vyoung@1000fof.org](mailto:vyoung@1000fof.org) to find out more

## AMAZON SMILE

will make a donation to 1000 Friends  
every time you purchase through  
[smile.amazon.com/ch/59-2761163](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-2761163)





# Questions



Margaret Spontak

Chairperson, Free the  
Ocklawaha Coalition for  
Everyone



Casey Fitzgerald

Leadership & Science Committee  
Chair, Free the Ocklawaha  
Coalition for Everyone



Dominic Calabro

President & CEO  
Florida TaxWatch



Lisa Rinaman

St. Johns Riverkeeper

