

SJRWMD Discussion Topics – Meeting September 30, 2021 1:00 pm

What would you like to see happen with the Rodman Reservoir and Kirkpatrick Dam moving forward?

We would like to see the continued operations supporting the Buckman Lock, Kirkpatrick Dam, Rodman Lake and all of the recreational areas surrounding it. This area is a thriving wildlife habitat, with world-class fishing that helps support a largely rural economy.

What is the most important piece of information that supports your position?

This area is one of Putnam County's top tourism assets drawing thousands of visitors each year. This asset delivers much needed profitable tourism dollars for our county. Much of the success of soliciting large-scale nationally televised tournaments is due to the presence of Rodman. Rodman Lake is featured annually as one of the top ten bass fisheries in the State and in the top 100 in the United States.

What would be your biggest concern if your desired outcome is not achieved?

Tremendous loss of critical income to an already fiscally constrained County. Putnam County is a designated RAO (Rural Areas of Opportunity) - Defined as a rural community that has been adversely affected by extraordinary economic events or natural disasters.

Is there any scenario short of fully achieving your desired outcome you could support?

We are unaware of any compromise that could help both sides achieve their desired outcomes. We respectfully ask that the fate of Rodman Reservoir be guided by facts and reason, not overwhelming campaigns of misinformation.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS/STATEMENTS

Florida DEP estimates that Rodman Reservoir supported 307,217 visitor days in 1993, more visits than all but 10 of Florida's 129 state parks. In 1992, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers estimated there were 376,609 visitor days, more visits than all but 12 of Florida's 129 parks. Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission (GFC) documented the total recreational use of Rodman Reservoir (343,840 person-hours) was 3 times greater than the use of the Ocklawaha River (113,859 person-hours).

Florida GFC also documented that Rodman Reservoir supported 32,059 person-hours of recreational swimming, 13,934 person-hours of recreational boating, 6,839 person-hours of canoeing, and 1,195 person-hours of hunting. Rodman Reservoir provided more non-fishing recreational use (62,229 person-hours) than the Ocklawaha River (51,650 person-hours). Florida DEP estimated a loss of 55% of the total recreational use if the Ocklawaha River is restored. Florida GFC concluded the loss of Rodman Reservoir will result in a 63% decrease in recreational use. (Fl. DEP Socio-economic Study, Volume 1-pages 2-40, 3-37, 3-41 & 3-55; (Fl. GFC Recreational Use and Fisheries Report, pages 5,9, & 15)

St. Johns River Water Management District documented over 12 different habitat types within the Rodman Reservoir Complex, more habitats than the Ocklawaha River, The Rodman Reservoir Complex includes over a mile of river and flood plain swamp and there is now a greater number of species inhabiting the Rodman Reservoir area than before impoundment.

Source: Dr. Daniel E. Canfield compiled these statements from reports from agencies stated.

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St. Johns River Water Management District also found that it is highly unlikely that sediment inflows are a significant problem in retaining Rodman reservoir. It is estimated that it would take about 8,000 years to fill in the reservoir.

Source: St. Johns River Water Management District Environmental Studies Concerning Four Alternatives for Rodman reservoir and The Oklawaha River, Volume 20 – Pages 17,18,19,77,94 & Appendix A; Volume 10 Page 137

GENERAL INFORMATION

Rodman Reservoir is in Putnam County, Florida, and considered a premier largemouth bass fishery located in Northeast Florida, covers 9,500 acres, and is about 15 miles long. It is located south of Palatka Fl off Hwy 19 and connected to St Johns River. Rodman Reservoir is legendary for the number of fish species, trophy bass, redbreast sunfish, and channel catfish which it continues to produce. Not to mention the wildlife and bird species to view. It's consistently ranked with Florida as one of the top ten best bass lakes in the country.

TROPHYCATCH TRACKER

TrophyCatch is FWC's citizen-science program that rewards anglers for documenting and releasing trophy bass 8 pounds or larger. The following TrophyCatch bass have been submitted from Rodman Reservoir:

Lunker Club (8 – 9.9 pounds): 720

Trophy Club (10 - 12.9 pounds): 155

Hall of Fame Club (13+ pounds): 4