

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 805

To provide for a comprehensive study by the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences to assess the water management, needs, and conservation of the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River System.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 2, 2009

Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself and Mr. MARTINEZ) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

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## A BILL

To provide for a comprehensive study by the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences to assess the water management, needs, and conservation of the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River System.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. STUDY ON THE APALACHICOLA-CHATTAHOO-**  
4       **CHEE-FLINT RIVER SYSTEM.**

5       (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1           (1) ACF RIVER SYSTEM.—The term “ACF  
2       River System” means the Apalachicola-Chattahoo-  
3       chee-Flint River System.

4           (2) COUNCIL.—The term “Council” means the  
5       National Research Council of the National Academy  
6       of Sciences.

7           (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
8       the Secretary of the Army.

9       (b) NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL STUDY.—Not  
10      later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act,  
11      the Secretary shall offer to enter into an agreement with  
12      the Council under which the Council shall conduct a com-  
13      prehensive study of the water management, needs, and  
14      conservation of the ACF River System.

15      (c) MATTERS TO BE ADDRESSED.—The study under  
16      subsection (b) shall include the following:

17           (1) A summary of the existing body of scientific  
18      knowledge on—

19                (A) the ecology, hydrology, geomorphology,  
20                and biogeochemistry of the Apalachicola River  
21                and the greater ACF River System;

22                (B) the ecosystem services provided by the  
23                Apalachicola River;

24                (C) the impact of variation in freshwater  
25                flow on the ecology of the river and downstream

1 coastal ecosystems, including the Apalachicola  
2 Bay ecosystem; and

3 (D) how to restore the natural hydraulic  
4 function of the ACF River System, including  
5 restoration of floodplains and wetlands.

6 (2) An assessment of models that serve as the  
7 basis for the master manuals of the ACF River Sys-  
8 tem.

9 (3) An assessment of water availability, supply  
10 options, demand-management alternatives, and so-  
11 cioeconomic factors that influence uses in the ACF  
12 River System, including water quality, navigation,  
13 hydropower, recreation, in-stream ecology, and flood  
14 control.

15 (4) An assessment of policies, regulations, and  
16 other factors that affect Federal water project oper-  
17 ations.

18 (5) Recommendations for an approach to deter-  
19 mine water limits that recognize the needs of all  
20 water users along the ACF River System, including  
21 adequate in-stream flow requirements.

22 (6) Recommendations for any additional meas-  
23 ures to address the long-term watershed manage-  
24 ment needs of the ACF River System as the Council  
25 considers to be appropriate.

1       (d) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after entering  
2 into an agreement under subsection (b), the Council shall  
3 submit to the Secretary and Congress a report containing  
4 the findings of the study under subsection (b), including  
5 such recommendations as the Council considers to be ap-  
6 propriate.

7       (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
8 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
9 \$1,200,000.

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