State failing to keep up with BEACH EROSION

By RYAN HILLS and ERIC STAATS, THE NAPLES DAILY NEWS

F or every year, Florida loses more of its beaches. From the southern tip of the Florida Keys to the western edge of the Panhandle, communities up and down the state's coasts struggle to keep sand on their shrinking shores, with some losing as much as 18 feet a year.

More than a third of the state's shoreline has lost ground over the past five decades. Florida's brand, a key source of tourist revenue, is washing away.

More than 800 miles of beaches draw more tourists to the Sunshine State from all over the world, with some 170 million visitors a year. But Florida's leaders are failing to protect the state's greatest asset, and here's how:

Despite the state receiving more than $5 billion in sales taxes from tourists to beach counties each year, which amounts to 40 percent of sales taxes from tourists to beach counties each year.

Deepened by the state's most destructive storm season in a decade.

Instead of taking advantage of a 10-year lull in storms to shore up the state's coast, Florida governors and lawmakers allowed an annual backlog of unfunded beach projects to peak at more than $300 million. Local governments that often are not allowed an annual backlog of unfunded beach projects to peak at more than $300 million. Local governments that often are not allowed an annual backlog of unfunded beach projects to peak at more than $300 million.

That has left more of the coast vulnerable to hurricanes and other tropical systems, like the ones that hammered Florida hard hit by the state's most destructive storm season in a decade.

Florida beachfront property owners have been allowed to build everything from resorts to houses to swimming pools along Florida's shores, state records show.

A Naples Daily News analysis shows nearly two-thirds of all coastal building permits issued after 1989 have allowed construction along beaches that DEP already had declared critically eroded, where development, recreation or natural habitat is threatened.

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Top left: Temporary braces holds up columns at the La Coquina Condominiums where summer tropical storms eroded away dunes on Manasota Key. Charlotte County has begun planning for a beach renourishment management plan in hopes of stemming future threats to Gulf-front properties.

Bottom: Thanks to Hurricane Hermine, waves batter Manasota Key this past September. (PHOTO PROVIDED)

As erosion consumed more of Florida's beaches, the state again changed course, gutting the state's)$1.50 www.yoursun.com
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Our Town

The non-mass movement known as the beach defense front is inarguably the most powerful force pushing the state of Florida to reconsider its dry, leafless posture. For years, those who have fought to protect the state’s beaches have been operating from the shadows, hidden from the public eye. But now, with the rising tide of public awareness, they are stepping out into the open, ready to make their voices heard. Some people call them the “beach activists,” while others refer to them as the “beach warriors.” Regardless of what you call them, one thing is for sure: these people are not afraid to fight for what they believe in. They stand strong against the forces of progress and development, determined to protect the beaches that are so important to so many. So next time you see someone standing on the shore, don’t be surprised if they’re not just enjoying the view. They might just be fighting for the future of our beaches. 

Shrinking shores

On the June 7th issue of Tropical Storm Colin, the beaches of the Florida Keys were hit hard. The storm caused significant damage to the shoreline, with many areas seeing a loss of sand. Despite the damage, the local community remains resilient and committed to rebuilding. In fact, they have already started planning for the next storm season. They are determined to make sure their beaches remain strong and resilient, no matter what the future holds.
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Disapproved of his presidency

The president himself stated

to be his suspicion.

It was an extensive study of the problem

xenophobes, homophobes

were racists, Islamophobes,

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Trump in an Electoral College

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results can be explained

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Editor:

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We do not look like Germany is

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to keeping the replenishment of

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