

In a special session of the Florida legislature last week, state politicians gave another gift to developers, preventing local municipalities from making changes to their land-use or growth plans over the next three years to prevent rebuilding in areas wiped out by hurricanes.

As my “Welcome to Florida” podcast co-host Craig Pittman [deftly summarized in the article](#), “the goal of this moratorium on making changes is — I am paraphrasing here — to help builders rebuild in exactly the same way in exactly the same place that was wiped out before so it can be wiped out again.”

Building and rebuilding in areas prone and likely to be obliterated by future storms is stupid, dangerous, and one reason why [Florida is experiencing a home insurance crisis](#).

LINK: <https://floridaphoenix.com/2023/11/16/fl-lawmakers-love-developers-so-much-they-want-to-put-us-at-risk-of-being-killed-by-hurricanes/>

LINK: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/ron-desantis-faces-growing-pressure-over-floridas-insurance-crisis/ar-AA1k6bew>

Meanwhile, the federal government’s just-released [Fifth National Climate Assessment](#) suggests the effects of global warming and sea level rise “requires fundamental reimagining of the coast” to reduce coastal development, and in fact, encourage people to leave these areas before the inevitability of devastation by storms.

LONG READ: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/news-updates/2023/11/09/fact-sheet-fifth-national-climate-assessment-details-impacts-of-climate-change-on-regions-across-the-united-states/>

HIGHLIGHTS: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/biden-fifth-national-climate-assessment-5-key-takeaways-climate-change/>

North Florida Land Trust, the Florida Trail Association and the U.S. Forest Service will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new 2-mile segment of the Florida National Scenic Trail that runs through NFLT’s Smith Lake Preserve in Clay County. The ceremony will be held on Friday, Dec. 1 at 2 p.m. followed by a guided hike along the new trail.

Guests are asked to arrive at the NFLT Stewardship Facility at 5525 Christian Camp Rd. in Keystone Heights at 1 p.m. and will be shuttled to the site of the ribbon cutting. Space is limited and guests must RSVP to bit.ly/SmithLakeRSVP.

Region-wide efforts to restore longleaf pine forest that once dominated the South [received a boost this week](#). Prior to European contact, longleaf pine ecosystems covered some 90 million acres from Virginia through north Florida and west to eastern Texas. Only a tiny fragment remains.

LINK: <https://americaslongleaf.org/news/2023/celebrating-the-nation-s-leading-forest-restoration-effort-and-recommitting-for-another-15-years-for-longleaf-pine-restoration/>

Insightful notes from the Florida Wildflower Foundation on [pruning your native plants](#).

LINK: https://www.flawildflowers.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Pruning_Notes_for_Native_Plants_3.pdf

Invasive [Burmese pythons are spreading north](#). Climate change will accelerate this.

LINK: <https://www.news-press.com/story/news/environment/2023/06/07/burmese-pythons-south-florida-how-far-north-are-pythons-spotted/70184662007/>