

## Welcome

Welcome! You are invited to participate in this survey to understand Florida residents' preferences, experiences, and attitudes about recreation in the freshwater rivers and lakes in Florida.

This survey will take about 10 to 15 minutes to complete.

Your participation to this survey is voluntary. There is a minimal risk that security of any online data may be breached, but our survey host (QUALTRICS) uses strong encryption and other data security methods to protect your information. Only the researchers will have access to your information on the Qualtrics server. No identifying information will be collected or connected with your responses, which will be anonymous.

Your responses will be confidential and only be used for the purpose of this research. You have the right to withdraw from the study at any time by exiting the survey.

Answer every question to the best of your ability. There are no right or wrong answers and we are only interested in your opinion.

If you have questions about the survey, you can contact Dr. Xiang Bi (Shiang Bee), P.O. Box 110240, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-0240. Phone: 352-294-7671.

The study has been approved by Internal Review Board (IRB) at the University of Florida (UF) with the IRB number IRB201801140. For questions about your rights as a research participant in the study, you can contact the IRB office at the UF. The address is: IRB02 Office, P.O. Box, 112250, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-2250. Phone: 352-392-0433.

By clicking **yes**, you are indicating that you voluntarily agree to participate in this survey. Thank you!

- Yes
- No

Are you a year-round resident of Florida?

- Florida resident, live in Florida 7 to 12 months out of the year
- Part-time Florida resident or live out of state

What is your age group?

- Under 18
- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65 or older

What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Other

Are you Hispanic?

- Yes
- No

What is your ethnicity? (check all that apply )

- White
- Black or African American
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- Other

Just for statistical purposes, which category includes your estimated household income before taxes for 2017?

## Recreation in the Ocklawaha Basin

For the purposes of this survey, we'd like you to focus on outdoor nature-based recreation activities in **inland areas**, instead of those at the beach or in the ocean.

This includes activities like hiking, biking, picnicking, or sightseeing on land, and freshwater-related activities like fishing, boating, swimming or tubing in lakes, rivers, or springs.

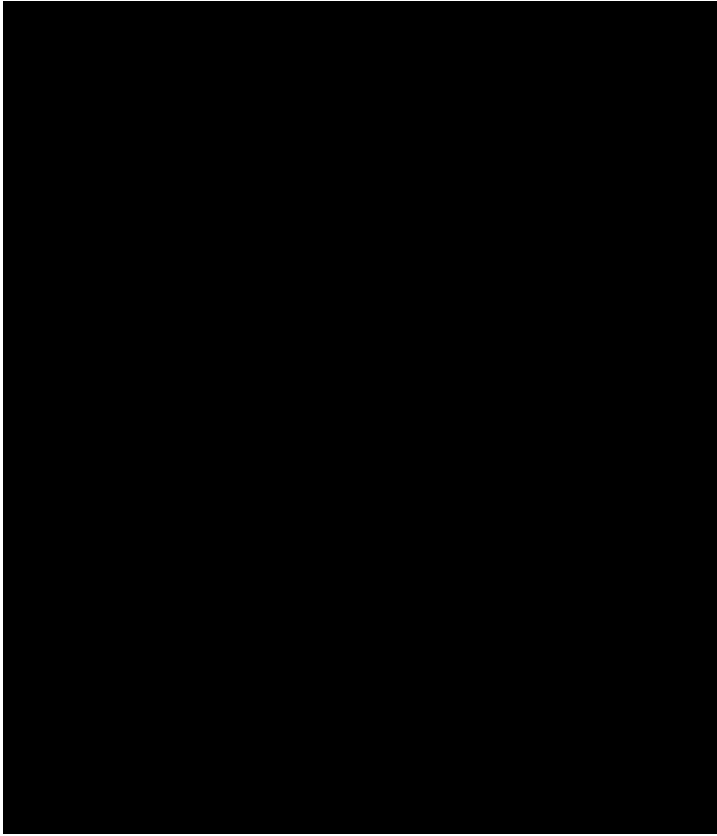
In the past 12 months, have you or anyone in your household traveled **more than 10 miles from your home** to participate in any inland outdoor activity like those described above?

- Yes
- No

We are particularly interested in nature-based recreation along the Silver River, Silver Springs, Ocklawaha River, Ocala National Forest, and Rodman Reservoir (Lake) areas in Florida.

Please check the following animations showing the Ocklawaha River Basin. It is flowing from south to north along the western boundary of the Ocala National Forest before turning east to flow to the St. Johns River near Palatka.

When you are ready to continue this survey, use the -> button on the bottom of this page to go to the next question.



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Please note we refer this area as the Ocklawaha River or Rodman Reservoir area throughout in this survey for simplicity. Please keep in mind that this area includes many recreation sites, such as Silver Springs, Silver River, Ocklawaha River, Rodman Reservoir, and Ocala National Forest.

