

Last week's newsletter mentioned a proposed mine on the doorstep of [Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge](#). The applicant, Twin Pines mining company, desires to stage a 1,000 acre "demonstration mine" to prove it can mine titanium and zirconium the area in an environmentally sensitive fashion, and once having done so, scale the project out to 12,000 acres.

The idea of environmentally sensitive mining is absurd on its face, and Twin Pines has an atrocious track record of [failing to comply](#) with environmental regulations around its projects.

While taking place in Georgia, the scale and nature of this project and its proximity to northeast Florida would surely result in damaging impacts here. If you would like to voice your opinion with the Georgia Environmental Protect Department you can do so by emailing:

[TwinPines.Comment@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:TwinPines.Comment@dnr.ga.gov).

Here's what I'm sending, feel free to copy and paste:

"I live in northeast Florida not far from the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge and visit the area regularly. I am gravely concerned, and history proves my concerns valid, that the proposed Twin Pines mining project would not only have devastating ecological impacts in Georgia on the largest remaining wild landscape in the eastern United States, but as ecosystems cross state borders, the pollution resulting from this project would negatively impact Florida's air and water quality as well. Twin Pines' atrocious track record of failing to comply with environmental regulations in the state of Georgia further demonstrates why it should be denied the permitting it is requesting."

Closer to home, Ixia has joined on with [Riverfront Parks Now](#) and [Resilient Jax](#), two local coalitions concerned about riverfront development and planning in downtown Jacksonville to offer our expertise.

Most of the big conservation work in Florida has to do with fending off apocalyptic development proposals like the Roads to Ruin. One such project was Rodman Dam near Palatka, completed in 1968, which flooded more than 7,500 acres of forested wetlands, 16 miles of river and at least 20 springs, blocking upstream migration of many fish and aquatic species impacting the ecosystem from the St. Johns River to Silver Springs and beyond.

The dam never served any meaningful purpose and environmental groups have fought it since the planning stages. [New momentum surrounds these efforts](#) as [the dam has outlived its structural life](#) and state money will be needed to either repair the dam, or remove it, freeing the river and opening up thousands of acres for the return of native plants.

More than half of Florida's manatees have the [herbicide glyphosate](#) in their bodies. We all know glyphosate as the active ingredient in Roundup. Yet another good reason to use native plants as opposed to chemical-dependent non-natives and turfgrass.

Since this newsletter was all about water, take a listen to my "Welcome to Florida" [podcast episode about the Floridan Aquifer](#), one of the most extraordinary natural resources in the world and source of our drinking supply.