

FLORIDA BEACON

From the President's Desk Mary Gutierrez



Be Prepared for the Ballot Box!

In preparation for the upcoming election, the League of Women Voters of Florida has started distributing over 1 million copies of its 2014 Nonpartisan Voter Guide to help Florida voters make informed decisions prior to casting their November ballots.

The guide provides the pros and cons of each of the three ballot amendments, allowing voters to obtain the facts they need to make an informed decision. The guide also includes a questionnaire section, in which the candidates for Governor, Attorney General, Chief Financial Officer and Commissioner of Agriculture answer a series of questions developed by the League. A copy of the guide can be found [here](#).

As environmental professionals, one amendment on the ballot that might be (should be) of special interest to us is Amendment 1. Amendment 1, Water and Land Conservation, is spearheaded through the Florida Water and Land Legacy Campaign. This Citizen based amendment will put conservation funding into Florida's Constitution. The amendment will be funded by 33% of the existing documentary stamp tax on real estate sales.

Our state has protected more than 2.4 million acres of important natural areas through innovative programs like Preservation 2000 and Florida Forever. We can continue this legacy with Amendment 1. Unfortunately, since 2009, funding for conservation programs has been cut by 97.5%. Let's get back on track.

**Florida is unique.
We are like no other state.
What makes us so unique?**

Continued on next page

Florida Association of Environmental Professionals

Fall 2014



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Next FAEP Board Meeting!!

**The next FAEP Board of Directors Meeting
is October 13th at 1:30 PM.**

**To join the Board meeting via conference call dial:
605-475-4000 (code 607028#)**

**Find out more about FAEP
Member Benefits at our website:
WWW.FAEP-FL.ORG**

**Interested in becoming
a member of FAEP?
Click on [Renew-Join Here](#)**

Be Prepared for the Ballot Box!

Our water - Florida's aquifers are natural wonders, unlike any in the world. Florida has more first magnitude springs than any other state; fully one-third of the nation's total. Eight billion gallons of subterranean water give rise to 33 of our first-magnitude springs.

Our land - Florida has more than 2 million acres of important natural areas in need of protection. Our lands are rich in species habitat and diversity and are home to numerous threatened and endangered species. And because Florida is abundant with history, many of our lands hold significant archeological and historic sites that warrant protection. Protection of these lands will conserve and restore essential habitats, provide buffer zones for the protection of our water supply, and provide for outdoor recreational activities.

Our wildlife - The subtropical pine forests in the lower Florida Keys contain some of the most unique and threatened habitat in the United States; many are species that are listed as threatened or endangered, and some could go extinct if this area is further developed. The critically endangered Key deer is the signature species in the area. Conserving surrounding property will protect essential habitat for magnificent wildlife like sandhill cranes, Bald eagles, scrub jays and manatees. Numerous other species need protecting – black bears, Florida panthers, bobcats, not to mention hundreds of plant species.



"Florida's continued growth and economic prosperity depend on its wonderful quality of life, which is based largely on its natural assets. Water shortages, polluted rivers and paved-over beaches won't create jobs or attract businesses." – Gainesville Sun

Amendment 1 will ensure that the funds are used for conservation and not diverted for other purposes. It will raise approximately \$525 million a year for 20 years; less than 1% of Florida's annual budget.

Official Ballot Title: Water and Land Conservation

Dedicates funds to acquire and restore Florida conservation and recreation lands.

Synopsis: Amendment 1 requires 33% of the net revenue collected from the documentary stamp tax (applied primarily to real estate transactions) to go toward the Land Acquisition Trust Fund. This fund was established in 1963 with the goal of purchasing land for parks and recreational purposes. Currently, the Legislature has the authority to determine how much funding the Land Acquisition Trust Fund receives on a year-to-year basis. The Financial Impact Estimating Conference reports that the amount of state revenue that would go to the Land Acquisition Trust Fund under Amendment 1 is \$648 million during Fiscal Year 2015-16 and could grow to \$1.268 billion by Fiscal Year 2034-35, when the amendment would expire. Since 1998, voters in 24 states have approved 79 laws creating \$28 billion in new funds for land conservation. Voters in 11 states have placed funding for water and land conservation and management in their state Constitutions.

Until next time, stay safe.

Respectfully, Mary Gutierrez, Earth Ethics, Inc.



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Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Event	Date	Place
Florida Remediation Conference	Oct. 9—10, 2014	Orlando, Florida
Intercontinental Landfill Research Symposium	Oct. 19—22, 2014	Crystal River, Florida
Florida Society of Environmental Analysts	Oct. 22—24, 2014	Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
AASHE 2014 Conference & Expo	Oct. 26—29, 2014	Portland, Oregon
Florida Brownfields Association Conference	Oct. 28—31, 2014	Orlando, Florida
American College of Toxicology	Nov. 9—12, 2014	Orlando, Florida
NAEP Conference	Apr. 12—17, 2015	Honolulu Hawaii
Florida Water Resources Conference	May 3—5, 2015	Orlando, Florida
Battelle: Third International Symposium on Bioremediation and Sustainable Environmental Technologies	May 18—21, 2015	Miami, Florida

FAEP shares information about conferences pertaining to the environmental professions. The FAEP does not endorse any of the referenced conferences.



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Remarks by EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy at Resources for the Future

I want to start with a story decades in the making. Forty years ago, scientists at the University of California uncovered a global crisis. Chemicals in our hairspray, refrigerators, and air conditioners were destroying our ozone layer, the Earth's protective shield against the sun's cancer-causing radiation. The world needed a solution. It needed a leader. The United States didn't temper its resolve, despite the hesitation of other nations. American science identified the problem. American industry innovated the solution.

Because we acted, the ozone layer is healing. Our people are safer. And our economy is stronger. Our fight to save the ozone layer was a defining moment in American leadership. Today, with the threat of climate change, the pollution and the problem are different, but the principle is the same. Once again, the world needs a leader. Once again, that leader must be the United States. That's the message President Obama took to the UN this week.

The President said, quote, "We cannot condemn our children to a future beyond their capacity to repair...not when we have the means...to begin repairing it right now." He's right. Climate change supercharges risks to our health and our economy. The thing is, we don't have to choose between a healthy environment and a healthy economy. They're not separate—they're intertwined. A world-leading economy depends on a healthy environment and a stable climate.

That's why under President Obama's direction, EPA proposed a Clean Power Plan to cut the harmful carbon pollution fueling climate change from our largest source, power plants. I was at the climate summit this week, and one thing is clear: U.S. climate action is changing the game. Our leadership is spurring action from government and business leaders around the world.

What's also clear, is that when it comes to climate change, the most expensive thing we could do, is to do nothing. We no longer project tomorrow's impacts, we tally up today's damages. This past decade was the hottest on record. The streets of Miami flood on sunny days. Ocean acidification threatens Washington State's oyster industry. Across the country, people grapple with floods, fires, and severe weather. Today, California is facing historic drought, with projected job losses of more than 17,000.

2012 was also the second costliest year in history for natural disasters, with a price tag of \$110 billion dollars. And if we see warming of 3 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, instead of 2 degrees, we could face additional economic damages of almost 1 percent of global output. To put that into perspective—1 percent of 2014 U.S. GDP is almost \$150 billion; and we're just talking about the incremental cost of 3 degrees instead of 2. You do the math.

As seas rise, so do insurance premiums, medical bills, and food prices. From water scarcity to wilting crops, companies like General Mills and Coca-Cola see climate change as a "threat to commerce." Paying more for soda and cereal means less cash to buy other things. That chokes economies and stunts job growth. The bottom line is: We don't act despite the economy, we act because of it.

I came to RFF because you understand the power of an economy that values clean air, clean water, and our precious natural resources. You get that climate action isn't just about polar bears and melting ice caps. It's about protecting local economies and creating jobs.

The good news is, climate action is not just a defensive play, it advances the ball. We can turn our challenge into an opportunity to modernize our power sector, and build a low-carbon economy that'll fuel growth for decades to come. That story of energy progress is being written across America.

EPA's historic fuel efficiency standards for cars and trucks are cutting pollution, saving families money at the pump, and fueling a resurgent auto industry that's added more than 250,000 jobs since 2009. Auto makers didn't fold, they flourished. Since President Obama took office, wind energy has tripled and solar has grown ten-fold. That's thousands of jobs that can't be shipped overseas. Renewable energy on public land by itself accounts for 20,000 jobs. In less than four years the average cost of solar panels has dropped over 60 percent. Every four minutes, another American home or business goes solar. And jobs in the solar industry are growing faster than any other sector in the United States. A study by the group Environmental Entrepreneurs shows that in the second quarter of 2014 alone, we added 12,500 clean energy jobs. America's clean energy progress is bringing down energy costs, bringing in good paying jobs, and bringing back manufacturing. An ABC poll showed that 7 in 10 Americans want us to act on climate. So do public health advocates, business groups, faith leaders, and even organized moms and grandmas.

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Remarks by EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy cont'd

We have over 1 million comments on our Clean Power Plan already, including some great advice from RFF. We want every good idea possible, so we extended the comment period through December 1st. People want us to act because the benefits are clear: from soot and smog reductions alone, every dollar we invest through the Clean Power Plan will return \$7 dollars in health benefits. In 2030, total climate and health benefits could reach up to \$93 billion dollars.

The key to making our plan ambitious and achievable is flexibility. We used section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act to allow states to choose their own low-carbon path forward. Flexibility means more choice, and more ways to invest. That sends a powerful market signal that unleashes innovation.

We want to raise the common denominator, so states that can do more learn from states that are doing more. Our plan is not a one-size-fits-all prescription, it boosts progress already underway in companies, city halls, and state capitals across the nation.

For years, states in the Northeast have teamed up in a market-based program to curb greenhouse gases. At the same time, they've enjoyed some of the nation's strongest economic growth. My home state of Massachusetts cut emissions by 40 percent, while its economy grew 7 percent. Cities and states acting on climate are not slowing down, they're speeding up. And according to a new report from the Carbon Disclosure Project, major companies like Delta, Google and Disney use an internal carbon price in their business decisions. Why? Because investors and CEO's see the cost of climate change, and the value of taking action.

We know a global problem needs a global solution. Although we can't act for other nations, when the United States of America leads, other nations follow. We set the bar for solutions. We set the pace for progress. Years ago, it was American chemical companies like DuPont and Honeywell that innovated safer chemicals to replace the ones destroying the ozone layer, and sold those solutions to the rest of the world. And President Obama just convened a group of those companies at the White House last week, to acknowledge their commitment to slash even more pollution, and to announce administrative action that will support and speed up those efforts.

When it comes to the American economy, cutting pollution doesn't dull our competitive edge, it sharpens it. Thanks to our fuel efficiency standards, the auto industry is once again a source of economic strength. The number of cars coming off American assembly lines, made by American workers, is the highest it's been in 12 years. From catalytic converters to smoke-stack scrubbers, America has a legacy of innovating the world's leading environmental technologies—accounting for more than 1.5 million jobs and \$44 billion in exports in 2008 alone. That's more than other big sectors like plastics and rubber products. If you want to talk return on investment, in over four decades, we've cut air pollution by 70 percent, while our GDP has tripled. The health and economic benefits of the 1990 Clean Air Act amendments by themselves outweigh the costs 30 to 1; Phil, I know you championed those amendments while you were in Congress.

Today we have more cars, more jobs, more businesses, and less pollution. That's how we define progress, and how we build a low-carbon economy.

So it's sad to see a small but vocal group of critics hide behind the word "economy" to protect their own special interests; when the truth is, climate action is in everyone's best interest. It's worrisome when we hear those critics say, quote, "... I'm not a scientist, but climate action is going to ruin the economy..."

Well, as President Obama has said, those critics have one thing right: they are not scientists. They're not economists, either. But guess what, we've got some pretty good ones at EPA. And at NOAA. And at NASA. We trust them to put astronauts in space, and to tell us if the air is safe for our kids to play outside. These world-renowned scientists, medical professionals, and economists like you are calling for climate action.

Simply put: the economy isn't a reason to fear action, it's a reason to take it.

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Remarks by EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy cont'd

A report from The New Climate Economy shows that not only is global climate action affordable, but it could actually speed up economic growth. Another recent study shows that U.S. states that are still skeptical, like Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas, would actually see an annual net economic benefit of up to about \$16 billion dollars. That's billion with a "b."

A surefire way to damage our economy is to neglect our need for a healthy environment to live, work, and play in. That's what's at stake. Back when we took action to heal the ozone layer, special interest critics manufactured doomsday predictions. They spun stories of supermarket refrigerators shutting off, and manufacturing plants shutting down. Guess what? None of it happened. If those scare tactics sound familiar, it's because they're the same ones we hear today on climate change.

Those same critics point fingers at other nations dragging their feet as an excuse for the United States to stand still. We don't hide behind the inaction of other nations as an excuse for mediocrity. We are not about stagnation, we are about innovation. And we don't bend to the false warnings of those who lack faith in American ingenuity, and toss aside the values that make America great. Can you imagine President Kennedy looking up at the moon and saying, "Nah...we'll just wait for someone else do it."

When we've faced challenges before, we have acted time and time again. And it's made our nation stronger. Because we acted, our kids don't grow up with acid rain or toxic leaded-gas fumes. Because we acted, we eat safer foods, drink cleaner water, and breathe cleaner air.

Because we acted, nations came together, compelled by American leadership, to save our ozone layer and protect our people. Kofi Annan called that effort the "single most successful international agreement" of any kind. Our climate challenge is not just a responsibility we should accept. It's an opportunity we should seize, to retool and resurge with new technologies, new industries, and new jobs.

Let's remind ourselves what we're capable of. Let's embrace this defining moment of American leadership. We owe it to our kids to lead on climate change. Not just to leave them a cleaner, safer planet, but an opportunity-rich economy for generations to come. Thank you.



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NAEP has recordings available for the NAEP hosted webinars. The recorded webinars may be purchased by individuals and the local chapters. Consider using a recorded webinar as one of your chapter events.

A list of the available webinars is on the NAEP website (www.naep.org).

Each webinar lasts between 55-80 minutes and has industry experts presenting. For more detailed information on any of the recorded webinars just click the webinar information available at www.naep.org.

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CABINET APPROVES TWO CONSERVATION LAND ACQUISITIONS TO PROTECT FLORIDA'S ENVIRONMENT

TALLAHASSEE – On September 23, 2014, Governor Rick Scott and the Florida Cabinet approved the acquisition of more than 1,275 acres to protect environmentally sensitive areas in Monroe and Washington counties. This approval is the final step before land can be purchased for these two Florida Forever projects.

Governor Scott said, "This more than \$4-million investment will protect our springs and environment to ensure future generations can continue to enjoy Florida's natural treasures."

"Governor Scott and the Cabinet took important steps today to protect two very different, but equally important areas of Florida," said DEP Secretary Herschel T. Vinyard Jr. "While each of these projects has a different purpose, they all protect and improve water-quality in our state, which has been a major priority for this administration."

"The purchase of these valuable conservation lands not only offers significant water quality protection, but also benefits birds and wildlife in the regions," said Eric Draper, Audubon Florida executive director.

"Audubon applauds the efforts of DEP for acquiring this land and the Florida Board of Trustees for supporting these important purchases."

"The purchase of these Florida Forever priority lands is movement in the right direction," said Janet Bowman with the Nature Conservancy. "It's encouraging to see Cabinet's support for the purchase of these valuable lands that offer important water-resource protection for springs and estuaries, coastal protection and critical habitat for wildlife."

The first acquisition is a 928.3-acre parcel within the Florida Keys Ecosystem Florida Forever project, which will help safeguard the Outstanding Florida Waters of the Keys. In addition, this property will preserve hardwood hammocks and many rare plants and animals, including the North American crocodile, Lower Keys marsh rabbit and Key deer.

This parcel, purchased for \$3.6 million, will also help protect recreational and commercial fisheries, reefs around the islands and give residents and visitors more areas for enjoying the natural beauty of the Keys. The property will be managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as an addition to the Florida Keys Wildlife and Environmental Area.

The second acquisition is within the Florida's First Magnitude Springs Florida Forever project in Washington County and consists of 347.6 acres from Plum Creek Land Company. The parcel, purchased for \$780,000, is adjacent to land owned by the Northwest Florida Water Management District, which will manage this new property.

The project is located along Holmes Creek, which is primarily a spring-fed creek containing a total of 51 springs within a 25-mile reach of the creek. The acquisition will ensure greater spring protection, while maintaining the current public access for fishing, hunting, canoeing, kayaking, boating and hiking. There is a boat ramp onsite, which will remain and is currently leased and managed by Washington County.

Earlier this month, DEP [announced](#) the Division of State Lands surpassed the goal of selling \$40 million of non-conservation land to purchase new, valuable conservation lands. These two acquisitions are examples of the important properties the department is seeking to acquire with these funds.

FDEP Press Release

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Professional Organization Teaming Opportunities

The FAEP reaches out to like-minded organizations for cross-benefit and cross-promotional opportunities. Such opportunities include member discount registration rates like that recently offered to FAEP members by the American Water Resources Association, Florida Section and training and continuing education credits like the South Florida chapter offered to members of the American Planning Association. Cross-promotional opportunities include sending messages to the respective organization's membership about upcoming conferences, meetings, and/or training opportunities and posting notice of such meetings in the FAEP newsletter and/or webpage. Another example is the National Mitigation Banking Association including a rotating tile sponsorship on its webpage in exchange for the FAEP providing notice of the National Mitigation and Ecosystem Banking Conference (May 5-8, 2015 in Orlando).

The benefits of such arrangements include: the promotion of the respective associations, educational opportunities, training, continuing education credits, discount registrations, exposure to new people and new ideas, and networking opportunities. Such teaming arrangements also provide the opportunity for professional growth by allowing participants to present at the respective association conferences, webinars, and meetings. This enables FAEP members to not only highlight their area of expertise but also provides the opportunity to develop and hone public speaking skills.

The FAEP currently is working on continuing to develop relationships with FLERA (the Florida Local Environmental Resource Agencies) and with the ELULS (Florida Bar Environmental and Land Use Law Section). Both organizations complement the FAEP and many environmental professionals are already members of two, if not all three, of these organizations. FAEP members have been invited to participate in FLERA committees and to join the ELULS Affiliate Members section. These opportunities allow FAEP members help in the development of laws and regulations that affect the environmental professional and to promote the advancement and dissemination of multi-disciplinary information utilized in environmental and land use law.

FAEP

Benefits of membership include workshops, training and conferences, the FAEP Quarterly newsletter, The Florida Beacon; monthly meetings with guest speakers; an online directory of all FAEP members statewide; and Representation with the National Association of Environmental Professionals.

FLERA

Membership is open to the Public and Private sectors. Regular membership includes established local government environmental resource agencies in Florida that have programs in environmental regulation, land or growth management, or environmental health. Associate membership includes engineering firms, water management and other special districts, state agencies, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, and individuals. www.flera.org

ELULS

The Environmental and Land Use Law Section, part of The Florida Bar, is dedicated to serving the interests of over 2,000 members and affiliates through educational programs and publications. The section sponsors five to six seminars and workshops during the year, in addition to free webinars, and offers course materials from past programs. Membership is open to members of The Florida Bar, law students, and affiliated professionals. www.ELULS.org

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FAEP Group Discount Memberships

Did you know that FAEP provides a discount on our memberships to employers who have 5 or more members? If your company or organization qualifies for the Group Membership you save \$5 on each FAEP new member or re-newing member, lowering the FAEP membership fee from \$40 to \$35 for everyone from your company or organiza-tion. If your company or organization is on this list, you are eligible to join or renew at the discounted Group rate. The FAEP Board would like to extend a thank you to the following employers for supporting their employee's profes-sional development and the FAEP mission:

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Corzo, Castella, Carballo, Thompson, Salman	Florida Water Management Districts	Lee County	Scheda Ecological Associates
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