

Apalachicola Riverkeeper ♦ Florida Conservation Coalition ♦ Florida Wildlife Federation
National Wildlife Federation ♦ 1000 Friends of Florida

October 28, 2015

Via Email: acf-wcm@usace.army.mil

Colonel Jon J. Chytka
District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mobile District
P.O. Box 2288
Mobile, AL 36628

Re: Request for Extension of the Public Comment Period on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement Update of the Water Control Manual for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia and a Water Supply Storage Assessment (October 2015)

Dear Col. Chytka:

The undersigned organizations request a 60 day extension to submit comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement Update of the Water Control Manual for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia and a Water Supply Storage Assessment (October 2015) (the "ACF DEIS").

As you are aware, the ACF DEIS consists of 3 Volumes, including 14 Appendices, which collectively contain 4,241 pages. Volume 1 of the DEIS is itself more than 700 pages long. The Appendices include five separate project-level water control manuals and a master water control manual. Assessing these materials also requires an evaluation of complex modeling carried out by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Our organizations appreciate the extensive nature of the documentation in the DEIS. However, providing meaningful comments on these materials will require more than the 60 days currently provided. We require additional time to review and evaluate this extensive set of materials; analyze the underlying models; evaluate whether the ACF DEIS and the recommended alternative comply with federal environmental laws, executive orders, and planning policies; and prepare extensive written comments.

The current operation of the ACF system is causing significant harm to the ecological health of the Apalachicola River, Floodplain and Bay and harming the economic vitality of the entire region. The significant ramifications of the recommended alternative and the fundamental purpose of public comment under the National Environmental Policy Act make it critical that the public have a meaningful opportunity to review, analyze and comment on the ACF DEIS.

For these reasons, we request a 60 day extension of time to submit comments on the DEIS, such that comments would be due no earlier than Monday, February 1, 2016.

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Thank you for your consideration of this request. We ask that you respond in writing to this request to Melissa Samet at the National Wildlife Federation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Samet", written in a cursive style.

Melissa Samet
Senior Water Resources Counsel
National Wildlife Federation
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sametm@nwf.org, 415-762-8264

Dan Tonsmeire
Riverkeeper
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cc: Brigadier General C. David Turner, Commander South Atlantic Division