

Upper Ocklawaha River Basin Report
For March 2011 Governing Board

Lake Levels and Flows

In December, the District began a temporary reduction in discharge at the Apopka and Burrell structures to protect water quality in the basin. Flows were reduced to zero until the end of April 2011. The District also reduced discharge at Moss Bluff from 30 cfs to 10 cfs on January 18, 2011. These actions have helped to hold water levels higher on lakes Apopka, Beauclair, Dora, Eustis, Harris and Griffin. In fact, as of February 11, 2011, Lake Apopka is up 3.6 inches, Lake Eustis is up over 4.5 inches and Lake Griffin is up almost 3 inches since December 15th.

Shad Harvesting

This year's shad harvesting on Lake Apopka was completed December 31, 2010. The fishermen harvested 625,000 pounds of shad. Toward the end of the season, the fish size declined rapidly and catch rates were much lower. Based on current experimental gill net samples, there are insufficient numbers of shad in Newnans Lake to support harvest activity in the spring. Staff will meet with FWC in April to work out details to shift the harvest on Newnans Lake to the fall of 2011. Staff also contracted to begin experimental gill net sampling on Lake George to determine the shad population on that lake.