RESOLUTION NO. 88-ENV-03


WHEREAS, the Lower Econlockhatchee River Project containing approximately 15,000 acres in Seminole and Volusia Counties, Florida, has been proposed for ranking under the Conservation and recreation lands program by the Central Florida Sierra Club and the Central Florida Native Plant Society. On October 13, 1987 the project received a unanimous vote by the Land Acquisition Selection Committee to recommend the project for a complete evaluation; and

WHEREAS, the Lower Econlockhatchee River Project has approximately 10 miles of frontage on the Econlockhatchee River, an important tributary encompassing a significant area within the 10 year floodplain of the Upper St. Johns River Basin, and a priority area for land acquisition by the St. Johns River Management District; and

WHEREAS, the Geneva Bubble, a regionally significant lens of potable water in the Floridan Aquifer lies beneath a portion of the Project area; and

WHEREAS, the Lower Econlockhatchee River Project encompasses diverse natural communities which have great value for wildlife habitat, and encompasses land that is used as the only large mammal migration route between the St. Johns River basin and the Kissimmee River basin; and

WHEREAS, the Lower Econlockhatchee River Project has significant archaeological sites within its boundaries, five of which are on the State of Florida’s Master Site File. The Ais Indians used the river as a migration route between the Winter Park area and the Indian River to the east. Econlockhatchee possibly means river of mounds and it is believed that a considerable amount of sites will be discovered once access to the property is possible; and

WHEREAS, recent surveys indicate an increasing shortfall in East Central Florida's recreational opportunities and facilities. The Lower Econlockhatchee River Project would provide primitive canoeing, camping, as well as land for active recreational facilities. Infinite educational opportunities are also in the project; and

WHEREAS, Development in this rapidly urbanizing East Orange County has threatened the Econlockhatchee River on many occasions and more recently Martin Marietta and International Corporate Park have been granted development approval by the Orange County Commission to develop areas in the southern headwaters of the river. Land acquisition thus is the only solution to preserving this river basin.
NOW THEREFORE BE RESOLVED BY THE ORANGE COUNTY COMMISSION that the Orange County Commission supports the inclusion of the Lower Econlockhatchee River Project on the priority list of the Conservation and Recreation Lands Program, and the acquisition of the project under this program by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 28th DAY OF March, 1988

VICE CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

Secretary