

A look into the complexity, enormous scale, and recent successes of [Everglades restoration](#).

LINK: [https://fl.audubon.org/news/protecting-st-lucie-estuary-c-2324-stormwater-treatment-area?ms=policy-adv-email-ea-x-engagement\\_20220310\\_advisory&utm\\_source=ea&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=engagement\\_20220310\\_advisory](https://fl.audubon.org/news/protecting-st-lucie-estuary-c-2324-stormwater-treatment-area?ms=policy-adv-email-ea-x-engagement_20220310_advisory&utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=engagement_20220310_advisory)

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The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced that the [widely used insecticide malathion](#) does not pose an extinction risk to a single protected animal or plant and refused to implement any immediate, enforceable measures to protect species from the chemical poison.

The final biological opinion, which relies on scientifically unfounded assessment methods imposed during the Trump administration, stands in sharp contrast to the agency's 2017 conclusion that 1,284 species would likely be jeopardized by malathion.

The opinion even backtracked from a draft biological opinion released by the Service just last year, which also used the debunked Trump-era methodology promoted by the pesticide industry to determine that 78 endangered plant and animal species were jeopardized by the pesticide.

"The Biden administration has squandered a historic opportunity to rein in the dangerous use of one of the world's worst neurotoxic pesticides," a spokesperson for the Center for Biological Diversity said.

LINK: [https://biologicaldiversity.org/w/news/press-releases/us-fish-and-wildlife-service-refuses-to-protect-any-endangered-species-from-neurotoxic-pesticide-2022-03-08/?utm\\_source=eeo&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=eeo1131&term=EnvHealth&emci=108e4bf3-bd9f-ec11-a22a-281878b85110&emdi=28c172fe-9ba0-ec11-a22a-281878b85110&ceid=2023608](https://biologicaldiversity.org/w/news/press-releases/us-fish-and-wildlife-service-refuses-to-protect-any-endangered-species-from-neurotoxic-pesticide-2022-03-08/?utm_source=eeo&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=eeo1131&term=EnvHealth&emci=108e4bf3-bd9f-ec11-a22a-281878b85110&emdi=28c172fe-9ba0-ec11-a22a-281878b85110&ceid=2023608)

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Up the road from us, voters in Camden County, GA overwhelmingly rejected the county's plan to devote 4,000 acres to [building a new spaceport](#) due primarily to environmental concerns. The county, which has spent years and millions of dollars attempting to force the project on residents, is working to invalidate the referendum and build it anyway.

The Georgia Supreme Court has ruled [it will not intervene](#) on the County's behalf.

LINK: <https://www.npr.org/2022/03/08/1085293095/georgia-spaceport-goes-to-a-vote-as-proponents-try-to-invalidate-the-election>

LINK: <https://www.usnews.com/news/us/articles/2022-03-10/georgia-high-court-wont-halt-spaceport-vote-certification>

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Florida highway once known as a "[bear killing machine](#)" finally gets a wildlife underpass.

LINK: [https://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/environment/os-ne-wekiva-parkway-ceremony-20220307-u4gdgbq43bc7josk5xyunluva-story.html?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Don%27t%20Miss&utm\\_content=5611646695924#nws=true](https://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/environment/os-ne-wekiva-parkway-ceremony-20220307-u4gdgbq43bc7josk5xyunluva-story.html?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Don%27t%20Miss&utm_content=5611646695924#nws=true)

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According to St. John's River Water Management District reports, breaching the Kirkpatrick Dam and unleashing the springs buried by the Rodman Reservoir would create more than 150 million gallons a

day of natural flow to the lower Ocklawaha and St. Johns Rivers. That water is essential to help renourish submerged grasses.

The latest in a series of columns [supporting removal of the Kirkpatrick Dam](#) and freeing the Ocklawaha River.

LINK: <https://www.orlandosentinel.com/opinion/guest-commentary/os-op-rodman-dam-save-ocklawaha-everglades-20220222-7lgochnt65gwpe4ne6aslW6i7g-story.html>

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A new book looks at the [successful efforts to restore bald eagle populations](#) across America and the critical role Florida played in doing so. I talked to the author on a recent episode of my “Welcome to Florida” podcast.

LISTEN: <https://www.stitcher.com/show/welcome-to-florida/episode/episode-88-bald-eagles-90840442>