

2010 Annual Report



ENVIRONMENT
FLORIDA
Clean Air. Clean Water. Open Spaces.



“Environment Florida responded to each development by uniting members and making our voices heard.”

**Adam Rivera
Advocate**

From our staff

Sometimes, one year can change a lot.

At the outset of 2010, there had been no proposed oil drilling in Florida waters, the BP oil rig had not exploded in the Gulf, and nobody dreamed the “Everglades Corporate Park” could go up over protected wetlands west of the Sawgrass Expressway, the unofficial boundary between the city and the Everglades.

Then, one by one, the unbelievable happened. President Barack Obama proposed offshore drilling in the Eastern Gulf; spilled oil from the Deepwater Horizon rig washed ashore at Pensacola Beach; and the Sunrise City Commission nearly allowed a 21-acre corporate facility on the aquifer that provides South Florida with drinking water.

Environment Florida responded to each development by uniting members and making our voices heard. When President Obama opened the doors to drilling off our shores, we responded with 25,000 petition signatures urging him to reconsider. We also took an active role in organizing “Hands Across the Sand,” the largest demonstration against offshore drilling the world has ever seen.

Our members took immediate action against the Everglades Corporate Park proposal, inundating Mayor Roger Wishner and the Sunrise City Commission with e-mails and telephone calls and demanding that they hold the line against new development in the Everglades. They listened. And as of press time, the Commission is considering a new direction on development.

We also launched our first-ever campaign to protect our last 100 Florida panthers from extinction.

Unlike with most endangered species, our panthers’ southwest Florida habitat is not protected from overdevelopment. Last year, a record number of panthers were struck by cars and killed on roads built to accommodate sprawl. As development boxes in our last panthers, they also fight each other to the death for precious space to live.

I’d like to offer my sincere thanks for your support. With you by our side, I look forward to confronting the challenges and seizing the opportunities the new year will present.

Sincerely,

Adam Rivera

Save Our Shores: Momentum shifts in favor of clean beaches

When the Florida House of Representatives adjourned in early May 2009, it had just voted to remove the ban on oil drilling within ten miles of Florida’s coast for the first time in state history.

A year later, the profound wrongness of that decision was on display for all Floridians to see, as more than 2 million gallons of oil gushed from a BP offshore well into the Gulf of Mexico each day for three months. Environment Florida urged the Legislature to enshrine coastal protections in the state constitution—a plea widely supported by Floridians, which fell on deaf ears.

A coastline in jeopardy

As oil from the sunken rig washed ashore on Florida’s world-renowned beaches, the livelihoods of more than 1 million Floridians and our \$65-billion-a-year coastline were temporarily in jeopardy.

Incredibly, the oil industry is still aggressively pushing legislation that threatens our world-famous coast.

Some of Florida’s elected leaders are still supporting proposals that would promote drilling closer to our beaches and undermine Florida’s existing protections—including a repeal of

the ban on drilling just six miles offshore. Even President Barack Obama still supports a plan to drill in more than half of Florida’s Gulf waters, bringing the risk of another disaster closer to our shoreline than ever before. Opening our shores to drilling would only put our beaches and coastal waters at great risk for a small, short-term supply of oil and gas. We can do better.

Drilling: Dirty and dangerous

Drilling for oil off our coasts is a destructive policy that will put our beaches and wild places at risk while doing nothing to reduce our dependence on foreign oil or the cost to consumers at the pump. Too many state leaders have accepted oil company assurances of safe technology and rapid spill containment. But drilling is as dirty and dangerous as ever.

“Let’s enshrine protections for our world-renowned shoreline in the Florida Constitution so that future legislators can’t repeat the Florida House’s mistake,” said Adam Rivera, advocate with Environment Florida.



Florida’s coastline pumps \$65 billion into the economy every year.

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P. 2 photo credits: (Clockwise from top left) Shutterstock; Paul Brennan, Shutterstock; dcwcreations, Shutterstock



From top: BP oil workers clean an oiled bird after the Gulf spill; workers clean oil from the shores of Pensacola beach; the Gulf waters.

The BP spill: No drilling in Florida's waters

Within days of the first Earth Day's 40th anniversary, we received a tragic reminder of how central our coastal environment is to our way of life. On April 20, BP's Deepwater Horizon oil rig exploded, claiming 11 lives and upending hundreds more in the greatest environmental disaster in American history.

