

Something different to start with: know anyone looking for a low-paying, full-time job that has them outdoors, battling invasive species, monitoring endangered woodpeckers, and learning prescribed burn techniques? [Jonathan Dickinson State Park has an opening.](#)

LINK: <https://www.indeed.com/viewjob?jk=9e21c2bd7767ee96>

The University of Florida has shuttered its [Office of Sustainability](#). Among other efforts, the Office established the school's Climate Action Plan, green building standards for the campus, and provided students with outreach opportunities.

Was it a political casualty of Ron DeSantis' state-wide DOGE-esq attacks looking for "unnecessary" spending on college campuses?

LINK: <https://www.alligator.org/article/2025/08/uf-joins-a-troubling-trend-in-climate-rollbacks>

... Or maybe it's because the University's newly appointed president is a climate denier who [falsely claimed during his confirmation hearing](#) that the science around climate change is not settled. Total lie. [The science is settled](#) and has been settled for 20 years.

LINK: <https://www.gainesville.com/story/news/education/2025/09/12/donald-landry-named-interim-president-of-university-of-florida/86110953007/>

LINK: <https://time.com/4308518/climate-change-settled-science/>

The State of Florida is proposing [slashing funding for the South Florida Tri-Rail](#) by 75% leaving the commuter train service with just enough money to operate through July 2027.

LINK: <https://www.wptv.com/news/palm-beach-county/tri-rails-future-in-jeopardy-as-south-florida-counties-push-back-against-state-cuts>

[A small-billed elaenia](#), a little bird from South America, showed up at Florida Gulf Coast University recently, the first time the bird has ever been seen in Florida.

LINK: <https://www.popsoci.com/environment/rare-bird-florida/>

[Nature is not a luxury](#) and saves Florida and Florida homeowners billions of dollars annually.

LINK: <https://www.theinvadingsea.com/2025/09/09/nature-based-solutions-infrastructure-coastal-wetlands-mangroves-hurricane-storm-damages/>

A Republican software developer who was raised in Florida and now serves in the House of Representatives from Alaska wants to gut [the Marine Mammal Protection Act](#), bedrock

environmental legislation from the 1970s that protects North Atlantic Right Whales [and manatees](#).

LINK: <https://www.ifaw.org/press-releases/marine-mammal-protection-act-proposed-legislation>

LINK: <https://www.theinvadingsea.com/2025/09/08/florida-manatees-marine-mammal-protection-act-north-atlantic-right-whales-indian-river-lagoon/>

The federal Environmental Protection Agency is being [sued by conservation groups](#) for attempting to roll back pollution controls on slaughterhouses emptying waste into waterways in violation of the Clean Water Act.

“The US meat industry slaughters some 18,000 animals a minute, creating a waste stream full of blood, fecal bacteria and disease-causing pathogens that adds up to one of our country’s largest industrial sources of nutrient pollution,” Hannah Connor, environmental health deputy director at the Center for Biological Diversity, said in a statement about the legal action. “Now Trump’s EPA is killing a rule designed to curb discharges of that nasty wastewater into our rivers and streams and safeguard people and wildlife.”

This is what a war on nature looks like.

LINK: <https://www.thenewlede.org/2025/09/epa-effort-to-withdraw-pollution-controls-for-slaughterhouses-is-illegal-lawsuit-claims/?emci=e0a56722-5d93-f011-b484-6045bdeb7413&emdi=9c563c8b-d494-f011-b484-6045bdeb7413&ceid=1955550>

This is what war on nature looks like: the federal Department of Justice is [intervening in court on behalf of Big Oil](#) seeking to end a Vermont state law requiring polluters be held financially responsible for climate change.

LINK: https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/sep/17/trump-vermont-oil-climate-superfund-act?utm_term=68cbe5078524e6ac42853eb74f9558d7&utm_campaign=USMorningBriefing&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=usbriefing_email

Speaking of Big Oil – and corporate welfare mentioned in last week’s newsletter – US taxpayers – you and me – will pay these trillion-dollar companies [billions more in new subsidies](#) thanks to the recently passed federal spending bill.

Nothing “beautiful” about that.

LINK: https://grist.org/politics/us-taxpayers-will-pay-billions-in-new-fossil-fuel-subsidies-thanks-to-the-big-beautiful-bill/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=daily

Catching you up on the “tropical milkweed” debate in Florida for anyone who’s not familiar. [Short answer: don’t plant it.](#)

LINK: <https://www.nwf.org/-/media/Documents/PDFs/Garden-for-Wildlife/Tip-Sheets/Native-vs-Tropical-Milkweed>

The June 2025 update to the Florida Invasive Species Council’s List of Invasive Species added “tropical milkweed” as a Category II invasive. And, the UF/IFAS Assessment of Non-Native Plants in Florida’s Natural Areas is now classifying it as invasive throughout the state.

LINK: <https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/stlucieco/2025/08/01/from-garden-favorites-to-ecological-threats-why-we-need-to-rethink-what-we-plant/>

LINK: <https://assessment.ifas.ufl.edu/assessments/asclepias-curassavica/>

War is hell.

On the environment, too.

Not even war, just preparing and planning for war.

Increased military spending by NATO countries in light of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and the United States threats to leave the organization have resulted in [an expanded European war machine](#) that could push out new annual greenhouse gas emissions comparable to the entire country of Brazil.

LINK: https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/sep/14/nato-military-spending-emissions?utm_term=68c80dd420a42ad2fd3216567c67dce0&utm_campaign=USMorningBriefing&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=usbriefing_email

Republicans in Congress want to continue [sickening US servicemen](#) with toxic “forever chemicals.” That sounds harsh, but how else would you describe the story?

LINK: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/sep/19/pfas-pollution-military-republicans>

LAST CHANCE! Deadline is 9/22 to get a hunting license in Florida and enter the bear tag lottery.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is set to hold its first bear hunt in a decade this December with 187 bear hunting permits issued through a lottery system. Florida Sierra Club is hoping to buy up all the tags to keep them out of hunters' hands.

How to enter the bear tag lottery:

1. Get your Florida hunting license.

ONLINE (see step-by-step video on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#)):

- Create/log into your Go Outdoors Florida account
- Select 'Recreational Licenses & Permits'
- Select 'Click Here to Get a License!'
- Under 'Shop by License Category,' select 'Hunting'
- Select Type 165, 'Hunting – 1 Year' (\$17.00)*
- Check the box to defer the certification requirement
- Add to cart and check out!

You can also apply using the [Go Outdoors Florida app](#), OR: at [your local tax collector's office](#) (be sure to check if an appointment is required before visiting). Numerous Walmart and sporting goods stores also let you purchase hunting licenses and no hunter safety course or any proficiency with firearms is required.

NEXT, apply for a bear tag as many times as you want, for \$5 per application*, through September 22:

- **Online:**
 - Log into your Go Outdoors Florida account (via [web](#), [App Store](#), or [Google Play](#))
 - Select "Apply for Limited Entry/Quota Permit"
 - Select any hunt zone choice
 - **Note:** Panhandle and South zones have been designated the most permits
 - Select desired tag quantity
 - Finish and check out!
- **In person:**

- Submit an [Application Worksheet](#) at any [license agent](#) or [tax collector's office](#).