

Governor DeSantis wants to support resiliency in Florida without any of [that “left-wing stuff,”](#) meaning, he opposes any measures to curtail the state’s dependence upon fossil fuels for energy or which would support clean energy initiatives; his resiliency plans, sadly, are heavy on “gray” infrastructure – more walls, levies, pipes.

He did not clarify if he also categorized reforestation, energy efficiency, land conservation, regenerative agriculture, mass transit, more walkable cities or other actions which can help mitigate the effects and causes of climate change without the need to grease his wealthy donors in the construction sector as “left wing stuff.”

LINK: <https://floridaphoenix.com/2021/12/16/desantis-wants-to-deal-with-floridas-sea-level-rise-without-left-wing-stuff/>

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Florida’s Senate Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources plans to address PFAS, a class of man-made compounds referred to as [“forever chemicals”](#) that may pose public health or ecological risks.

LINK: <https://floridaphoenix.com/blog/forever-chemicals-fl-senate-panel-proposes-to-tackle-pfas-contamination/>

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In the summer of 2019, Twin Pines Minerals, filed an application to mine roughly 8,000 acres of land on the doorstep of the Okefenokee Swamp. The proposed mine would take place on Trail Ridge which borders the eastern side of the refuge.

Excavation for heavy mineral sands would extend to depths of 50 feet. Impacts to the hydrology of the Swamp are uncertain, but many believe Trail Ridge acts as a barrier to groundwater flow and mining Trail Ridge could have a dramatic impact on water levels in the refuge. Water declines of a few feet would have a devastating impact on the ecology of the Okefenokee Swamp.

Initial public reviews focused on a federal review through a Corps of Engineers permitting process. A redefinition of wetlands by the Trump Administration resulted in the finding that no federally protected wetlands were within the proposed mining area. The focus has now shifted to a permit process conducted by the State of Georgia.

If you would like to know more about efforts to protect Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge please watch the recently released film [“Sacred Water: The Okefenokee In Peril.”](#)

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While the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and state officials plan to move forward with an unprecedented initiative for [feeding starving manatees](#) who’ve seen their native seagrass beds devastated by polluted water coming from agricultural and industrial runoff, leaking septic tanks, and runaway development, the Florida State House Environment, Agriculture and Flooding Subcommittee has approved a measure [allowing private developers to offset the impact of their projects](#) on Florida's coastal estuaries by allowing them to pay for seagrass restoration or other mitigation efforts somewhere elsewhere.

Manatees are dying in record numbers due to starvation as a result of the seagrass beds which they forage being destroyed, but that apparently isn’t stopping Florida from giving developers more latitude to destroy even more seagrass. More proof that developers run this state.

LINK: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/florida-wildlife-officials-move-to-feed-starving-manatees-180979184/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eid=c71482ac-370b-4017-9202-c9a5c0e8732a>

LINK: [https://www.hometownnewsbrevard.com/news/bill-to-allow-seagrass-banks-clears-state-house-committee/article\\_7e545d1c-9234-11eb-bd8a-4b032ee9227a.html?eType=EmailBlastContent&eid=c71482ac-370b-4017-9202-c9a5c0e8732a](https://www.hometownnewsbrevard.com/news/bill-to-allow-seagrass-banks-clears-state-house-committee/article_7e545d1c-9234-11eb-bd8a-4b032ee9227a.html?eType=EmailBlastContent&eid=c71482ac-370b-4017-9202-c9a5c0e8732a)