Have you **ever been** to the Ocklawaha River or Rodman area for nature-based outdoor recreation activities?

- Yes
- No, never

**In the past 12 months**, how many total trips did you or any member of your household take to the Ocklawaha River or Rodman Reservoir area? (Please only count recreation trips).

On your **most recent trip**, which sites did you visit in the Ocklawaha River or Rodman Reservoir area?  
(Please check all that apply)

- Silver Springs
- Kirkpatrick Dam, Rodman Campground, or Rodman Recreation Areas
- Ocklawaha River
- Ocala National Forest
- Eureka West Recreation Area
- Kenwood Recreation Area
- Buckman Lock-St. Johns Loop North & South
- Silver River
- Orange Creek
- Ray wayside Park
- Other

On your **most recent recreation trip** to this area, was it a day trip, or did you spend one or more nights away from home?

- Day trip returned home on the same day
- Overnight trip: spent 1-2 nights
- Overnight trip: spent 3-5 nights
- Overnight trip: spent 6 or more nights

On your **most recent recreation trip** to this area, in which recreation activities did you participate ?  
(Please check all that apply)

- Fishing from a motorized boat
- Fishing from shore
- Motorized boating
- Canoeing, kayaking, or paddle boarding
- Camping
- Picnicking

- Wildlife viewing, sightseeing
- Swimming, tubing, snorkeling
- Diving
- Hiking
- Other

Compared to other **inland freshwater areas** you have visited for recreation in Florida, how would you rate your most recent trip experience in the Ocklawaha River or Rodman Reservoir area?

Poor

Fair

Good

Excellent

Not Sure

Not Applicable

In the past 12 months, you took \${q://QID36/ChoiceTextEntryValue} trips to the Ocklawaha River and Rodman reservoir area.

**During the next 12 months**, how many recreation trips do you plan to make to this area?

- My estimated number of trips would be
- Not sure or don't know

## Opinions and Attitudes

Next, we have a few questions about the management of water resources in the Ocklawaha River Basin. Answer every question to the best of your ability. There are no right or wrong answers and we are only interested in your opinion.

There is an ongoing debate about whether to breach the George Kirkpatrick Dam (such as removing part of the earthen structure) or leave it as is. People have offered arguments on both sides of the debate.

**How informed would you say you are about this issue?**

- Very informed
- Somewhat informed
- Not at all informed

This image highlights the Rodman Reservoir and Recreation Area under the current situation.



- The reservoir, located about 15 miles southwest of Palatka, is approximately 15 miles long, covers 9,500 acres, and is between State Road 19 on the east and State Road 315 on the west.
- It was created in 1968 following the construction of the George Kirkpatrick Dam, as part of the Cross Florida Barge Canal Project.
- The Canal Project was **stopped** in 1971 and de-authorized in 1991.
- The land that was originally set aside for the canal project has become the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway, a 110-mile long corridor of state parks and recreation and conservation areas.

Please answer the following question:

**Was the Rodman Reservoir intended to be part of the Cross Florida Barge Canal?**

True



False



Don't know or Not Sure



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The construction of the Kirkpatrick Dam has impounded the Ocklawaha River, flooded 7,000 acres of floodplain forest and wetland habitat, and altered the original riverine ecosystems.

Natural flow of the Ocklawaha River before the Kirkpatrick Dam was built in the 1940s.



Reservoir area today.



**With the information provided so far, would you choose to breach the Kirkpatrick Dam by removing part of the dam structure and restoring the flow of the Ocklawaha River?**



- Yes, breach the dam and restore the Ocklawaha River
- No, leave it as is
- Not sure

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The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection completed an Environmental Impact Statement to compare four management options on the Ocklawaha River, Kirkpatrick Dam, and the Reservoir. This study recommended **partially restoring** the Ocklawaha River.

The partial restoration includes **minimal removal** of the earthen Dam, **reconnecting** the historical river channel above and below the Dam, and **restoring** the floodplain and hydrology of the Ocklawaha River.

