

Email Response from DEP Chuck Hatcher, Director of Division of Recreation & Parks

Regarding Ichetucknee SPZ 2025 Request

9/4/2025

"Hello Madison,

Thank you for reaching out for comment on the proposed Ichetucknee River Springs Protection Zone.

The Florida Park Service has spent decades protecting the spring run and adjacent uplands while allowing park visitors to enjoy recreating on park lands. While the majority of the state park is located north of Highway 27, a small portion of park land is located just south and west of the highway and adjacent to the proposed area.

Beginning in 1990 to protect the resources of the river and to limit the introduction of exotic invasive aquatic vegetation, motorized watercraft were restricted from going upstream of Highway 27. Paddle craft are welcome to enter the park. Each year more than 100,000 tubers experience the pristine waterway while floating downstream inside the park.

The Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks does not oppose the establishment of the Springs Protection Area.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Chuck Hatcher



Chuck Hatcher, Director

Division of Recreation and Parks

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