

Fighting implementation of the M-Cores toll roads (Roads to Ruin) project remains the most urgent conservation item to keep an eye on. Thursday, the state's Senate Appropriations Committee approved [a new and improved version of Senate Bill 100](#) (that number denoting it's the top legislative priority) which would defund and repeal the M-Cores legislation. Audubon Florida has been instrumental in recrafting SB 100 to make it more environmentally friendly than a previous version. While still allowing for new roads and expansions, the worst parts of M-Cores would be abolished. A vote on the bill is expected this week.

Also in the legislature, [SB 1510 / HB 1211](#) and [SB 1480 / HB 1173](#) would fund Florida Forever at a minimum of \$100 million a year and restore the state's bonding authority to increase that amount in the future. Back in 2014, Floridians voted by a 75% majority to use money collected from real estate documentary taxes to purchase conservation land in Florida. Despite being law, then-governor Rick Scott and his successor, as well as the legislature, [have never funded conservation land acquisition to the degree called for by the law](#). These new bills would be an attempt to further force the legislature to do what the citizens of this state have already overwhelmingly declared we want. [Click here to encourage your legislators to support the measures](#).

Second only to Roads to Ruins, the next most pressing large-scale threat to our area's native plants, animals, drinking water and ecology is a proposed 10,000+ acre titanium mine adjacent to Okefenokee Swamp. A large coalition of groups have been working for well over a year to combat this potentially catastrophic project. Learn more about the swamp, the mine, and [efforts to prevent it here](#).

The [Dune Science Group](#) planted over 1700(!) native plants on the north end of Amelia Island Saturday – sea oats, dune sunflower, panic grass, morning glory, railroad vine, prickly pear, sea purslane, saw palmetto, scarlet sage – in ongoing efforts to protect the dunes there.

This week's "Welcome to Florida" podcast hosted by conservation chair Chadd Scott examines [the Everglades and how Big Sugar](#) destroyed the ecosystem's water flow and continues to fight efforts there to repair it.