As the spill's magnitude became horrifyingly apparent, Environment Florida and our allies seized the moment and urged Senate leaders to forbid drilling off our shores. We succeeded in ridding ourselves of the biggest, most immediate drilling threat on Florida's horizon.

As terrible as Florida's oil-stained summer was, it could have been even more catastrophic.

Three weeks before the Gulf catastrophe, President Barack Obama disappointed the environmental community by calling for drilling in Florida waters.

The president's announcement built on a campaign promise to consider expanding drilling in ecologically sensitive areas, as part of a compromise that would deliver historic energy and climate reform.

Moving forward

In the days before April 20, that compromise was about to take shape. The Obama administration proposed a 125-mile drilling buffer around Florida's coast, but pro-drilling U.S. senators would settle for no less than oil rigs 45 miles offshore—and just 10 miles from Pensacola's beautiful beaches—in exchange for their support on the energy and climate priorities we all share.

The Gulf disaster changed everything.

After President Obama addressed the nation on the spill, Environment Florida's Adam Rivera appeared on South Florida radio station WLRN and said, "We must learn from tragedy and take the correct measures to ensure that it never happens again. That means containing the spill, holding BP accountable for all damages, banning new drilling, and getting America off oil."

New advances

As 2010 ends, we are closer, but not nearly close enough, to accomplishing these goals. The BP well has been capped, but the long-term effect of spilled oil and

chemical dispersants on the Gulf will linger for years. U.S. House legislation removing the cap on oil company liability for spill-related damages has languished in the Senate. The Obama administration continues to rethink its drilling plans.

Although no climate bill emerged from Congress, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is set to dramatically reduce oil consumption by phasing in revolutionary fuel economy standards for cars and trucks.

And it's a good thing. Because if our cars and trucks got an average of just a few more miles per gallon, we'd save more oil than exists off the entire coast of Florida. Yet federal gas mileage standards leave much room for improvement.

Instead of allowing oil companies to drill off our coast, our governor, congressional delegation and president should be leading the charge in Washington, D.C., and in Tallahassee for better gas mileage and more clean energy.

► Oil washed ashore at Pensacola Beach.



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Environment Florida members turned out by the thousands to Hands Across the Sand events throughout the state, showing support for clean energy alternatives to offshore oil drilling.

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P. 6 photo credits: Top- Staff
Middle- Rusty Boxcars, Creative Commons
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Hands Across the Sand: Support rallied for offshore drilling protest

Environment Florida organizers and members turned out to our coasts twice last year for Hands Across the Sand rallies, to show support for clean beaches, clean energy, and a green economy. What began in Florida on a cold February Saturday as a statewide offshore drilling protest grew enormously by June 26, when several hundred thousand people across the world traveled to their local beaches and joined hands to protest dirty, hazardous drilling.

More than 1,500 Dade County residents attended their local rallies, publicized by Environment Florida. Dressed in black to symbolize oil, the activists stood at the water's edge with joined hands to form a "human spill" that spanned 13 city blocks. This visual—both a show of solidarity for the environment, and a powerful representation of beach lovers' worst nightmare—was replicated by Environment Florida members at more than 60 beaches across the state.

"We're demonstrating against this mess that BP has caused out here that has really messed up our beautiful beaches," Floridian Ricky Heinrich, 52, told the Los Angeles Times at Pensacola Beach. "We're

all gathering here, arm in arm, joining hands as a demonstration against BP and against anything like this ever happening again."

Gov. Charlie Crist and his wife, Carole Rome, attended the rally at West Palm Beach. The governor spoke to reporters there in support of a state constitutional ban on drilling within 10 miles of Florida's shoreline.

Showing solidarity

"We won't know what we've lost by allowing offshore drilling until our beaches are tarred with oil slicks and our coastal waters are contaminated by toxic pollution," said Environment Florida's Mariam Baksh. "Hands Across the Sand was a great way to put that visual across to people—and to show some solidarity for the beach, too."

"Hands Across the Sand," first organized by Panhandle beach-front restaurant owner Dave Rauschkolb, was an extraordinarily successful day of action against offshore drilling. For our efforts in orchestrating and publicizing the statewide rallies, Environment Florida was recognized—alongside the Surfrider Foundation, Sierra Club, 1Sky, Greenpeace, ECOMB and Urban Paradise Guild—by the City of Miami Beach after one of the events.

"This is an opportunity on a national and worldwide level to send a clear message to our leaders that it is time to declare our independence from oil," Rauschkolb, owner of Bud and Alley's in Seaside, told the Northwest Florida Daily News.