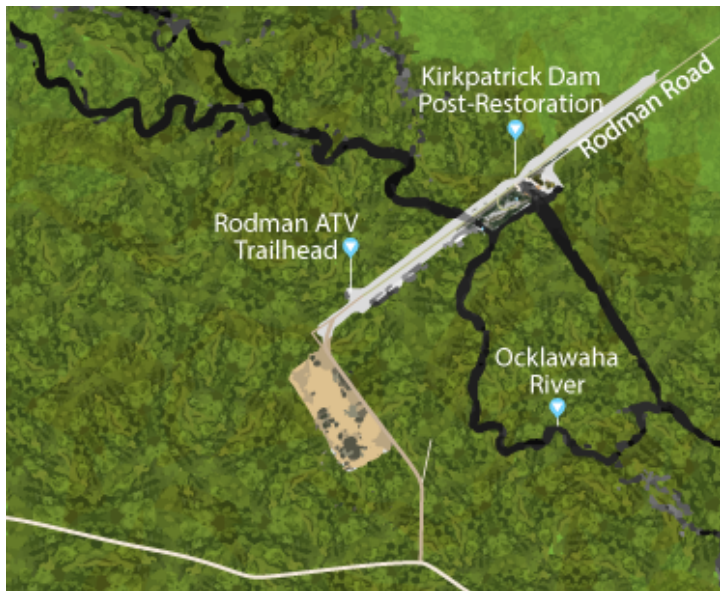
**Under partial restoration**, the Reservoir will be gradually drawn down, allowing the water level above the Dam to reach the water level of the Ocklawaha River below the Dam. Eventually, the reservoir area will be reduced **from 9,000-10,000 acres to 2,000-3,000 acres**. In other words, it will return to 15 miles of river with 200 acres of water surface per mile.

See the images below that illustrate the **current condition** and the condition **after partial restoration**.

### Current Condition



## Post Partial Restoration



Do you see any differences between the image of the current condition and the image of the post partial restoration?

- I do not see any differences
- Yes they are different
- Not sure

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I see the following differences (please check all that apply).

- The reservoir area is greatly reduced after restoration
- The river flows through the dam
- Other

The construction of partial restoration is expected to take 5 years. **The costs of the partial restoration project are** estimated to cost around **\$7-\$14 million over 10 years**, depending on the scope of the

## restoration

- Boat ramp accesses on the Rodman Reservoir will have to be **re-built** to adapt to the conditions of the restored river
- Some recreation activities, such as bass fishing, may be shifted to other nearby lakes and rivers, such as Lake George.

### **The benefits of the partial restoration project may include:**

- Restoration of 20 submerged natural springs due to impoundment
- Restoration of water quality of the Ocklawaha River upstream of the Dam
- Restoration of floodplain forest wildlife habitat, which is currently not accessible by boat
- Restoration of floodplain function, wetland forest, and wetland function
- Improvements in recreational experiences, such as shoreline fishing, kayaking, and canoeing along the river

**Without partial restoration, the current costs to maintain the Dam and locks have been about \$0.5 million a year, and \$2 million worth of major repairs are expected every 10 years.**

- Under current condition, the water level in the reservoir is drawn down every 3-4 years, since aquatic weeds (such as hydrilla) tend to overgrow. Each draw down lasts for about 3 months in the winter and water level is reduced from 18-20 feet to 11 feet.
- Under current condition, many fishermen consider the reservoir as one of the premier bass-fishing destinations in Florida.

**Do you think that the information above was presented in a unbiased manner to inform your decision about the fate of the Kirkpatrick Dam?**

- Unbiased
- Biased towards keeping the dam
- Biased towards breaching the dam
- Hard to understand

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Under the partial restoration plan, public amenities around the Rodman Recreation Area, such as fishing piers, boat ramps, and picnic areas will still be accessible.

See the image below that illustrates the **current condition** around the Rodman Recreation Area.



See the image below that illustrates the **future condition** after restoration.



**With all the information presented, would you choose to breach the dam and restore the Ocklawaha River or leave it as is?**

- Breach the dam and restore the Ocklawaha River
- Leave it as is
- Not sure

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Thinking about how you voted about breaching the dam or leaving it as is, please rate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Breaching the dam will improve the passage of manatees and migratory fish	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maintaining the reservoir will help ensure plenty of water supply to the region in the future	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Breaching the dam will improve water quality in the Ocklawaha and St. Johns Rivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maintaining the dam, locks, and the reservoir is costly at the taxpayer's expense	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Breaching the dam and restoring the river will help the local economy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Breaching the dam is costly at the tax payer's expense	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Breaching the dam will enhance nature-based recreation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Breaching the dam will hurt the local economy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Restoring the river will reduce bass fishing opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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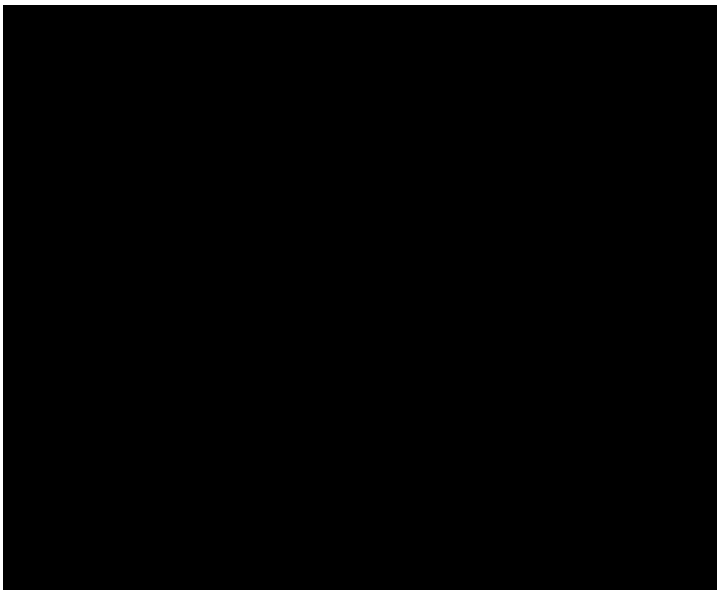
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Suppose the proposed **partial restoration** plan were implemented. Under that scenario, would you take any of the following trips to the area after the partial restoration?

