

A crappy way to start the conservation newsletter. Literally.

On Tuesday, the Supreme Court substantially weakened federal limitations on [raw sewage discharge](#) into nearby bodies of water. Its 5–4 decision will, in practice, free cities to dump substantially more sewage into rivers, lakes, oceans, and bays, degrading water quality standards around the country.

The majority achieved the goal by rewriting a key provision of the Clean Water Act that has, for decades, protected Americans against dangerous pollution. With that guardrail gutted, the majority effectively greenlit the mass release of human waste into the nation’s water supply.

Your right-wing, anti-environment, Supreme Court at work.

<https://www.ecowatch.com/supreme-court-weakens-clean-water-act-raw-sewage-us-water-supplies.html>

Florida refuses to give up on its crazed idea to hold another black bear hunt. Wildlife commissioners are [hosting a virtual meeting March 13](#) at 6 p.m. to hear the public’s thoughts about a possible bear hunt. The agency is also collecting feedback via email through [BearComments@MyFWC.com](mailto: BearComments@MyFWC.com).

A reminder that the last time Florida held a bear hunt, 2015, the program [ended in a fiasco](#) after only two days because hunters killed so many. It had been 21 years before that last one that Florida hunters were legally allowed to kill bears.

LINK: <https://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/environment/article41385834.html>

ACTION ALERT:

This one’s easy, use that email address above and this script below (if you’d like) to briefly voice your opposition to another bear hunt in Florida.

Subject: Florida citizen opposition to proposed bear hunt

Message: I am opposed to any effort by the state to sponsor a bear hunt in Florida. The last time this was tried, it ended after only two days in disaster following the slaughter of 295 bears in a weekend.

Increased bear populations in Florida are good news for the state, and increased interactions between bears and people are the result of development sprawl and a lack of curbside trash pickup in rural areas. That’s where solutions should be focused to reduce human-bear interactions

NAME

ADDRESS

The villains at RYAM (Rayonier Advanced Materials) who want to poison the air, water, and people on Amelia Island with ethanol production have filed a complaint against the City of Fernandina Beach, alleging the City's denial of its plans to build an ethanol manufacturing plant are unauthorized. The City determined two weeks ago [the proposed plant violated zoning and land use restrictions](#).

The new lawsuit petitions the court for injunctive relief declaring its application to be complete, enjoining the City from denying it based on an improper use, and requiring the City to send its application to the City's Technical Review Committee for a compliance review. In addition, RYAM asked for nearly \$4 million in legal fees/damages.

Corporations don't care about people or communities, they care about profits. RYAM has been repeatedly rebuffed by residents on Amelia Island opposed to its desired toxic chemical plant, but that has done nothing to stop the multi-billion corporation from its continued attempts to jam it down the throat of citizens.

How [small-scale container gardening](#) in Florida can yield big results for nature.

LINK: <https://floridawildlifefederation.org/small-scale-container-gardening/?emci=5f25dd16-54f4-ef11-90cb-0022482a94f4&emdi=12d0d32b-90f7-ef11-90cb-0022482a93b5&ceid=17966252>

Firing hundreds of people at the Federal Emergency Management Agency may sound like a great idea to those who agree with Donald Trump's shock-and-awe plan to cut federal spending, but guess who will get to test out the theory that those employees were unnecessary, like it or not? We will. Florida's hurricane-prone shores will land us right on [the front lines of the FEMA wars](#).

LINK: <https://www.theinvadingsea.com/2025/02/24/federal-emergency-management-agency-fema-trump-cuts-florida-hurricanes-climate-change/>

How DOGE (Department of Government Elimination/Efficiency) cuts will [hamper Everglades restoration](#).

LINK: <https://www.news-press.com/story/news/environment/2025/02/27/will-doge-cuts-hamper-everglades-restoration-critics-say-they-will/80531408007/>

Trump and unelected shadow president Elon Musk's efforts to destroy the federal government also spells bad news for endangered species.

LINK: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/mar/03/endangered-species-trump-federal-worker-firings>

The Trump Administration has [the Clean Air act in its crosshairs](#) as it looks to dismantle the regulatory state and give over the country to polluting industry. A Supreme Court ruling from a generation ago, one that would surely not be made with today's court makeup, may stop it.

Trump and unelected shadow president Musk's first month in office prove nothing is more important to environmental and conservation policy locally, statewide, federally, and globally, as the big federal elections. And as stated this week by the Natural Resources Defense Council: This is the worst White House assault ever on the environment and public health.

LINK: <https://grist.org/regulation/trump-epa-endangerment-finding/>

Trump last week instructed the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to increase logging targets and for officials to [circumvent the US's Endangered Species Act](#) by using unspecified emergency powers to ignore protections placed upon vulnerable creatures' habitats.

This move is similar to [recent instructions by Trump](#) to use a rarely-used committee to push through fossil fuel projects even if they imperil at-risk species. Experts have said this overriding of the Endangered Species Act is probably illegal.

“This Trump executive order is the most blatant attempt in American history by a president to hand over federal public lands to the logging industry,” said Chad Hanson, wildfire scientist at the John Muir Project. “What’s worse, the executive order is built on a lie, as Trump falsely claims that more logging will curb wildfires and protect communities, while the overwhelming weight of evidence shows exactly the opposite.”

Trump’s shift towards a more industry-friendly stance has been underlined by his choice of a lumber executive lead the Forest Service, which has just fired 2,000 workers amid a purge led by unelected shadow president Elon Musk

LINK: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/mar/03/trump-national-forest-executive-order>

Trump’s energy secretary, formerly a CEO for a fracking company, is [attacking green investing](#).

LINK: https://go.grist.org/e/399522/-newsletter-utm-campaign-daily/2b8nwhz/1817742689/h/wzRStoSyRx1Wpzc_vc_dzvHbJfHxv-2TtTVWliTBES4

With the supposed opposition party totally abdicating its responsibility to fight on behalf of the environment and for the American people, conservation non-profits and ordinary citizens have been left to do the job. The Center for Biological Diversity, for one, is opposing the DOGE cuts targeting the Environmental Protection Agency, National Park Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and other government agencies tasked with protecting the environment [in court](#).

LINK: <https://portcitydaily.com/latest-news/2025/03/03/suit-seeks-to-block-doge-efforts-to-slash-epa-amid-plans-to-downsize-agency-by-65/?emci=e6d743ed-60f8-ef11-90cb-0022482a93b5&emdi=c5d65639-bcfa-ef11-90cd-0022482a9fb7&ceid=1955550>

The Trump Administration’s and Musk’s [attacks on National Park Service employees](#) have awakened a resistance. Rallies were held at over 400 NPS sites last weekend, including Timucuan Ecological & Historic Preserve in Jacksonville. Follow Resistance Rangers on social media to support the movement.

LINK: <https://www.npca.org/articles/7044-parks-are-being-dismantled-before-our-very-eyes>

We’ll end with the little bit of good news I could find. In a significant victory for the Everglades and environmental advocates, the [First District Court of Appeal](#) upheld a lower court ruling that Miami-Dade County and Aligned Real Estate Holdings failed to meet the required deadline for approving the South Dade Logistics and Technology District development. As a result, the land-use plan amendment that would have permitted the project is now void, signaling a decisive blow to the controversial industrial expansion.

The February 19 decision effectively halts the nearly 400-acre warehouse and logistics complex, which was slated for development beyond Miami-Dade County’s Urban Development Boundary. Environmentalists and advocacy groups have long opposed the project, arguing that it would

irreversibly damage critical land earmarked for Everglades restoration, contribute to pollution in Biscayne Bay, and exacerbate the region's vulnerability to flooding and storm surge.