A powerful visual

As thousands of Environment Florida members demonstrated at Hands Across the Sand, the stakes are high for our state. A Gulf-sized spill off our shores would devastate our vibrant coastal economy.

Last fall, Florida Senate President Jeff Atwater wisely took a step back from the oil and gas industry's heated rhetoric by asking the Collins Institute—a prestigious, non-partisan committee—to examine the offshore drilling issue.

The report concluded that drilling for oil off Florida's shores would have no discernible impact on the price of petroleum.

► Shots from Hands Across the Sand, Miami.





Encroaching development has gobbled up sensitive wetlands, disrupted water flows, deteriorated water quality and harmed fragile ecosystems.

The Everglades: City commission stalls Everglades Corporate Park

This summer, Environment Florida mobilized to stop an out-of-state developer from building “Everglades Corporate Park,” a sprawling 21-acre facility proposed west of Broward County’s Sawgrass Expressway—once the unofficial boundary between the city and the Everglades. After Environment Florida campaigned against this development, the Sunrise City Commission had not approved plans to permit construction as of press time.

If the Kentucky-based developer, Sawgrass Investors, had prevailed, the proposed hotel and office complex would have sat along sensitive wetlands atop the aquifer that supplies South Florida’s drinking water. As Environment Florida worked through the summer to avoid the worst, our staff also geared up to build support for Amendment Four, a ballot initiative that would give voters the final say over destructive land use changes, like the flawed “Everglades Corporate Park.”

Pushing farther west

Environment Florida mobilized Floridians on the streets, at their doors, through the media, and over the Internet to urge our commissioners to “hold the line” on development in the Everglades. After a deluge

of phone calls, e-mails and petition signatures from Environment Florida members, the Sunrise City Commission began to explore other options, including a land swap with the developer that would put the proposed site of development in public hands.

Broward County planners never followed Dade County’s lead in creating an Urban Development Boundary to stop development that would disrupt natural water flows, harm wildlife with pollution run-off and destroy the Everglades’ unique, species-rich wetlands. Establishing such a boundary to direct development is critical to protecting the Everglades and other areas that are vital for agriculture and natural habitat, that help to replenish our drinking water supply, and help control floods during major hurricanes.

Construction of the proposed Corporate Park could have led to extensive development west of the old boundary. “Setting a bad precedent for sprawl could cement the fate of the Everglades,” warned Environment Florida advocate Adam Rivera. “This office complex might have paved the way for more strip malls and subdivisions right on top of the Everglades.”

