

Conservation groups in Florida are experiencing [a rare string of successes](#) thanks to the diligence of the state's environmental non-profits and citizens willing to harass their representatives.

LINK: https://www.tallahassee.com/story/news/local/state/2025/05/23/may-brings-rare-string-of-victories-for-florida-environmental-allies/83795793007/?utm_source=ptal-DailyBriefing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=daily-briefing&utm_term=Content%20List%20-%20Stacking%20-%20optimized&utm_content=1558TD-E-NLETTER65

A look at how scientists are trying to [save Florida's coral reefs](#).

LINK: https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/may/24/florida-coral-replanting-effort?utm_term=68344e6403bae60d57908cd38959fc88&utm_campaign=USMorningBriefing&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=usbriefing_email

Climate change, disease, and foreign imports are wrecking [Georgia's shrimping industry](#). The same is taking place in Florida.

LINK: https://grist.org/food-and-agriculture/climate-change-foreign-imports-hurt-us-shrimp/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=daily

A provision of the recently passed [SB 180 in the Florida legislature](#) prevents municipalities from passing any ordinances adjusting their comprehensive plans or land development codes – to safeguard communities from hurricanes, for example – that developers find “restrictive or burdensome.” Developers run this state, and if people die for them to get their way, well, that's Florida.

LINK: <https://www.theinvadingsea.com/2025/05/19/florida-legislature-sb-180-land-use-planning-comp-plans-hurricane-recovery-climate-resilience/>

And... <https://floridaphoenix.com/2025/05/29/legislature-wants-to-make-it-impossible-for-local-governments-to-build-back-better-after-hurricanes/>

What happens to solar panels [after they've aged out](#)?

LINK: <https://www.theinvadingsea.com/2025/05/20/solar-panels-e-waste-recycling-pablo-ribeiro-dias-solarcycle-clean-energy-circular-economy/>

A FASCINATING look at [the hidden energy cost of the fossil fuel supply chain](#). Turns out it takes a lot of fossil fuels to produce fossil fuels.

<https://www.theinvadingsea.com/2025/05/07/gasoline-production-energy-fossil-fuels-refineries-internal-combustion-engine-electric-vehicles/>

Last month, there was another oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, this one by [Garden Island Bay](#) off the coast of Louisiana. Roughly 80,000 gallons of oily water mixture have been recovered, another reminder that oil extraction and oil spills are inseparable.

We don't have offshore oil drilling in Florida, thankfully, but the Gulf is a connected ecosystem and what happens one place effects another.

LINK: <https://apnews.com/article/oil-spill-louisiana-plaquemines-parish-spectrum-7fdc4ce152bd18169e48f801ef98f72b>

States across the nation are putting [bounties on this invasive pear tree](#).

LINK: https://thehill.com/homenews/nexstar_media_wire/5306251-some-states-issue-bounty-on-handsome-yet-smelly-tree/?tbref=hp

Speaking of invasives, they're a scourge worldwide. [This one was introduced in Kenya](#) in 1948 to fight desertification, took off, and is destroying the country's ecosystems and traditional ranching practices.

LINK: https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/may/22/kenya-mathenge-desertification-invasive-plants-neltuma-prosopis-juliflora-samburu-pastoralists-aoe?utm_term=682efcb0589f5f9087e364c07e311979&utm_campaign=USMorningBriefing&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=usbriefing_email

The Secretary of the Interior is in [no rush to address climate change](#). He's more concerned about artificial intelligence.

In a recent Congressional committee hearing, he had this to say: "The existential threats that this administration is focusing on are: Iran cannot get a nuclear weapon, and we can't lose the AI arms race to China. That's the number one and number two. If we solve those two things, then we will have plenty of time to solve any issues related to potential temperature change."

LINK: https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2025/05/for-trumps-interior-secretary-doug-burgum-theres-plenty-of-time-to-solve-climate-crisis/?utm_source=mj-newsletters&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=daily-newsletter-05-22-2025

With thinking like that, the best environmentalists can hope for at the federal level is "it could have been worse." The spending bill that recently passed the House of Representatives – the worst environmental bill in US history – could have been worse.

