

In South Florida, [pre-harvest sugar cane burning](#) continues to be a big topic. The practice saves Big Sugar a few pennies an acre while covering poor areas in the region with a toxic ash. Only the United States and China continue to allow the archaic, dangerous practice.

LINK: <https://www.wnycstudios.org/podcasts/takeaway/segments/black-snow-pollution-cane-sugar-harvest-florida-making-residents-sick?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=a65dafb6-c89c-457f-ab20-3eae8e087b8a>

Florida's Agriculture Secretary Nikki Fried, a so-called "progressive" and the only Democrat in a high-ranking state position, has the power to restrict this practice and has [continually refused to do so](#), demonstrating Big Sugar's influence over both parties in Florida. Remember this as Fried runs for governor and touts her "environmental" credentials.

Here's an easy petition asking her to stop the burning:

https://www.evergladestrust.org/force_big_sugar_to_modernize?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=a65dafb6-c89c-457f-ab20-3eae8e087b8a

Staying in South Florida, work crews [removed the last slab of the Old Tamiami Trail roadbed](#), allowing for additional increased flow of water from Lake Okeechobee to the Everglades. Constructed in the 1920s, Tamiami Trail connecting the east and west coasts of Florida through the Everglades has worked as a dam preventing the natural flow of water from Lake O to the Everglades. In recent years, efforts have been made to pierce the roadbed to allow more water to reach the Glades.

LINK: <https://floridaphoenix.com/2021/08/19/raising-the-dam-nable-road-that-ruined-floridas-everglades/>

Environmental groups will be [suing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#) amidst the continuing manatee die off centered around Brevard County's Indian River Lagoon. The groups want USFWS to recognize the biological factors threatening manatee habitat — including seagrass loss, declining water quality and waning natural warm-water refuges — and expand the pre-existing critical habitat designation outlined by the agency since 1976. "Critical habitat designation" is an official term when considering the management of a threatened or endangered species and, in those areas, places a much higher standard for environmental health and barriers to development.

LINK: <https://www.floridatoday.com/story/news/local/indian-river-lagoon/2021/08/16/defenders-of-wildlife-center-for-biological-diversity-sue-fish-wildlife-service-florida-manatees/8148407002/>

Manatees were the subject of [my most recent "Welcome to Florida" podcast](#) where I spoke to a 40-year employee of the federal government who spent all that time researching the animals.

LINK: <https://www.stitcher.com/show/welcome-to-florida/episode/episode-61-the-florida-manatee-86157240>