

Fresh water springs are to north Florida what geysers are to Yellowstone. There are more freshwater springs in north Florida than anywhere else on earth. An idea has started to circulate among the conservation community in north Florida forwarding the idea of a national park in the region recognizing, preserving and interpreting the significance of these features.

Read more about the movement to create [the Great Springs & Rivers National Park](#).

LINK: <https://www.theinvadingsea.com/2022/07/27/its-time-to-establish-a-springs-and-rivers-national-park-in-north-florida/>

Fighting the state's roadbuilders and developers are making [strange political bedfellows](#) in central Florida.

LINK: <https://www.wftv.com/news/local/no-build-sumters-rural-residents-pressure-county-fight-turnpike-project/A55B7Q7TJRCZXABS3UDK4VP4UE/>

Conservatives have transitioned their anti-clean energy/pro fossil fuel strategy from one of climate denial to one of climate delay. Understanding the overwhelming percentage of the American public acknowledges climate change as fact, Republicans no longer deny its existence, they are instead now attempting to delay any meaningful action transitioning off fossil fuels toward a green, sustainable, clean energy future.

How are they working to delay this transition? By [connecting climate change and clean energy to the culture wars](#). That's what the Republican leadership in Florida is doing.

LINK: <https://floridaphoenix.com/2022/07/28/floridas-next-house-speaker-is-a-fossil-fuel-fool-who-fears-fixing-the-climate/>

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries is proposing changes to the North Atlantic right whale vessel speed rule to further reduce the likelihood of [lethal vessel collisions](#).

LINK: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/rule-amend-north-atlantic-right-whale-vessel-speed-regulations-open-comment?fbclid=IwAR0iBY9DogmQOAFI6K_YOkrsBn-OOrH8GO3DKuPlzVg0MHjy0DysbSCqH4

Advocates for the Florida Wildlife Corridor have launched [a public awareness campaign](#) to impress upon Florida citizens how the Corridor could benefit them.

LINK: <https://patch.com/florida/southtampa/it-began-bear-now-36-445-acres-are-preserved-florida>

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee advanced the [Native Plant Species Pilot Program Act](#), bipartisan legislation introduced by U.S. Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Maria Cantwell (D-WA) to promote the use of native plants. In an effort to preserve biodiversity and reap the numerous benefits local flora provide to wildlife, human health, and the environment, the bill would create a new pilot program at the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management to support the use of native plants, including in areas that have experienced a recent wildfire event.

The bill would also direct the Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management to review existing data and study the cost-effectiveness of using native plants within their respective units.

Kudos to local and national members of the Garden Club of America (GCA) who helped write this bill.

LINK: <https://www.collins.senate.gov/newsroom/collins-cantwell-bill-to-restore-native-plants-in-national-parks-advances>