

GOOD NEWS: Thanks to a court-ordered agreement following two lawsuits by the Center for Biological Diversity and allies, [the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has protected more than 1.1 million acres](#) of critical habitat for Florida bonneted bats. Destructive development and pesticides nearly drove the bats extinct before previous Center litigation earned them Endangered Species Act protection in 2013.

Florida bonneted bats are the largest of their state's 13 bat species and the second largest in North America. Their bird-like echolocation calls have such a low frequency that some people can actually hear them hunt for insects.

LINK: https://biologicaldiversity.org/w/news/press-releases/critical-habitat-designated-for-endangered-florida-bonneted-bat-2024-03-06/?utm_source=eeo&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=eeo1236&utm_term=EndangeredSpecies&emci=74562c44-a1e1-ee11-85f9-002248223848&emdi=70c14a5b-3ae2-ee11-aaf0-002248223197&ceid=1955550

BETTER NEWS: The Department of the Interior last week announced the establishment of the Everglades to Gulf Conservation Area in southwest Florida as the 571st and newest unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System, which is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The new four-million-acre conservation area will provide crucial protected wildlife corridors, enhance outdoor recreation access to the public and bolster climate resilience in southwest Florida.

LINK: <https://www.fws.gov/press-release/2024-03/interior-department-establishes-everglades-gulf-conservation-area>

Both of these major actions will make development and human encroachment in these areas more difficult to the benefit of native plants and animals.

What is the right fine for a \$25 billion company that pollutes the blood of every American with an indestructible chemical that causes cancer & birth defects in animal studies?

[“The Poison Detectives” podcast](#) takes on this question and many more related to the unholy alliance between industry and government working against the health interests of people and the environment.

Duval Audubon Society has expanded the native plant garden at its [Crosby Sanctuary](#) (427 Aquarius Concourse, Orange Park).

Crosby is open to the public from 8 am until noon on the third and fourth Saturday of every month (except June, July, and December).

LINK: <https://duvalaudubon.org/index.php/2015-07-13-17-02-27/crosby-sanctuary>