

## S29 Day Paddles - Upper Ocklawaha River

### Lake Griffin Marina to Moss Bluff South Ramp Paddle Information Sheet

**Description:** The Ocklawaha River starts at Lake Griffin and flows northward 74 miles to the St Johns. Ocklawaha is derived from the Creek word for “muddy”. There are 2 water control structures along the entire river, the Moss Bluff Spillway and the Rodman Dam. This section includes a 2 mile paddle on the northern end of Lake Griffin before starting in the river. After the Hwy 42 bridge, the canal portion of the paddle starts and continues all the way to the Moss Bluff Spillway takeout. The man-made berm south of Moss Bluff, is on the east side of the river, and limits visibility while in your kayak. South sides of the dam have parts where the berm does not have any trees along it. So there’s just tall grasses growing in the water on the shore line which block boaters of any type from pulling up to get out. Limited opportunities to observe wildlife. Sunnyhill ramp is one of the few places to get out of the boat and stretch your legs.

**Skill Level:** Intermediate

**Distance/Approximate Time:** 14.4 Miles/6 Hours

**Launch Site:** Lake Griffin Marina Ramp

**Takeout Site:** Moss Bluff South Ramp

**Special Considerations:** Lake Griffin is a big lake and can get quite rough on windy days. Launch fee. Some powerboat traffic in the river. This paddle requires shuttling.

#### Skill Level Definitions

**Beginner:** New to paddling and may need tips and or instructions about paddling strokes, safety procedures, and entering/exiting kayaks. Comfortable on short trips of 1 to 3 miles on protected waters, when wind does not exceed 5 mph.

**Novice:** Paddlers acquainted with basic paddle strokes and can manage kayak handling independently in winds not exceeding 10 mph on protected waters. Comfortable on trips up to 6 miles.

**Intermediate:** Paddlers with experience in basic strokes and some experience on different venues, including some open water. Comfortable on trip distances of 6 to 10 miles, winds not exceeding 15 mph.

**Advanced:** Seasoned paddlers who possess skills and experience to paddle all venues and conditions. Experienced in self-rescues. Should be comfortable paddling more than 10 miles in a day.

**NOTE:** Great care has been taken to ensure this guides accuracy, but weather, tides, and water conditions can change rapidly and create hazardous conditions. These maps are for visual reference only, please consult NOAA Charts for navigation. Paddlers should have all proper safety equipment and check conditions before departure. All paddlers should always wear PFDs while on the water, and leave a float plan. There are inherent dangers in any paddle sport. There are special hazards along the Florida coast due to shifting tides, changing wind and weather, shallow waters, and treacherous bottoms with soft mud, rocks, and oyster bars. It is up to each paddler to be aware of these dangers, to accept and be prepared for the risks involved, and to be certain they have the skills to safely paddle in these conditions.