

Continuing to track bills working their way through the Florida legislature, along with the Parks Protection bill mentioned last week, the one I'm most interested in is SB 50 from the Senate Environmental and Natural Resources Committee.

This one is titled "Nature-based Methods for Improving Coastal Resilience" and would require the Department of Environmental Protection to adopt rules for nature-based methods (green infrastructure – seagrass beds, mangrove forests, sand dunes, coral reefs, oyster beds, coastal wetlands, swamps, and forests) for coastal resilience and would also require the department to conduct a statewide feasibility study regarding the value of nature-based methods being used to improve coastal resilience.

The bill would also require the Florida Flood Hub for Applied Research and Innovation at the University of South Florida College of Marine Science to develop design guidelines and standards for green and gray infrastructure (gray infrastructure being man-made objects like dams, seawalls, sewers, and levees) and models for conceptual designs of green infrastructure and green-gray infrastructure.

Natural barriers were the initial "bumpers" for coastlines protecting them from storms. As those natural barriers have been destroyed in support of development and industry, coastlines have become more and more exposed, and more and more susceptible to storm damage. Green infrastructure has proven to be at least as effective as gray infrastructure, with the added benefits of being far less expensive to install and massively beneficial to ecosystems when not lessening storm impacts, compared with gray infrastructure which is devastating to ecosystems.

Even a 50-50 split between gray and green infrastructure dollars as the state tries bracing its coastal areas from storm impacts would be a massive, multi-billion, ongoing investment in restoring the environment.

Lest you forget this is gooney-bird Florida, however, the senate is also considering a bill titled "[Geoengineering and Weather Modification Activities](#)" in response to the pervasive spread of baseless rumors on social media this past fall that "chemtrails" and other illicit "weather modification" techniques utilizing planes and heavy metals are impacting public health, changing the color of the sky, and fueling stronger hurricanes.

The bill would ban attempts to cause or disperse rain, snow, fog, or other atmospheric conditions, a process often referred to as cloud seeding, by repealing 11 provisions in Florida statutes that allow state-licensed cloud-seeding to cause rain. It would also prohibit the injection, release, or dispersion of any substance or apparatus into the atmosphere within Florida's borders "for the express purpose of affecting the temperature, the weather, or the intensity of sunlight."

The bill also creates a tip line for subsequent investigation of citizen reports of suspicious aircraft and weather conditions. Oh, to have recordings of those calls!

LINK: [https://jasongarcia.substack.com/p/chemtrails-and-vaccine-lettuce-florida?utm\\_source=post-email-title&publication\\_id=687064&post\\_id=157253333&utm\\_campaign=email-post-title&isFreemail=false&r=g2ims&triedRedirect=true&utm\\_medium=email](https://jasongarcia.substack.com/p/chemtrails-and-vaccine-lettuce-florida?utm_source=post-email-title&publication_id=687064&post_id=157253333&utm_campaign=email-post-title&isFreemail=false&r=g2ims&triedRedirect=true&utm_medium=email)

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Panhandle state lawmakers are drafting a bipartisan plan that would [stop future oil drilling efforts near the state's critical waterways](#), including the Apalachicola River and Bay.

LINK: [https://www.panhandle.press/p/florida-lawmakers-are-working-on?utm\\_source=substack&utm\\_medium=email](https://www.panhandle.press/p/florida-lawmakers-are-working-on?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email)

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It's happening. A combination of more and more powerful storms, along with skyrocketing home insurance costs, has resulted in [Florida's net growth of residents becoming nearly static](#). If this keeps up for any amount of time it would be unprecedented in a state fueled and dependent upon continually adding more residents to support its economy for the last 100+ years.

Stemming the flow of new residents could allow for an opportunity to slow growth and development and think about this state's future as something other than an ongoing Ponzi scheme.

LINK: <https://floridaphoenix.com/2025/02/13/climate-fueled-hurricanes-make-floridas-rampant-growth-slow-down/>

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An exciting re-wilding project is taking place in Sarasota under the direction of a conservation organization there.

[https://bigwaterslandtrust.org/rewilding-the-quad-parcel/?bbeml=tp-e5KNqKMYvkmbFXSRvHWx3w.j9SP9qKk8yEWZ36XyhV40fQ.r\\_zgGjMuEkeMPvZSi97W6g.lv3Y4GhqhcE6qUAc1aBC7EQ](https://bigwaterslandtrust.org/rewilding-the-quad-parcel/?bbeml=tp-e5KNqKMYvkmbFXSRvHWx3w.j9SP9qKk8yEWZ36XyhV40fQ.r_zgGjMuEkeMPvZSi97W6g.lv3Y4GhqhcE6qUAc1aBC7EQ)

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Freeing the Ocklawaha River by breaching the Rodman Dam would have the added benefit of [saving Silver Springs](#), which is in bad shape.

LINK: <https://www.theinvadingsea.com/2025/01/31/rodman-reservoir-kirkpatrick-dam-silver-springs-ocklawaha-st-johns-river-florida-barge-canal/>

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Using high levels of common fertilizers on grassland [halves pollinator numbers and drastically reduces the number of flowers](#), research from the world's longest-running ecological experiment has found.

