

Construction and population of the Everglades detention center continues full speed ahead. If the center's environmental and humanitarian abuses don't outrage you, perhaps the cost will. \$100 million has already been spent on the project, and upwards of \$500 million may ultimately go toward it.

While Florida slashes funding for conservation (see last week's newsletter), it's plowing money into an immigrant prison. Priorities.

Bear in mind, since the camp has been planned and operated in secrecy, all of that work has been performed on no-bid contracts. That's code for graft. State funding is coming out of an "emergency" slush fund set up by the governor. More corruption.

CoreCivic, the private prison corporation running the "facility," donated over \$800,000 to Trump's presidential campaign and [at least nine other contractors](#) have funneled nearly \$2 million to Ron DeSantis and Florida Republicans.

LINK: [https://actionnetwork.org/letters/shutdown-alligator-alcatraz?source=group-just-strategy&referrer=group-just-strategy&redirect=https://secure.actblue.com/donate/nc4j\\_alligator\\_alcatraz&link\\_id=2&an\\_id=92c7ebaa55038cd7e4b08092bdf9515&email\\_referrer=email\\_2815546&&email\\_subject=shutdown-alligator-alcatraz&refcodeEmailReferrer=email\\_2815546](https://actionnetwork.org/letters/shutdown-alligator-alcatraz?source=group-just-strategy&referrer=group-just-strategy&redirect=https://secure.actblue.com/donate/nc4j_alligator_alcatraz&link_id=2&an_id=92c7ebaa55038cd7e4b08092bdf9515&email_referrer=email_2815546&&email_subject=shutdown-alligator-alcatraz&refcodeEmailReferrer=email_2815546)

[Jason Garcia's essential "Seeking Rents" podcast](#) digs into the financial scandal that is the Everglades prison.

LINK: <https://jasongarcia.substack.com/p/floridas-swamp-monster>

Not to mention how the land was seized from Miami-Dade County without consent. Miami-Dade's mayor was denied entry when she tried to inspect conditions in an attempt to stop public officials from learning about the truth of the site.

LINK: [https://jasongarcia.substack.com/p/alligator-alcatraz-a-legal-black?utm\\_source=post-email-title&publication\\_id=687064&post\\_id=168172870&utm\\_campaign=email-post-title&isFreemail=false&r=g2ims&triedRedirect=true&utm\\_medium=email](https://jasongarcia.substack.com/p/alligator-alcatraz-a-legal-black?utm_source=post-email-title&publication_id=687064&post_id=168172870&utm_campaign=email-post-title&isFreemail=false&r=g2ims&triedRedirect=true&utm_medium=email)

The facility continues to be [an environmental and human crisis waiting to happen](#).

LINK: <https://www.theinvadingsea.com/2025/07/08/alligator-alcatraz-florida-everglades-environmental-injustice-overdevelopment-hurricanes/>

This moral and ecological catastrophe is unfolding before our eyes. New paving, light pollution, and pesticide spraying are happening right now. People deprived of due process

guarantees enshrined in the US Constitution are being held there in dangerous, unsanitary conditions.

Irreversible damage within the Big Cypress National Preserve is occurring every day — and getting worse. The facility threatens delicate wetlands, surrounding waters, and dozens of rare and endangered species, like Florida panthers, Florida bonneted bats, and Everglades snail kites. It also jeopardizes decades of critically important Everglades restoration efforts.

“This massive detention center will blight one of the most iconic ecosystems in the world,” Elise Bennett, Florida and Caribbean director at the Center for Biological Diversity, said.

The Center for Biological Diversity is among the conservation organizations suing local, state, and federal officials on Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act grounds, among others, to [stop the project moving forward](#).

"The hasty transformation of the Site into a mass detention facility, which includes the installation of housing units, construction of sanitation and food services systems, industrial high-intensity lighting infrastructure, diesel power generators, substantial fill material altering the natural terrain, and provision of transportation logistics (including apparent planned use of the runway to receive and deport detainees) poses clear environmental impacts," the lawsuit reads in part.

Light pollution in the previously dark sky area can now be seen from 15 miles away.

Last week the Miccosuke Tribe of Florida filed to intervene as a plaintiff in the lawsuit. Ten tribal villages exist within a 3-mile radius of the site, including one that's only about 1,000 feet away from the property line. Tribes are supposed to be consulted on projects like this, and, of course, that didn't happen here. Another broken treaty.

