

As a protected species in Florida, gopher tortoise are supposed to be removed by developers who intend to bury their burrows during construction projects. There is a detailed and well-established state program to assist developers in doing this. Recently, at the Del Webb's Homes Stone Creek community in Ocala, Pulte Homes home builders destroyed 22 gopher tortoise burrows on the property with no accommodation to the unknown number of tortoise living in them.

[Their penalty: a \\$13,700 fine.](#)

Such is the balance between development and the environment in Florida.

DYK gopher tortoise burrows can extend over 50 feet in depth and harbor some 300 species of animals and insect?

LINK: <https://floridaphoenix.com/2021/09/16/pulte-homes-destroys-22-fl-tortoise-burrows-pays-a-paltry-penalty/>

A remarkable, uplifting story about [the resiliency of nature](#) and how previously degraded habitats can be brought back to life in the most unexpected places in the most unexpected ways.

LINK: https://www.azcentral.com/in-depth/news/local/arizona-environment/2021/09/08/tucson-recycled-water-revives-santa-cruz-river-ecosystem/7883190002/?utm_id=37737&sfmc_id=1642332

Examples of how Big Sugar [uses phony experts, phony citizens, phony advocacy](#) groups and all-around chicanery to influence public opinion in Florida on its behalf in exploiting natural resources through the media.

LINK: https://www.evergladetrust.org/a_flurry_of_fake?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=3b1e3102-5839-4678-8c88-13375af1217e

A long read on some of the less-considered [economic benefits of protecting our water](#) resources in Florida. If you're talking to someone about the value of nature and the only terms they're able to understand are monetary, here's support.

LINK: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/FE1096?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=3b1e3102-5839-4678-8c88-13375af1217e>

We started with gopher tortoise and that's where we'll end. [This week on the podcast](#) I spoke to a leading gopher tortoise researcher about the animals behavior and habitat and what's being done to protect them – and not – in Florida.

LINK: <https://www.stitcher.com/show/welcome-to-florida/episode/episode-64-gopher-tortoise-86612331>