LINK: [https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/jan/20/uk-agriculture-farming-fertilisers-yields-biodiversity-study-park-grass-pollinators-bees-wildflowers-aoe?utm\\_term=679230704e79f3e1f24035d73e561f52&utm\\_campaign=DownToEarth&utm\\_source=esp&utm\\_medium=Email&CMP=greenlight\\_email](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/jan/20/uk-agriculture-farming-fertilisers-yields-biodiversity-study-park-grass-pollinators-bees-wildflowers-aoe?utm_term=679230704e79f3e1f24035d73e561f52&utm_campaign=DownToEarth&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=greenlight_email)

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Donald Trump and shadow president Elon Musk's ongoing attempts to destroy the federal government under the guise of "efficiency" has resulted in roughly 420 firings at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to date.

The firings [disproportionately target biologists and natural resource professionals](#), a direct attack on science-based conservation and the future of America's wildlife.

LINK:

<https://www.refugeassociation.org/news/2025/2/14/eodwispvhseybqgjow291z3k5wxerh?emci=2a>

[34becf-2beb-ef11-90cb-0022482a94f4&emdi=fec70345-33eb-ef11-90cb-0022482a94f4&ceid=1332102](https://www.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2025/02/sierra-club-statement-nomination-brian-nesvik-run-fish-wildlife-service)

[Trump's pick to lead the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#) is a bona fide wildlife-hater who the Sierra Club describes thusly:

“From his first day in office, Donald Trump has made it clear that he views the Endangered Species Act as a roadblock to his pro-polluter agenda rather than a duty to uphold. If his goal is to put as many species on the brink of extinction as possible, he’s found the perfect candidate in Brian Nesvik. The anti-wildlife agenda the state of Wyoming has been pursuing for years is about to debut on the national level, and the most vulnerable species will suffer the consequences. “

LINK: <https://www.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2025/02/sierra-club-statement-nomination-brian-nesvik-run-fish-wildlife-service>

In addition to USFWS employees, thousands of other civil servants working at the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service have also been fired.

LINK: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/politics/government/thousands-of-park-workers-fired-in-devastating-trump-layoffs/ar-AA1z7TTx>

If Trump and Musk were serious about cutting unnecessary federal spending, billions of dollars spent annually on [subsidies to fossil fuel companies](#) would be a good place to start. Not going to happen; Trump and Musk would rather see people suffer than companies.

LINK: [https://grist.org/politics/how-elon-musk-could-end-fossil-fuel-subsidies/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=beacon](https://grist.org/politics/how-elon-musk-could-end-fossil-fuel-subsidies/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=beacon)

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The world’s richest [countries are eliminating 15 times more biodiversity abroad](#) than within their own borders, research shows, driven by their demand for products including beef, palm oil, and timber. The US was responsible for 3% of the world’s non-US forest habitat destruction, with wealthy countries behind 13% of such damage.

[https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/feb/14/richest-nations-exporting-extinction-with-demand-for-beef-palm-oil-and-timber-aoe?utm\\_term=67af39a62c359de13946352d4bc3c873&utm\\_campaign=USMorningBriefing&utm\\_source=esp&utm\\_medium=Email&CMP=usbriefing\\_email](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/feb/14/richest-nations-exporting-extinction-with-demand-for-beef-palm-oil-and-timber-aoe?utm_term=67af39a62c359de13946352d4bc3c873&utm_campaign=USMorningBriefing&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=usbriefing_email)

What can you do about it? As I’ve written before, one of the most meaningful actions you can take to support the environment is simply buying less stuff.

I’m not talking about going hungry, driving on bald tires, or sending your kids to school with holes in their shoes. I’m talking about your need to upgrade a 2-year-old 60-inch TV with a brand new 65-inch TV. Your need for a third winter jacket in Florida. The impulse purchases. Retail therapy. The excess. Your 8<sup>th</sup> purse, your 6<sup>th</sup> fishing rod, your 3<sup>rd</sup> tablet, your 5<sup>th</sup> set of tennis shoes or white boots.

Buying less stuff requires fewer natural resources to produce all that stuff – leather, wood, minerals – and eliminates all the carbon dioxide emissions created by shipping those goods and finished products all over the world.

“No Buy 2025” is a movement hoping to encourage consumers to think twice before buying so much of the stuff we don’t need.

Give it some thought.

<https://www.cnn.com/2025/02/02/business/no-buy-2025-economy/index.html>

A similar, single-day [nationwide shopping ban is taking place February 28](#). I hope you participate. Consider it a challenge.

<https://www.newsweek.com/nationwide-economic-blackout-february-28-list-stores-being-targeted-2030269>

Whenever you shop, and obviously you must, be that for food, shoes, decorations, or whatever, shop as “small” as possible, patronizing local businesses. Generally speaking, their positive impact in your community will be much greater, and negative impact on the environment much smaller, than massive corporations.