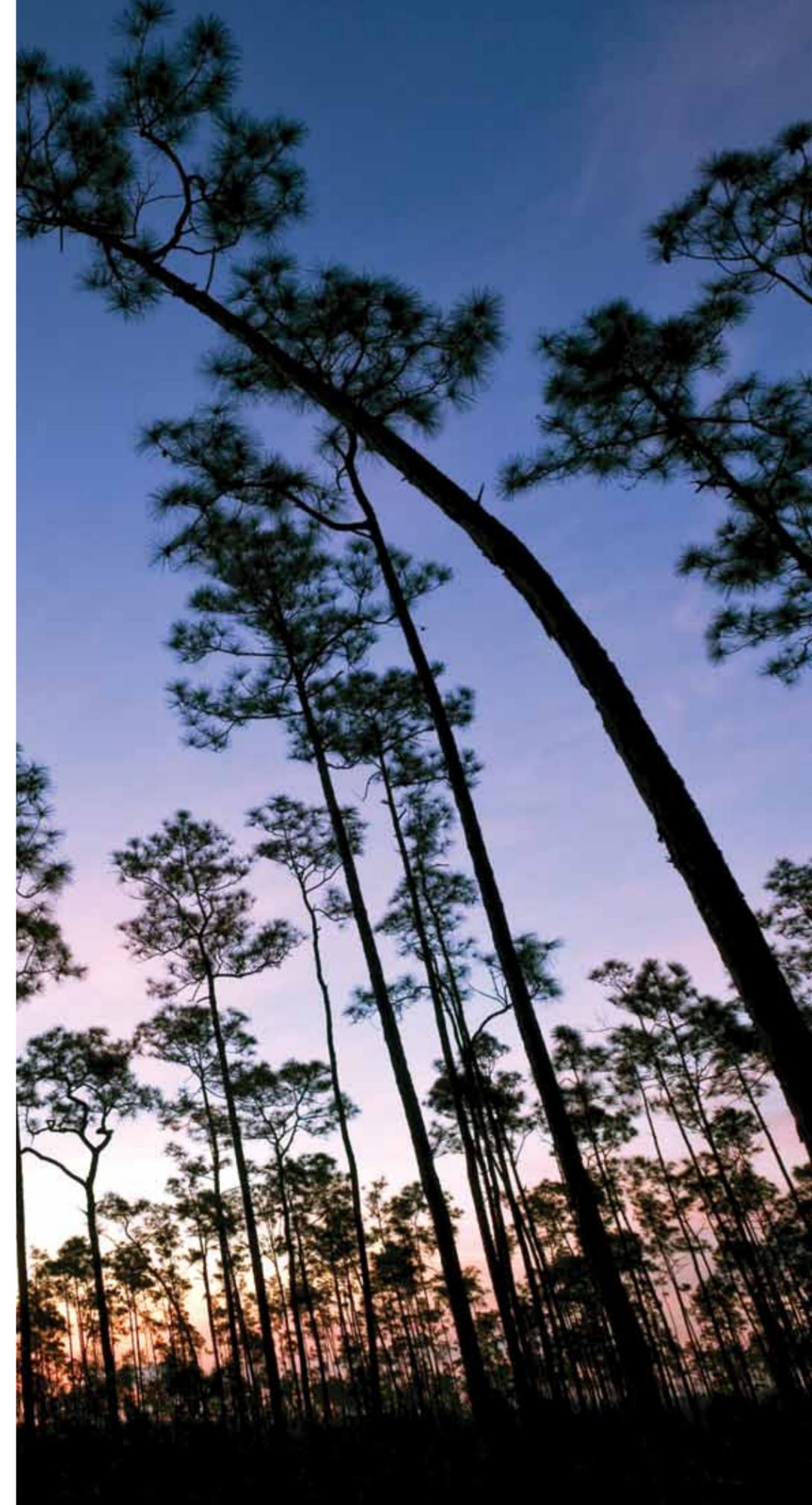
“The Everglades is a test”

Every year, developers push to encroach upon the Florida Everglades, trying to edge more sprawl over this one-of-a-kind ecosystem. And every year, Floridians across the state organize to fight back. After 60 years of pollution and overdevelopment, half of the historic Everglades have already been paved over. And what’s left is badly in need of preservation.

Like the Rocky Mountains and the Mississippi River, the Everglades is a cherished part of the American landscape. Over time, however, this unique ecosystem has experienced the negative effects of human development: loss of wetlands, disrupted timing and flows of water, deterioration of water quality, reductions in wading birds and other species, declining lake and estuary health, and loss of native habitat to exotic species.

Even as pollution and overdevelopment continue to claim much of the Everglades, it is easy to appreciate the sheer number of endangered and threatened species it houses and realize that South Florida’s ecosystem is like none other on the planet. As famed conservationist Marjory Stoneman Douglas once put it: “The Everglades is a test. If we pass it, we may get to keep the planet.”

► Dawn in the Everglades.



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Fiscal Year 2010 financial support

Foundation support

The Environment Florida Research & Policy Center, a 501(c)(3) organization, conducts research and public education on emerging environmental issues. Contributions to the Environment Florida Research & Policy Center are tax-deductible.

The following foundations supported the Environment Florida Research & Policy Center work in 2010. To find out more, call Adam Rivera at (305)604-8776.

- Prentice Foundation
- Curtis and Edith Munson Foundation
- Elizabeth Ordway Dunn Foundation
- Jelks Family Foundation
- Energy Foundation

Environment Florida and Environment Florida Research & Policy Center

Financial Information

The charts below represent the combined financial information for Environment Florida and Environment Florida Research & Policy Center for Fiscal Year 2010.

FY10 Income



- ◆ Citizen Members 91%
- ◆ Foundation Grants 9%

FY10 Expenses



- ◆ Program 80%
- ◆ Fundraising 10%
- ◆ Administrative 10%

FY10 Program Expenses



- ◆ Our Ocean Legacy 39%
- ◆ Clean Energy 25%
- ◆ Stop Global Warming 22%
- ◆ Preservation 14%

Building a greener future

Environment Florida and Environment Florida Research & Policy Center gratefully accept bequests, beneficiary designations of IRAs and life insurance, and gifts of securities to support our work. Your gift will assure that we can continue to protect Florida's air, water and open spaces for future generations. For more information, call 1-800-841-7299 or e-mail PlannedGiving@EnvironmentFlorida.org.



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