The following animations show the progression of the reservoir area from before the Dam was built to the future under partial restoration.



	Definitely No	Probably No	Not Sure/Don't know	Probably Yes
Fishing on the shore or from a boat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Motorized boating	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Kayaking, canoeing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other nature-based recreation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If the proposed restoration plan was implemented, how often would you visit this area for fishing in a year?

If the proposed restoration plan was implemented, how often would you visit this area for motorized boating in a year?

If the proposed restoration plan was implemented, how often would you visit this area for non-motorized boating (such as kayaking) in a year?

If the proposed restoration plan was implemented, how often would you visit this area for other nature-based recreation?

When you think about environmental protection of the Ocklawaha River, what percentage of the funds should come from each type of source ? (Please make sure they add up to 100%).

Florida state government agencies

Local nonprofit organizations

Local government agencies

Local business

National nonprofit organizations

National government agencies

Florida residents

Total

### Willingness to pay- Donation

**Suppose you have the opportunity to donate to a non-profit organization for implementing the partial restoration plan over the next 5 years.** The donation would be collected through purchasing a

speciality license plate. Currently, there are many specialty license plates, such as "save the manatee" and "sea turtle" plates.

Proceeds from the donations would go to a special trust fund managed by a non-profit organization. These funds would only be used on the partial restoration plan and providing assistance for local communities to adapt to changes due to the restoration.

Remember to consider your household's income and other expenses when answering the following question.

**Would you be willing to contribute \${e://Field/Bid} dollars per year for a period of 5 years?**

- Yes
- No

**If you choose No in the previous question**, please let us know how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I don't think I should have to contribute any amount to the restoration of the Ocklawaha River	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am against any non-profit organization	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It is too expensive for my household	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I prefer a state-wide referendum to decide whether additional taxes or fees will be used to protect the ecosystem	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I do not trust a non-profit organization will achieve the goals of the restoration	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



## Willingness to pay- Referendum

**Suppose that you have the opportunity to vote on the partial restoration plan.** If more than 50% of Floridian households vote for the plan, then it would be put into practice. The funds would be collected through utility taxes for a period of 5 years. Currently, all Florida residents pay utility taxes as part of their water, electricity, and gas bills.

Proceeds from these taxes would only be used on the partial restoration plan and providing assistance for local communities to adapt to changes due to the restoration.

Remember to consider your household's income and other expenses when answering the following question.

**Would you be willing to pay \${e://Field/Bid} dollars per year for a period of 5 years?**

- Yes
- No

**If you choose No in the previous question,** please let us know how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I do not trust policy makers will achieve the goals of the restoration	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I prefer a state-wide referendum to decide whether additional taxes or fees will be used to protect the ecosystem	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I don't think I should have to contribute any amount to the restoration of the Ocklawaha River	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Strongly agree	Agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I am against additional government spending	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It is too expensive for my household	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Consequentiality**

On a scale of 1 to 10, how likely do you think the results of this survey will be used by policy makers to make informed management decisions?

Not at all likely
Very likely

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

Likelihood

On a scale of 1 to 10, how do you rate the difficulty of the survey questions and materials?

Very easy
Very difficult

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

Difficulty of the survey

**Other Demographics and Environmental Organizations**

Finally, we have a few background questions to be sure we've contacted a representative group of respondents.

This is the last section of the survey.

What is your 5-digit home zip code?

How many years have you lived in Florida?

- Less than a year     1-5     6-15     16-25     26-50     More than 50 years

Including yourself, how many people live in your household?

What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- 8th grade or less  
 Some high school  
 High school degree or equivalent  
 Some college  
 Trade/technical school or Associate's degree  
 Bachelor's degree  
 Graduate or Professional school

During 2017, did you or anyone in your household contribute money and/or time to nonprofit charitable organizations?

- Yes  
 No  
 I don't know

During 2017, approximately how much money did your household donate to nonprofit charitable organizations?

Did any part of your donation in 2017 go to an environmentally-focused nonprofit charitable organization?

- Yes  
 No  
 I don't know

This is the last page of the survey! Thank you for your responses!

If you have any additional comments about the survey, Ocklawaha River, or the Rodman Reservoir, please feel free to share them here.

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