

What's worse for the environment than the Florida legislature's obsession with building more roads?
Building radioactive roads.

You read that correctly.

[Phosphogypsum is a highly toxic byproduct of the fertilizer-production process](#), big business in Florida thanks to all the phosphorus here. Besides being radioactive, it contains a host of dangerous heavy metals. The fertilizer industry creates about 30 million tons of this toxic waste every year, storing much of it in Florida, where its improper management threatens water, air, and wildlife.

Mind you, the mining of phosphorus alone takes a brutal toll on the environment considering the pits left behind, the roads to access the pits, and the toxic waste produced, not to mention how the end product, fertilizer, is a major contributor to Florida's fresh water crises including algae blooms.

Now, state politicians are proposing legislation that would pave the way for corporations to dump their toxic waste all over the state by using phosphogypsum in road construction.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's expert review found that phosphogypsum would expose the public to an unacceptable cancer risk. It could also cause even more pollution of air and water in Florida.

The two bills are handouts to the super-polluting fertilizer industry from their bought-and-paid-for politicians at the expense of the health and safety of Floridians and our environment.

LINK: <https://biologicaldiversity.org/w/news/press-releases/imminent-failure-of-phosphogypsum-stack-in-tampa-bay-exposes-phosphate-industry-risks-2021-04-03/>

[These nine animals](#) have the most potential to combat climate change.

LINK: <https://www.newscientist.com/article/2366378-restoring-just-nine-groups-of-animals-could-help-combat-global-warming/>

Speaking of whales (spoiler alert), there are only 50 Rice's Whales left in the Gulf of Mexico, but this notorious Florida congressman wants to give the Air Force a free pass should it kill any in testing by exempting the animal from Endangered Species Act protections.

When you hear the phrase, "America is a death cult," this is the sort of thing people are talking about.

This article may introduce you to the seemingly benign saying, "incidental take." What that practically means is a free pass to kill as many animals as a corporation, developer, government, military branch, etc. wants to as long as it doesn't do so on purpose.

LINK: <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/local/2023/03/29/matt-gaetz-wants-endangered-rices-whale-protections-removed-for-military-weapons-testing/70053519007/>

Since we have a whale theme working, the latest episode of my "Welcome to Florida" podcast was [all about North Atlantic Right Whales](#), a winter visitor to Northeast Florida waters.

LINK: <https://www.stitcher.com/show/welcome-to-florida/episode/episode-145-north-atlantic-right-whales-301199647>

Mark your calendars for the 8th Annual Native Plant Sale on April 15th at Native Parks 1 & 2 (3312 Park Street, Jacksonville). Plants propagated by Ixia Chapter volunteers will be available for sale and both Native and Uncommon Plants and Wacca Pilatka Native Landscaping will be there as well selling native plants.

Plant your conservation ethic into the ground by incorporating native plants in your yard, you can't offset phosphorus mining, but it's something, and would make a difference in stemming the global extinction crisis if undertaken at scale.