

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HM 1669

Lands Underlying the George Kirkpatrick Dam

SPONSOR(S): Pickens

TIED BILLS:

IDEN./SIM. BILLS: SB 1656

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) <u>Natural Resources</u>	<u>16 Y, 0 N</u>	<u>McKinnon</u>	<u>Lotspeich</u>
2) _____	_____	_____	_____
3) _____	_____	_____	_____
4) _____	_____	_____	_____
5) _____	_____	_____	_____

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

HM1669 urges the U.S. Congress to provide for conveyance of National Forest lands underlying the George Kirkpatrick Dam on Ocklawaha River near Palatka, Florida, and related lands to State of Florida. This bill has no expected fiscal impact.

This document does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill sponsor or House of Representatives.

STORAGE NAME: h1669a.nr.doc

DATE: March 27, 2003

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. DOES THE BILL:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Reduce government? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Lower taxes? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Expand individual freedom? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Increase personal responsibility? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Empower families? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

For any principle that received a "no" above, please explain:

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

Section 253.782, F.S., creates the Cross Florida Greenway within the former Cross-Florida Barge Canal lands located within the Ocklawaha River Valley. Section 253.7829, F.S., requires the former Canal Authority to develop a management plan for the newly created Cross-Florida Greenway, and to submit that plan to the Governor, Cabinet and Legislature for approval by a certain time. The plan requires, *inter alia*, a statement relating to the final disposition of the canal works at the Rodman Reservoir. A plan was submitted which included four alternatives for the disposition of the Rodman Reservoir: (1) total retention of the reservoir; (2) total restoration of the Ocklawaha River; (3) partial retention of the reservoir; and (4) partial restoration of the river. In 1992, the Governor and Cabinet approved the management plan and selected the partial restoration option. During the 1993 Legislative Session, the Legislature adopted the management plan (see s. 48, 93-213, Laws of Florida) and directed additional study on the four alternatives for Rodman Reservoir and presentation of recommendations to the Governor and Cabinet, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate. In 1995, the study was completed, and DEP informed the Governor and Cabinet that its recommendation of partial restoration had not changed. The Governor and Cabinet took no action to select another alternative, and the Governor directed DEP to proceed with partial restoration.

In 2000, Governor Bush renewed DEP's charge to proceed with partial restoration. Applications for necessary state and federal permits have been filed and remain pending before the St. Johns River Water Management District, the United States Forest Service and the United States Army Corps of Engineers. In January of this year, the required environmental impact statement (EIS) was completed as part of the U.S. Forest Service permitting process.

Rodman Reservoir is currently managed as part of the Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area, by the DEP's Office of Greenways & Trails. Rodman Reservoir is managed as a multiple use area (s. 258.7825, F.S.). A comprehensive greenway management plan has been prepared by the University of Florida to help guide future management of Rodman Reservoir and the greenway.

Most of the significant ownerships within the easement area in Putnam County have already been acquired by the State. Most of the easement areas in Marion County, including those associated with Eureka Dam, have *not* been mapped or appraised. The remaining easement ownerships, however, are relatively small in size and number.

Effect of proposed changes

HM1669 requests the United States Congress to convey National Forest System lands underlying the George Kirkpatrick Dam on the Ocklawaha River in Palatka, Florida to the State of Florida.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Provides for a Memorial requesting the United States Congress to convey National Forest System lands underlying the George Kirkpatrick Dam on the Ocklawaha River in Palatka, Florida to the State of Florida.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

N/A

2. Expenditures:

N/A

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

N/A

2. Expenditures:

N/A

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

N/A

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

None.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

In section 1., Lines 5 & 26, Oklawaha River is misspelled. Additionally, in s. 373.0693, F.S., Oklawaha River is misspelled throughout the section. Numerous scientific journals and federal documents refer to the river as the "**Ocklawaha River**". A revisers bill may be needed to correct the spelling.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES