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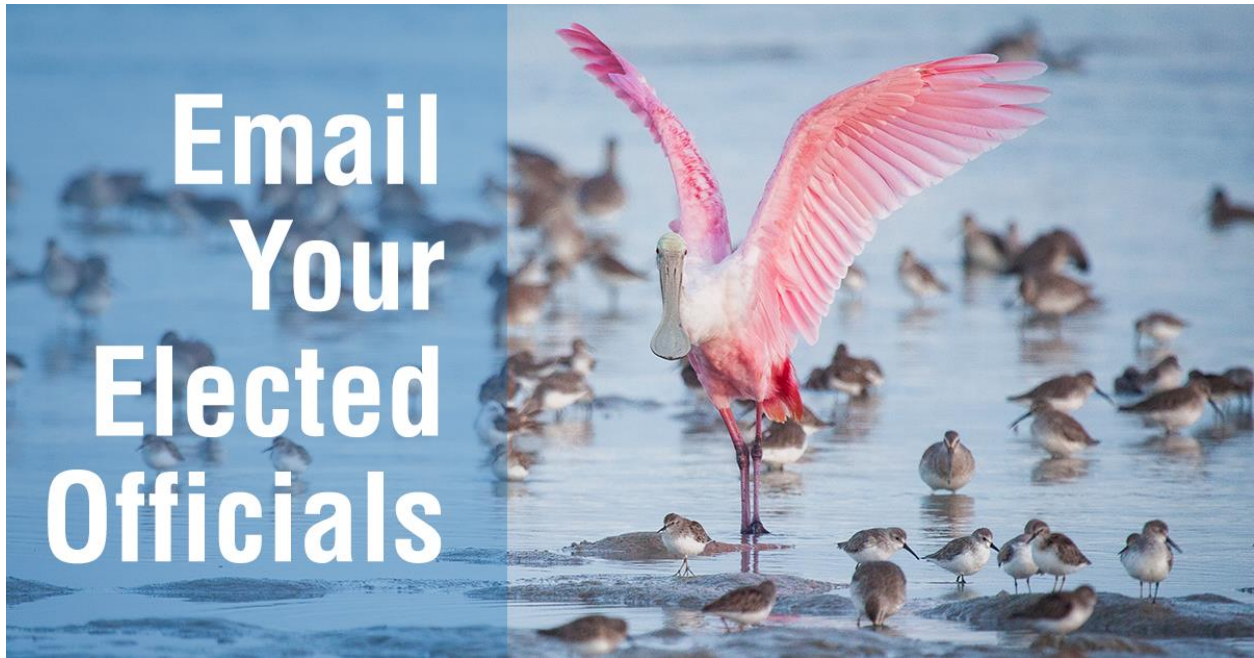
# The Everglades Review



## A QUICK LOOK AT WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

- ▶ We have a name for the sugar industry's contrived, astro-turf groups that rear their heads whenever Big Sugar is backed into a corner. They speak at public meetings, submit op-eds to our local newspapers, pose as legitimate news outlets, and post misinformation on social media — all working as mouthpieces for the sugar industry. We call them “MOVERS and FAKERS” and you can read more about them [HERE](#).
- ▶ More than 10% of Florida's manatees have died this year, an unprecedented number. Some experts believe the future for these gentle creatures looks even more grim. So why were they removed from the endangered species list? Amy Green's story on NPR explains below.
- ▶ As the battle over LOSOM rages on, which will determine Lake Okeechobee discharges for the next decade, the link between our environment and our economy grows much stronger for most people. Without clean water, can the largest industries in Florida survive?

## EVERGLADES CALL TO ACTION



# Email Your Elected Officials

A revolution of thinking must occur in our state, not with pitchforks, but with every lawmaker concerned about our water and our waterways. From the quality of our water to the quantity and the directional flow of water, protecting our most important resource is the pressing issue of our time.

[EMAIL YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS NOW](#)

**IN CASE YOU MISSED IT**



## **Sending more water south of Lake Okeechobee begins with blasts — lots of them | WPTV**

Clean freshwater flowing south again into the Everglades and down to Florida Bay, the headwaters of the Florida Keys, is not far off. “Nature never intended freshwater from Lake Okeechobee, and the giant watershed atop it, to flow east and west, upsetting the brackish water in which estuaries, their fisheries and the people who depended on them long thrived.”

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**Stakeholders must let Army Corps do its job on Lake O management plan | TC Palm**

Wittingly or unwittingly advocating on behalf of Big Sugar, “10 lawmakers from SW Florida signed a letter demanding the Army Corps make ‘significant changes’ to the LOSOM plan in July. They were Sens. Ben Albritton and Ray Rodrigues and Reps. Bob Rommel, Adam Botana, Lauren Melo, David Borrero, Spencer Roach, Mike Giallombardo, Jenna Persons-Mulicka and Kathleen Passidomo. The latter, of Naples, later said the Corps ‘made a mistake’ in not asking lawmakers’ opinions of the process — and she won’t forget it.” Reporter Ed Killer’s response (same as our response): “Where were all of you the last two years? The LOSOM process didn’t begin in July. Won’t forget? More like you haven’t cared until now.”

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## **Valuing Florida water resources: Ecosystem Services that we do not notice but still value | University of Florida - IFAS**

How to put a price tag on our most valuable assets, like the Everglades? This report from UF will give you an idea. “Florida’s water resources can be described as a component of ‘capital’ that we all benefit from: natural capital. All forms of capital – equipment (that is, manufactured capital), people’s skills (i.e., human capital), social norms (that is, social capital), and natural capital – help increase our overall wealth.”

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## **Four Years Ago Manatees Were Declared No Longer Endangered. Now They Are Dying At A Record Pace | NPR**

Every credible expert and organization opposed removing the manatee from the endangered list, pointing out the obvious. Agency heads led by politics, not science or principle – like the Florida Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission – refused to heed the warnings. “The downlisting was opposed by all four scientific experts who peer-reviewed the proposal, a vast majority of the 3,799 organizations and individuals who submitted public comments (including petitions signed by 75,276 individuals) and the Miccosukee Tribe.”

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## Develop a Lake Okeechobee plan to protect our environment, economy and health | Opinion, TC Palm

“The toxic blue-green algae crises of 2016 and 2018 widely exposed Florida’s water-management system for what it is: a boon to large corporate sugar companies — and a threat to public health, our ecosystems and our economy. The status quo has brought the northern estuaries to the brink of collapse. It has abused the Everglades and Florida Bay by starving them of freshwater flows from Lake Okeechobee.”

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## No estuary left behind — ensuring LOSOM considers the needs of Southwest Florida | News-Press

Hear from more experts: “In providing near-perfect flood control and irrigation for the EAA (sugarcane), the state has essentially turned over control of south Florida’s water supply to a few powerful corporations. The certainty provided to the EAA has come at the expense of the ecology of Lake Okeechobee, the Everglades, the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries, and our coastal communities. This has resulted in the east and west coast communities fighting over the leftover benefits in LOSOM after the sugar industry has all of their needs met.”

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### Florida's Majestic Manatees Are Starving to Death | Inside Climate News

We have been sounding the alarm for more than 25 years yet witnessing the predicted consequences of polluted water and corrupted politics is still gut wrenching. Here is the big ugly truth that politicians need to hear loudly: Underestimate the true value of these ecosystems at Florida's peril.

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