

Florida has returned to a bygone era of rife [political corruption involving conservation land purchases](#). You remember the \$83 million the state gave to a Louisiana gangster for 4-acres of Destin beach property without the opportunity for public commentary earlier this month.

Twelve former senior regulators told the *Tampa Bay Times* the deal bypassed the statutory ranking process and “erodes confidence and trust in what the state government is supposed to do with land acquisition.”

A deep dive here on the political sausage-making that allowed it to happen – and how land conservation in Florida has become corrupted.

LINK: https://substack.com/inbox/post/175838182?utm_source=post-email-title&publication_id=4636548&post_id=175838182&utm_campaign=email-post-title&isFreemail=true&r=g2ims&triedRedirect=true&utm_medium=email

[The State’s Attorney General](#) is at the center of this scandal and many others involving misusing public funds – or perhaps using them exactly as he thinks they are intended to be used: as political favors and for pursuing partisan objectives.

LINK: https://substack.com/inbox/post/175873486?utm_source=post-email-title&publication_id=4636548&post_id=175873486&utm_campaign=email-post-title&isFreemail=true&r=g2ims&triedRedirect=true&utm_medium=email

How [conservation easements in Florida have become a con](#) with little conservation value.

LINK: https://substack.com/inbox/post/176068542?utm_source=post-email-title&publication_id=4636548&post_id=176068542&utm_campaign=email-post-title&isFreemail=true&r=g2ims&triedRedirect=true&utm_medium=email

Climate change no longer exists [as far as the federal government is concerned](#). That includes at the Department of Defense – er, War – where the secretary in charge calls global warming “[climate change crap](#).”

Climate change does, however, exist on military bases around Florida which are being left unprepared for the realities it presents thanks to the unreality the DOD and federal government operate in.

LINK: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/oct/14/pentagon-military-climate-crisis-trump>

LINK: https://grist.org/language/strategy-behind-trump-climate-catchphrase-green-new-scam/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=daily

Speaking of which, climate activists around the world are increasingly [being targeted by governments](#) – often violently, often with incarceration – for their efforts to save the planet.

LINK: https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/oct/13/climate-defenders-mary-lawlor-human-rights?utm_term=68ee3ec9245632dcd954fb1466aa94fa&utm_campaign=USMorningBriefing&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=usbriefing_email

Right whale populations – still below 400 individuals worldwide – have made [a slight, but significant uptick](#). The whales use waters off the southeastern US coast – including Florida – for their winter calving grounds.

LINK: https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/oct/21/right-whale-population-increasing?utm_term=68f8b5b62193f1b41210d479a043b582&utm_campaign=USMorningBriefing&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=usbriefing_email

A rare lizard with [a small population existing in Panhandle longleaf pine forests](#) has advocates seeking Endangered Species Act protection on its behalf.

LINK: <https://www.newsobserver.com/news/local/article312514392.html?emci=37c60207-caae-f011-8e61-6045bded8ba4&emdi=324d4c07-56b0-f011-8e61-6045bded8ba4&ceid=1955550>

When you break an ecosystem, it's hard to put back together again. To wit, all the effort and reengineering efforts being undertaken to correct historic development damage, dredging, and pollution in the [Indian River Lagoon](#), which I have always argued is as ecologically extraordinary as the Everglades.

LINK: <https://www.sjrwmd.com/streamlines/turning-the-tide-district-projects-restoring-the-indian-river-lagoon/>

The good folks at the Florida Springs Council are inviting people to attend their [Reunite the Rivers Coalition](#) event at Azalea City Brewing in Palatka on November 7 in support of Ocklawaha River restoration. There will be live music, food trucks, a screening of the “Lost Springs” documentary and a panel discussion following the film screening with artist Margaret Tolbert.

LINK: https://www.facebook.com/events/1104652551442397/?rdid=fx0YXv6gMtA0B0ks&share_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fshare%2F19k89VnG9T%2F#

How [Trump gutted the team](#) meant to build America's energy future.

LINK: https://www.canarymedia.com/articles/clean-industry/how-trump-gutted-the-team-meant-to-build-americas-energy-future?utm_source=climate-desk&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=climate-desk-newsletter-10-19-2025

The Trump administration plans to [lay off more than 2,000 employees of the Interior Department](#), including hundreds of workers from the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Land Management. Scientists, park rangers, those sort of people, the federal employees – bureaucrats – who daily protect our public lands and spaces for outdoor recreation

On October 20, Athan Manuel, director of the Sierra Club's lands protection program, called the latest proposed layoffs "sabotage," in a statement.

The effort predates the Trump government shutdown and is being challenged in court.

LINK: <https://www.outsideonline.com/outdoor-adventure/environment/the-white-house-national-park-service-firings>

Trump's Department of the Interior Friday overturned suspended oil and gas leases for the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority and opened the entire 1.5 million acres of the Arctic Refuge's Coastal Plain to [oil and gas leasing and drilling](#). This endangers one of the last remaining untouched wilderness areas in America. This region is the calving ground of the Porcupine Caribou herd and is essential to a complex Arctic ecosystem that includes threatened polar bears, migratory birds, and other wildlife.

And...

Finalized a controversial land exchange with the State of Alaska, enabling a commercial-use road to be built through designated wilderness in Izembek National Wildlife Refuge. Izembek NWR provides essential habitat for hundreds of thousands of migratory birds, including nearly the entire global population of Pacific black brant, as well as brown bears, salmon, and other iconic wildlife. The over 300,000-acre refuge contains some of the most intact wetlands and eelgrass beds in the world, supporting biodiversity that stretches far beyond Alaska's borders.

This is what a war on nature looks like.

You can be outraged by these actions, but don't be surprised. Trump campaigned on attacking the environment at the behest of industry, derailing clean energy to support Big Oil, and selling off our public lands to the highest bidder.

LINK: https://www.refugeassociation.org/press-releases/2025/10/23/damaging-day-for-national-wildlife-refuges-in-alaska?ms=refuge_press&utm_campaign=alaskaday_izembek_arctic&utm_medium=email&utm_source=presslist_generalsupporters&emci=4f07ba83-dfb0-f011-8e61-6045bded8ba4&emdi=9a1cd25e-e8b0-f011-8e61-6045bded8ba4&ceid=1332102

“Dewatering,” a seemingly innocent term only the morality unbound public relations companies working on behalf of billionaire tech oligarchs could manufacture. “Dewatering” means stealing and polluting residential water supplies for corporate profit.

As you might imagine, this community “dewatering” is occurring around artificial intelligence supporting data centers.

LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjkaYyysYhA&feature=youtu.be>