

The North Florida Land Trust and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection have preserved over 385 acres in Putnam County. The organizations collaborated to purchase a conservation easement on family-owned property adjacent to the Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway and near Orange Springs. It connects existing conservation lands within the Ocala to Osceola (O2O) critical wildlife corridor.

FDEP purchased the conservation easement from the O'Connor family for \$850,000 with funding from the Florida Forever program. This was the second time NFLT facilitated a conservation easement purchase from the family in coordination with FDEP. Approximately one year ago, an 855.35-acre conservation easement was purchased from the O'Connors on property east of this location and within the O2O, also through the Florida Forever program.

One of the [oldest known Florida manatees](#) was killed recently by a boat strike.

LINK: <https://www.miaminewtimes.com/news/elderly-florida-manatee-paddy-doyle-killed-in-boat-collision-23233390>

More than [20,000 invasive lionfish](#) were caught in a fishing tournament off the Panhandle. That impressive figure doesn't even represent a drop in the bucket towards decreasing the species' numbers throughout the state's waters... but it's something.

LINK: https://www.nwfdailynews.com/story/news/2025/05/22/emerald-coast-open-removes-over-20000-lionfish-here-are-the-winners/83777578007/?utm_source=nnwf-home&utm_content=daily%20briefing%20-%20fort%20walton&utm_campaign=Home&utm_medium=email&utm_term=adhoc

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed [listing the ghost orchid](#), considered to be Florida's most famous flower, under the Endangered Species Act.

LINK: <https://floridaphoenix.com/2025/06/06/iconic-florida-plant-proposed-to-be-added-to-endangered-species-list/>

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is undertaking a criminal investigation into conditions at Gulf World Marine Park in Panama City Beach after [another dolphin in captivity there died](#).

LINK: <https://www.mypanhandle.com/news/local-news/bay-county/panama-city-beach/dolphin-deaths-at-gulf-world-park-spark-criminal-probe/>

A good look at [the Florida Wildlife Corridor](#) and why it's so important if you aren't familiar.

LINK: <https://www.theinvadingsea.com/2025/05/02/florida-wildlife-corridor-panther-black-bear-land-conservation-funding-legislature-development/>

The Corridor includes not only land, but water, [including the Indian River Lagoon](#). Its marine grasses are essential to Florida's ecology.

LINK: https://floridawildlifecorridor.org/roots-of-recovery-restoring-marine-grass-restoring-life/?mc_cid=abdd8b719b&mc_eid=e70d4d1c83

University of Florida's native plant nursery hosts its annual Native Plant Sale & Extension Event June 21st and June 22nd from 9am to 2pm. Over 100 species are expected to be for sale.

<https://ffgs.ifas.ufl.edu/native-plant-nursery/>

Could you ever image Florida doing this?

Hawai'i became the first state to enact [a so-called "green fee"](#) — a charge added onto hotel room stays and other short-term visits to help protect the local environment and address the growing impacts of climate change. Tourism stresses the environment wherever it takes place in large numbers, like Hawai'i and Florida, and all that travel is a contributing factor to climate change.

If you want to play, you should have to pay.

https://grist.org/politics/hawai%ca%bbi-makes-history-as-first-state-to-charge-tourists-to-save-environment/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=daily

Industry group says Trump tax bill could [kill nearly 22,000 solar jobs in Florida](#).

LINK: <https://floridaphoenix.com/briefs/industry-group-says-trump-tax-bill-could-kill-nearly-22000-solar-jobs-in-florida/>

It would also [cut nearly \\$1 BILLION from the National Park Service](#) budget and dispatch of 5,500 full-time equivalent employees. The National Parks' largest private advocacy group published a ["6 Worst Things that Happened to the National Parks Last Month"](#) article outlining the beating the administration is giving the parks.

LINK: <https://www.npca.org/articles/9089-6-worst-things-that-happened-to-national-parks-last-month>

Over at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Trump tax bill would take \$149 million from the National Wildlife Refuge System, \$50 million from conservation and enforcement programs, \$16 million from habitat conservation, and \$9 million from science support.

LINK: https://www.landdesk.org/p/maga-intensifies-its-assault-on-public?utm_source=post-email-title&publication_id=258189&post_id=165188122&utm_campaign=email-post-title&isFreemail=true&r=g2ims&triedRedirect=true&utm_medium=email

Keep in mind the Refuge system had already endured a 30% reduction in staffing over the past 15 years, and since January, it has lost an estimated 25% more, leaving approximately 1,750 full-time equivalent staff to manage what is the largest conservation system in the world.

https://www.refugeassociation.org/press-releases/2025/6/3/fy26-presidents-budget?sourceid=1103816&ms=general_supporters&utm_campaign=fy26_refuge_budget_alert&utm_medium=email&utm_source=nwra_general_alert&emci=dc6d560b-b440-f011-a5f1-6045bda9d96b&emdi=e3f26aa9-c140-f011-a5f1-6045bda9d96b&ceid=1332102

For everything the tax bill is cutting, it's [adding additional government subsidies for the production of sugar in Florida](#), a product contributing to the death of hundreds of thousands of Americans annually through heart disease, diabetes, and obesity. The industry is largely responsible for the destruction of the Everglades and the chaotic management of water in south Florida as well.

