

The pro-Big Sugar anti-Everglades SB 2508 passed the state Senate unanimously and passed the House by a vote of 99-8, demonstrating that when it comes to conservation in Florida, there is no difference between the political parties. SB 2508 has the potential to significantly slow down Everglade's restoration and will fundamentally change the successful Rural and Family Lands Program directing \$300 million in land buying money to the Department of Agriculture rather than the state's transparent, science-based Florida Forever.

"The carcass of [every dead manatee](#) belongs on the doorstep of (Governor Ron) DeSantis, (Senate President Wilton) Simpson and (House Speaker Chris) Sprowls," a brutal takedown of the role state leadership has played in allowing a record manatee die-off to continue unabated through its refusal to take any meaningful steps to reign in water pollution across Florida.

LINK: <https://floridaphoenix.com/2022/03/17/floridas-governor-and-legislature-did-nothing-to-stop-manatees-from-starving/>

Manatees are dying in record numbers because they are starving. Their deaths are long and excruciating. They are starving because their seagrass beds are being destroyed by pollution – agricultural and industrial runoff, excess home fertilizer, leaking septic tanks, stormwater runoff from roads and parking lots - which fuels algae blooms in the water where they live, choking off seagrass from the oxygen and sunlight it needs to grow.

This chain of events is particularly acute along the Indian River Lagoon on the state's Atlantic coast north of West Palm Beach and South of Daytona Beach. There is good news on the state's southwestern coast that [seagrass beds seem to be increasing](#).

LINK: https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2022/02/23/expanding-seagrass-beds-are-good-news-for-floridas-west-coast?utm_campaign=2022-03-14+SFN&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Pew&subscriberkey=00Q7V00001hmH4vUAE

Global carbon dioxide emissions reached [their highest level ever](#) last year after a COVID-effected decrease in 2020.

LINK: https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2022/03/08/global-carbon-dioxide-emissions-soar/9429433002/?utm_id=50509&sfmc_id=1642332

Overfishing [South Florida's coral reefs](#) is putting many species on the brink who call the area home.

<https://wusfnews.wusf.usf.edu/environment/2022-03-16/south-floridas-coral-reef-is-being-overfished-nearly-a-dozen-species-are-nearing-unsustainable-numbers>

This [Department of Defense land conservation program](#) is also working to protect natural areas in Florida. It says a lot about the nation's priorities that protecting or purchasing land for conservation is typically a low priority, but as soon as it is seen as something that can benefit the military, action begins.

LINK: https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2022/02/04/how-the-pentagon-and-partners-are-working-together-to-combat-climate-change?utm_campaign=2022-03-14+SFN&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Pew&subscriberkey=00Q7V00001hmH4vUAE

Paleontologists are teaming up with conservation experts in an attempt to save [the state's Gulf Coast oyster fishery](#).

LINK: https://www.wired.com/story/why-paleontologists-are-getting-into-floridas-oyster-business/?utm_campaign=2022-03-14+SFN&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Pew&subscriberkey=00Q7V00001hmH4vUAE

BOOK REVIEW: Georgann Eubanks treks from Alabama to North Carolina to search out native plants that are endangered and wavering on the edge of erasure in her newly published book, "[Saving the Wild South: The Fight for Native Plants on the Brink of Extinction](#)."

LINK: <https://www.amazon.com/Saving-Wild-South-Native-Extinction/dp/1469664909>