

BACKGROUND

The Ocklawaha River, one of Florida's most historic and ecologically vital waterways, was partially impounded in the 1960s with the construction of the Rodman/Kirkpatrick Dam—part of the now-abandoned Cross Florida Barge Canal project. Though the canal was halted in 1971 due to environmental concerns, the resulting Rodman Reservoir (Lake Ocklawaha) remained, creating a thriving ecosystem and a cherished destination for fishing, boating, and wildlife. For over five decades, site has sparked passionate debate. Restoration advocates seek to return the Ocklawaha to its natural state, while supporters of preservation—including Save Rodman Reservoir, Inc.—argue the current reservoir sustains rich biodiversity, local recreation, and economic benefit. Today, the Kirkpatrick Dam still stands at the center of this environmental and community crossroads.





SAVE RODMAN RESERVOIR, INC.

Save Rodman Reservoir, Inc. is a nonprofit advocacy organization dedicated to preserving the Rodman Reservoir (also known as Lake Ocklawaha) in north-central Florida. Established by concerned citizens, anglers, outdoor enthusiasts, and local business owners, the organization aims to prevent the breaching of the Kirkpatrick Dam, which would drain the reservoir and radically alter the area's ecological and recreational landscape.



Mission:

To protect the Rodman Reservoir as a critical part of Florida's natural heritage, wildlife habitat, water quality system, and outdoor recreation economy.

Vision:

To ensure Rodman Reservoir remains protected for future generations as a thriving, community-rooted resource that balances ecological stewardship with human enjoyment and economic sustainability.

Core Focus Areas:

- Local Economic Impact
 - Highlighting the reservoir's contribution to small businesses, tourism, and jobs throughout Putnam County and surrounding areas.
- Aquatic Ecosystem
 - Advocating for the reservoir's role in mitigating pollution, supporting fisheries, and maintaining healthy water systems for the aquatic ecosystem that has developed over the last 50+ years.
- Wildlife Ecosystem
 - Defending a stable and mature ecosystem decades in the making, teeming with biodiversity that removal would disrupt.
- Outdoor Recreation
 - Championing the reservoir as a destination for boating, fishing, camping, and ecotourism that benefits local communities.

Activities:

- Public education campaigns
- Community engagement and events
- Grassroots lobbying of state and federal officials
- Research and outreach to counter dam removal efforts

Ways to Connect with Save Rodman Reservoir, Inc.

- Website: www.RodmanReservoir.org
- Email: Send message through contact form on website
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/SaveRodmanReservoir
- Mail: PO Box 740, Fort McCoy, FL 32134