Removed from the bill was the “non-profit killer” amendment that would have allowed the Trump administration to pick and choose which non-profit organizations it considered to be terrorist organizations, including environmental non-profits. Also removed from the bill was an effort to sell hundreds of millions of acres of public land.

[An open letter](#) from all former directors of the National Weather Service to the American people warning them about how funding cuts to the Service proposed by the current administration would endanger all residents susceptible to hurricanes or tornadoes. That’s you.

LINK: <https://www.theinvadingsea.com/2025/05/06/national-weather-service-directors-letter-noaa-trump-budget-forecasting-hurricanes-tornadoes/>

This former National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration employee – she was arbitrarily fired by Elon Musk and DOGE – explains how budget cuts at NOAA, particularly for coastal restoration, [endanger people](#).

LINK: <https://www.theinvadingsea.com/2025/05/09/noaa-cuts-hurricanes-florida-louisiana-trump-cwppra-coastal-wetlands-restoration-flooding/>

The border wall doesn’t do much to stop people from entering the United States, but [it’s hell on migrating wildlife](#). The wall is growing while wildlife populations are shrinking.

LINK: https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/may/18/trump-border-wall-wildlife?utm_term=682b037a07fc58c669f2a35bffad8263&utm_campaign=USMorningBriefing&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=usbriefing_email

Trump is [selling out wilderness lands](#) in chilling echoes of the McCarthy Era.

LINK: https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/ng-interactive/2025/may/18/trump-public-lands-conservation-workers?utm_term=682f03b38c3bf56d6ab231e2ce8fbef7&utm_campaign=DownToEarth&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=greenlight_email

The Bureau of Land Management, sometimes known as the Bureau of Livestock and Mining, for consistently putting the interests of ranchers and the mining industry ahead of conservation and wildlife, recently approved the operating plan for a uranium mine in southeastern Utah. It did so by completing the [environmental assessment in just 11 days](#), effectively precluding public input, tribal consultation, and any meaningful analysis of the project’s potential impacts.

This assessment typically takes a year or more to assure a minimum of environmental impacts and public safety.

The Department of the Interior, under which the BLM resides, has alerted tribes “likely to be affected by a proposed undertaking” they have only seven days to give input on drilling and mining projects on homelands moving forward. If things like the Constitution matter to you, understand that Interior’s new permitting procedures violate the Constitution, which lays out how the federal government must engage in Nation-to-Nation relationships with Tribes.

The recently announced changes also violate international law that the U.S. has signed onto, which affirms that Indigenous peoples are owed Free, Prior, and Informed Consent. The federal government must receive tribal consent before moving forward with any project that impacts tribes – sovereign nations with binding treaties co-signed by the United States.

Expect this dismissal of meaningful environmental assessment and Tribal rights to continue on drilling and mining operations nationwide throughout the current administration. De-regulation, particularly around environmental protections, is a key priority to the administration as it works to give the country over to industry and the wealthy.

LINK: https://www.landdesk.org/p/bureau-of-livestock-and-mining-is?utm_source=post-email-title&publication_id=258189&post_id=164559705&utm_campaign=email-post-title&isFreemail=true&r=g2ims&redirect=true&utm_medium=email

And speaking of eliminating public input on conservation and lands issues, [an internal memo from the USDA Forest Service](#) notified staff that public comment periods on logging projects are no longer required, and projects can proceed with “alternative forms of public involvement.” What those alternative forms of engagement would be is not specified.

LINK: <https://wildearthguardians.org/press-releases/internal-forest-service-direction-curtails-public-involvement-fast-tracks-logging/>

In Portland, there’s a program that [fights homelessness and litter](#). And it’s working. Imagine doing this in Florida with beach cleanups or invasive species removal.

It could easily be funded with a tiny fraction of money municipalities or the state spend on policing, by far the largest expenditure of every city in America.

LINK: https://grist.org/equity/portland-waste-pickers-ground-score-association-plastics-treaty/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=daily

A recent episode of my “Welcome to Florida” podcast explains why [the Lake Wales Ridge](#) is an ecological marvel.

LINK: <https://welcometoflorida.buzzsprout.com/1169570/episodes/17131896-episode-256-lake-wales-ridge>