LINK: <https://floridaphoenix.com/2025/06/05/the-one-big-beautiful-bill-contains-an-ugly-favor-for-floridas-sugar-industry/>

Money to support [carbon-sequestration schemes](#) promoted by Big Oil as a solution to CO2 emissions and the climate crisis will also continue to receive funding. No evidence exists to support the idea that so-called “carbon sequestration” even works. The idea is a scam.

LINK: https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2025/06/ira-climate-funding-republican-budget-reconciliation-bill-big-beautiful/?utm_source=mj-newsletters&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=daily-newsletter-06-05-2025

More essential budget cuts from the Trump administration directed at science, climate, and human health: the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association's [Center for Heat Resilient Communities](#) aimed to help cities better understand their struggles with heat — and deploy solutions for keeping residents safe.

Gone.

Think that program might have been beneficial to Floridians?

LINK: https://grist.org/cities/funding-american-cities-extreme-heat-noaa-ira/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=daily

Under the Trump administration, the Environmental Protection Agency has canceled or interrupted [hundreds of grants](#) aimed at improving health and severe weather preparedness because the agency “determined that the grant applications no longer support administration priorities;” one of those projects is [a wastewater treatment plant in Thomasville, GA](#) near the Florida border.

LINK: https://grist.org/cities/trump-cuts-hundreds-of-epa-grants-leaving-cities-on-the-hook-for-climate-resiliency/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=daily

A deep, DEEP dive on [the condition of bird populations across America](#).

LINK: <https://www.stateofthebirds.org/2025/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/state-of-the-birds-sotb-2025-spreads.pdf>

Here’s a simple, easy solution to reduce energy consumption: paint roofs lighter colors. Especially giant warehouses and the like.

Of course, there’s [a “dark roof” lobby](#) busily bribing public officials across the country to limit “light roofs” while promoting “dark roofs.”

LINK: https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/jun/01/dark-roof-lobby?utm_term=683d95caa59ac97a8dbbf8aa6484ef1a&utm_campaign=USMorningBriefing&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=usbriefing_email

You think I’m opposed to artificial intelligence, [how about this editorial](#): “Artificial intelligence consumes too much energy and water and produces too much pollution for any ethical person or organization who cares about the planet to use it.”

LINK: https://therevelator.org/artificial-intelligence-environment/?utm_source=eeo&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=eeo1299&emci=a1d148b5-0938-f011-a5f1-6045bda9d96b&emdi=24965da0-c33c-f011-a5f1-6045bda9d96b&ceid=1955550

Fact: the world can’t meaningfully confront climate change and/or deforestation without curbing its consumption of beef.

Fact: people like to eat beef. A lot of it. And beef substitute products have no traction in the marketplace with consumers.

[Here's a potential compromise.](#)

LINK: https://grist.org/food-and-agriculture/meat-climate-impact-balanced-proteins/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=daily

Millions of acres of Alaska wilderness will lose federal protections and [be exposed to drilling and mining](#) in the Trump administration's latest move to prioritize energy production over the shielding of the U.S.'s open spaces.

LINK: https://grist.org/energy/trump-officials-open-up-millions-of-acres-in-alaska-to-drilling-and-mining/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=daily

Can't blame this one exclusively on right-wingers: the Supreme Court [unanimously reversed](#) a major, longstanding, environmental protection.

LINK: https://grist.org/justice/the-supreme-court-just-blew-up-a-major-environmental-law/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=daily

You probably figured this already, but here's evidence of how [war is hell on the environment](#).

LINK: https://grist.org/international/how-three-years-of-war-have-ravaged-ukraines-forests-and-the-people-who-depend-on-them/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=daily

... [and this...](#)

LINK: https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/may/30/carbon-footprint-of-israels-war-on-gaza-exceeds-that-of-many-entire-countries?utm_term=684178b3c97c03302c75ffd6aef20125&utm_campaign=DownToEarth&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=greenlight_email

Florida Native Plant Society leadership joined the "Florida Spectacular" podcast to discuss how a proposed toll road extension in Polk County would wipe out the last remaining natural population of [an endangered and endemic Florida mint species](#).

LINK: <https://floridaspectacular.buzzsprout.com/1527562/episodes/17270415-episode-207-polk-parkway-an-endangered-mint-plant-and-what-listeners-can-do>

Another podcast worth your time, this one about [the proposed Southland Rock mine](#) in South Florida that would do tremendous harm the environment and water quality there... and benefit Big Sugar.

LINK: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/trojan-horse-the-southland-rockmine-with-gil-smart/id1788800886?i=1000710797964>