

Facts Get Lost In The Everglades

Trump's Real Record On The Everglades And Toxic Algae

Download this research in MS Word format here:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=15qyScZMHkisgWQSuCtMeRzft1etvl7uC>

QUICK FACTS:

- Trump repeatedly lies to Florida voters about his role in the restoration of Florida's everglades, work that [started decades](#) before Trump got into politics.
- Trump [opposed funding](#) for Everglades restoration work for years until in an election year his budget called for what one activist called "[the minimum investment needed](#)."
- Trump [brags](#) about funding to complete work on a single project, the Herbert Hoover Dike on Lake Okeechobee as if it will prevent harmful algae outbreaks, but in truth it could [actually make things worse](#), and it [didn't stop water discharges](#) from the rising lake this year.
- Trump also [bragged](#) about legislation to address harmful algae while at the same time trying to [eliminate](#) those programs and others aimed at protecting water quality in his budget requests to Congress,
- Trump's [denial](#) of [climate change](#) and [rollbacks](#) of clean water protections will only [make algae blooms worse](#).

DIG DEEPER:

Trump and Republicans pretend that damming up polluted water in Lake Okeechobee will magically solve the problem of toxic algae blooms.

- Water laden with phosphorus runs off from farms, ranches, and neighborhoods as far north as Orlando and [flows into Lake Okeechobee](#), where toxic algae grows in the warm, polluted, and stagnant water
- At a [November, 2019 rally in Sunrise, FL](#), Trump bragged “we restored the ecosystems in the Florida Everglades” in reference to a project to fixing the Herbert Hoover Dike, allowing it to hold more water in Lake Okeechobee.
 - He made the same brag in his [widely–debunked environmental speech](#) from the White House.
- In truth, this project only holds back the dirty, polluted water in place without addressing the [underlying problems](#) that fuel toxic algae outbreaks.
 - [Audubon Florida](#) cautioned “If Lake Okeechobee’s Water Levels Were Held Even Higher, Future Releases To The Coastal Estuaries Would Be Done With Even Dirtier Water!”
 - In October of 2020, the Army Corps of Engineers [still had to release](#) water from Lake Okeechobee, which was over 16 feet on October 9th and rising at a rate of about a foot-and-a-half a month.
- Trump’s FY2020 budget [tried to cut money for a proposed reservoir](#) near Lake Okeechobee that would hold overflows and naturally filter the polluted water.

Trump is pulling a bait-and-switch on funding to address Florida’s water issues.

- Trump’s FY2021 budget proposed what one Everglades advocate called “[the minimum investment needed](#)” for Everglades restoration after facing bipartisan pressure.
- Trump also [repeatedly brags](#) about having signed a bill to authorize \$100 million to fight red tide.

- The [bill that he was referring to](#) reauthorized the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research Control Act, which would fund research, detection, and forecasting tools to track harmful algae blooms.
- Trump's budget request would have [entirely eliminated](#) the program at the NOAA that manages research under the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research Control Act.
- Trump got media coverage for requesting \$15 million for a new program to help predict severe algae blooms in his fiscal year 2021 budget.
 - In the same fiscal year 2021 budget, Trump actually [called for completely eliminating](#) an existing \$19 million competitive research grant program which did the exact same work if forecasting and tracking harmful algae blooms under the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS).
- All [four of Trump's budget proposals](#) have called for completely eliminating the nearly \$30 million [National Estuary Program](#), which helps to restore water quality in the Indian River Lagoon.
- All [four of Trump's budget proposals](#) have called for completely eliminating a \$172 million grant program to help states control nonpoint source pollution such as the [agricultural runoff](#) that fuels algae blooms.
- Trump's last budget proposal called for [gutting the Clean Water State Revolving Fund](#) by more than \$500 million dollars, with Florida losing almost \$17.5 million. State and local governments [rely on this funding](#) to control pollution from agricultural runoff and leaking septic systems.

Background: Everglades restoration work started decades before Trump.

- The remnants of the original natural everglades ecosystem now [compete for water](#) with urban development, and agricultural interests, and contaminated runoff from both.
- Large-scale restoration [planning work that began in the 1990s](#) led to the adoption of the [Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan](#) by Congress in 2000 to restore natural flows of water and mitigate pollution.

- Under President Obama, federal funding for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration program was [kept on track](#) and was treated as a priority in his budget proposals.
- The Obama administration invested more than [\\$1.5 billion](#) in Everglades projects and initiatives.

Background: Harmful algae blooms are fueled by climate change and water pollution, which Trump is ignoring.

- Both red tide and blue-green algae have become more and more problematic in southern Florida in recent years and [both are caused](#) by a combination of water pollution runoff and [high water temperatures driven by climate change](#).
- [Donald Trump is a climate denier](#).
- Trump has been rolling back over [100 environmental safeguards](#) since taking office.
- Trump has rolled back environmental protections for [6 million acres](#) of wetlands in Florida.
 - This could [make algae blooms worse](#) because these wetlands naturally help mitigate flooding and remove nutrients from the water that feed toxic algae.

Background: Red tide and blue-green algae are harmful to Florida's health and economy.

- [Blue-green algae](#) is particularly bad in Lake Okeechobee and flows out to east through the St Lucie estuary to the Treasure Coast region and to the west through the Caloosahatchee river to the Cape Coral-Fort Myers area.
- Red Tide affects the saltwater coasts of Florida and has always been known as a naturally-occurring bacteria that forms out in the gulf, but in recent years blooms have become increasingly widespread, destructive, and long-lasting as the blooms are [driven by warm water temperatures and pollution runoff](#).
- 2018's red tide and blue-green algae problems were [devastating](#) to Florida's tourism economy.
- Water contaminated with [cyanobacteria](#) (blue-green algae) can cause nausea, vomiting, and acute liver failure.

**CLIMATE
POWER
2020**

- Florida red tide produces [brevetoxins](#), which when released into the air by waves can cause severe or chronic respiratory conditions and serious illness.