LINK: <https://www.everglades.org/stop-alligator-alcatraz/>

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The Florida chapter of the Sierra Club has released a “fact sheet” about the state’s psychotic rush to [reintroduce a black bear hunt](#).

One item: “A statewide poll shows 81% of Florida voters oppose the hunt, including 89% against hounding and 86% against baiting. In the FWC’s own survey, three out of four Floridians said no to a bear hunt. But in May, commissioners ignored the public and advanced the hunt anyway - with a final vote scheduled for August 13–14 in Havana, Florida.”

And you thought you lived in a democracy.

LINK: <https://speakupforwildlife.com/bear-hunt-fact-sheet>

Sierra Club is organizing [free charter bus trips from around the state](#) to speak out at the August commission meetings for anyone interested.

LINK: <https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=701Po00000zAqa6IAC>

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Florida Atlantic University is pushing forward with development plans that will [destroy one of the last homes](#) for threatened burrowing owls, the school's mascot.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, of course, approved removing the owls; many of its commissioners are tied to land development.

LINK: <https://www.browardpalmbeach.com/news/fau-plans-to-demolish-acres-of-burrowing-owl-habitat-to-construct-new-dormitories-environmentalists-say-6452391>

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Rayonier, the massive timber and land development company with a huge footprint in north Florida, most noticeable its grotesque Wildlight development in Nassau County, is [a bad neighbor wherever it does business](#). It's been dragging its feet for 25 years to clean up one of its former mill sites in Washington state.

LINK: <https://www.peninsuladailynews.com/news/rayonier-mill-cleanup-update-given-at-community-meeting/>

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In the unreality which is Florida 2025, a sad/tragic/absurd irony has state politicians believing in phony government/corporate weather modification, but [not scientifically proven climate change](#).

LINK: <https://www.theinvadingsea.com/2025/07/09/florida-weather-modification-contrails-chemtrails-sb-56-climate-change-denial-flooding/>

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War, what is it good for?

[Not the climate.](#)

The world's militaries are responsible for 5.5% of global carbon emissions. That's double the amount produced by commercial air traffic. If war machines were a country, their carbon emissions would be fourth highest in the world, behind only the US, China and India.

The recently passed federal budget gives another \$157 billion to the US armed forces, taking its spending over \$1 trillion for the first time, guzzling more gas, creating more CO2.

LINK: [https://grist.org/climate/how-reducing-the-us-military-budget-would-also-reduce-emissions/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_campaign=daily](https://grist.org/climate/how-reducing-the-us-military-budget-would-also-reduce-emissions/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=daily)

Connect the dots: “Oil, gas, and coal companies and individuals linked to the climate-wrecking fossil fuel industry [contributed more than \\$19 million](#) to U.S. President Donald Trump's second inaugural fund.”

LINK: <https://www.commondreams.org/news/big-oil-trump-inauguration>

“The huge spending boost for the Pentagon will [produce an additional 26 megatons of planet-heating gases](#) – on a par with the entire annual carbon equivalent emissions generated by 68 gas power plants or the entire country of Croatia.”

LINK: [https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/jul/17/trump-pentagon-emissions?utm\\_term=6878d7b96e97d2dd6d50d277b89d6ae7&utm\\_campaign=USMorningBriefing&utm\\_source=esp&utm\\_medium=Email&CMP=usbriefing\\_email](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/jul/17/trump-pentagon-emissions?utm_term=6878d7b96e97d2dd6d50d277b89d6ae7&utm_campaign=USMorningBriefing&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=usbriefing_email)

This Senator says Democrats have been [“too cautious and polite”](#) when it comes to fighting Big Oil.

“The fossil fuel industry has run the biggest and most malevolent propaganda operation the country has ever seen,” the Senator said.

LINK: [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jul/10/sheldon-whitehouse-fossil-fuels?utm\\_term=686fa439c8472c738e3a818fade734cf&utm\\_campaign=USMorningBriefing&utm\\_source=esp&utm\\_medium=Email&CMP=usbriefing\\_email](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jul/10/sheldon-whitehouse-fossil-fuels?utm_term=686fa439c8472c738e3a818fade734cf&utm_campaign=USMorningBriefing&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=usbriefing_email)