

Gopher tortoises populations and the habitat they need to survive are threatened by urban sprawl, yet the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service made the decision to deny lifesaving federal protection to the species throughout the majority of their range in Alabama, Florida, Georgia and South Carolina.

Gopher tortoises dig deep burrows that sustain more than 350 other species, including the rare Florida mouse and endangered eastern indigo snake. Without stronger safeguards these vital animals will continue to disappear across the Southeast, imperiling the forest, savanna, grassland and coastal dune ecosystems in which they live.

Conservation groups are [suing USFWS to reverse the decision](#).

LINK: <https://biologicaldiversity.org/w/news/press-releases/lawsuit-launched-over-denial-of-endangered-species-protection-to-gopher-tortoise-2023-03-22/>

You can add your voice in support of the tortoises by [signing up here](#).

LINK: <https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/action/>

Nearly ideal weather conditions in 2021 produced the second highest nesting activity for [wading birds in the Everglades](#) in the 80 years that data has been tracked. 2021 is the most recent year for which data is available.

LINK: [https://fl.audubon.org/news/2021-everglades-experienced-its-second-highest-nesting-effort-many-wading-bird-species-80-years?ms=fl-eng-email-ea-newsletter-engagement_\(fl\)_statewide_news_-_march&utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=engagement_\(fl\)_statewide_news_-_march](https://fl.audubon.org/news/2021-everglades-experienced-its-second-highest-nesting-effort-many-wading-bird-species-80-years?ms=fl-eng-email-ea-newsletter-engagement_(fl)_statewide_news_-_march&utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=engagement_(fl)_statewide_news_-_march)

Impact of roadkill worldwide [“far more shocking”](#) than researchers expected after conclusion of study.

LINK: <https://phys.org/news/2023-03-reveals-impact-roadkill-worse-thoughtsome.html>

A thorough, but approachable recap of the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s latest findings](#) on present and future rates of global warming.

LINK: https://www.nature.org/en-us/what-we-do/our-insights/perspectives/ipcc-report-climate-change/?en_txn1=s_two.gc.x.x.&sf176047769=1

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is researching the potential for a new Southwest Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Area. No firm details yet. You can [learn more and voice your opinion here](#).

LINK: <https://www.fws.gov/project/proposed-southwest-florida-fish-and-wildlife-conservation-area>