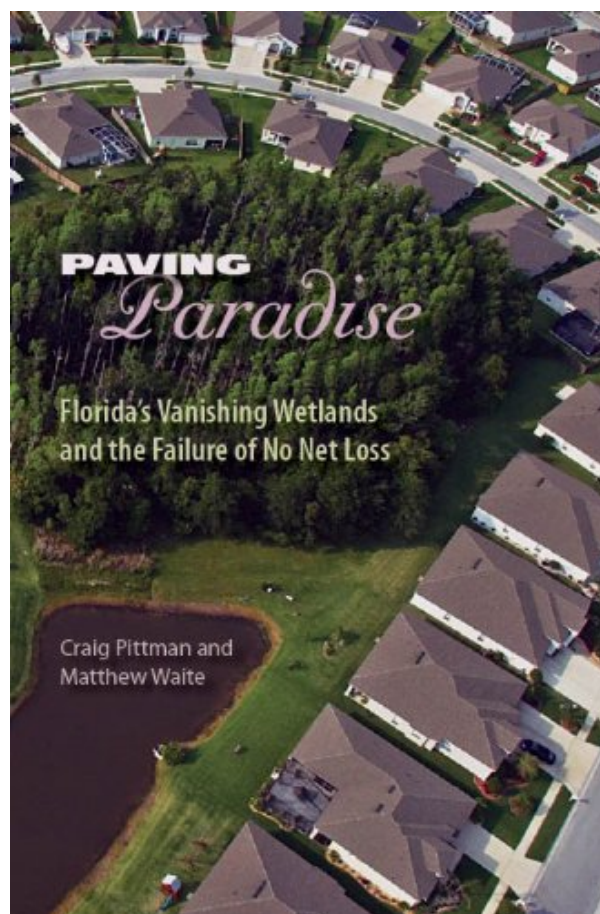
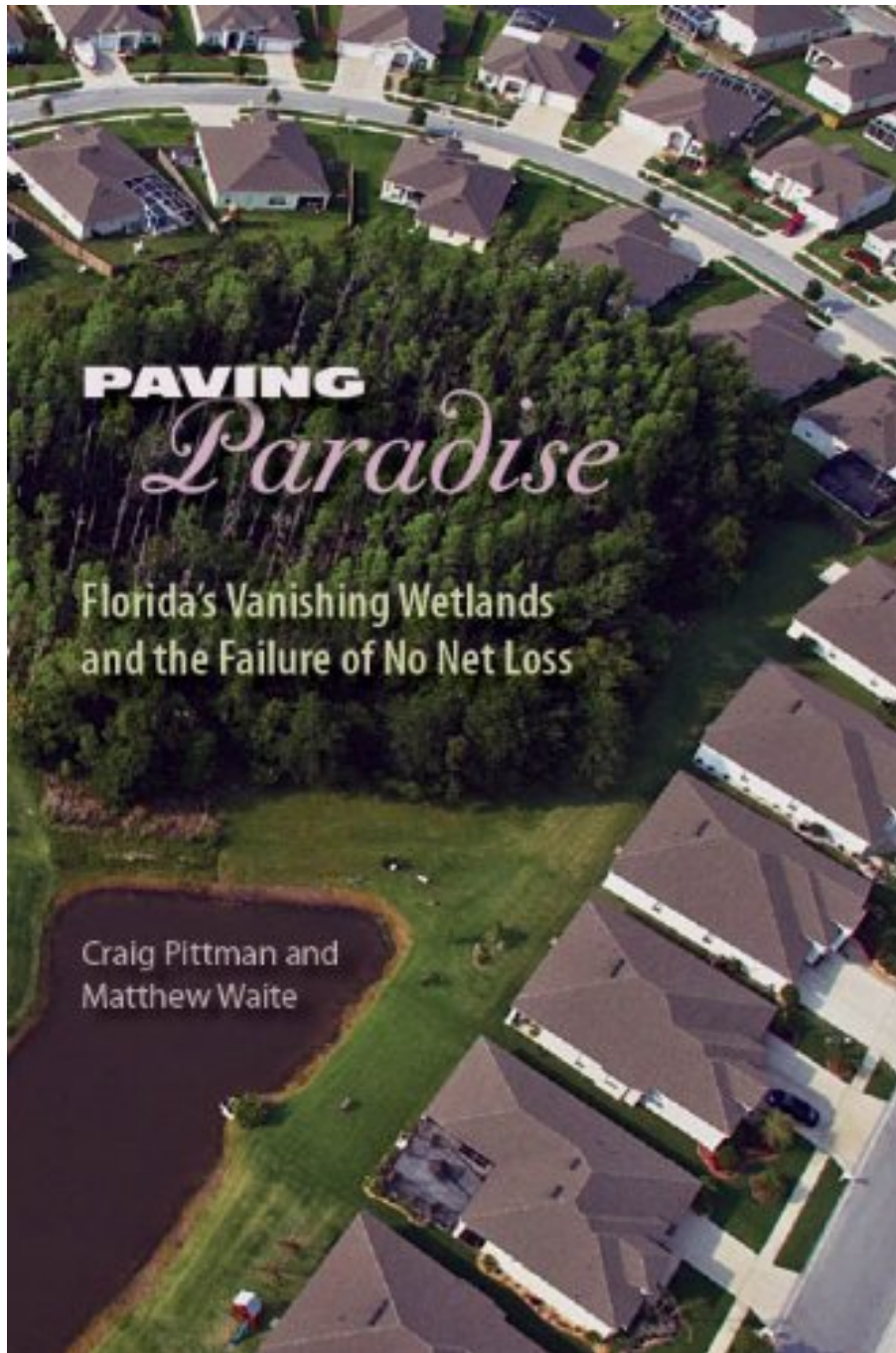


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Review

"This is an exhaustive, timely, and devastating account of the destruction of Florida's wetlands and the disgraceful collusion of government at all levels. It's an important book that should be read by every voter, every taxpayer, every parent, every Floridian who cares about saving what's left of this precious place." - Carl Hiaasen "Pittman and Waite pulled the lid off federal and state wetlands regulation in Florida and peered deep into the cauldron of 'mitigation,' 'no net loss,' 'banking,' and the rest of the regulatory stew. This is an eye-opening, must-read book." - J. B. Ruhl"

About the Author

Craig Pittman, a Florida native, is a reporter for the St. Petersburg Times, and Matthew Waite, who hails from Nebraska, is the Times's news technologist. Their reporting on wetlands has twice earned the top investigative reporting prize in the nation from the Society of Environmental Journalists as well as the Waldo Proffit Award for Excellence in Environmental Journalism in Florida.

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Florida possesses more wetlands than any other state except Alaska, yet since 1990 more than 84,000 acres have been lost to development despite presidential pledges to protect them.

How and why the state's wetlands are continuing to disappear is the subject of Paving Paradise. Journalists Craig Pittman and Matthew Waite spent nearly four years investigating the political expedience, corruption, and negligence on the part of federal and state agencies that led to a failure to enforce regulations on developers. They traveled throughout the state, interviewed hundreds of people, dug through thousands of documents, and analyzed satellite imagery to identify former wetlands that were now houses, stores, and parking lots.

Exposing the unseen environmental consequences of rampant sprawl, Pittman and Waite explain how wetland protection creates the illusion of environmental protection while doing little to stem the tide of destruction.

- Sales Rank: #179234 in eBooks
- Published on: 2011-01-03
- Released on: 2011-01-03
- Format: Kindle eBook

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14 of 15 people found the following review helpful.

Paving Paradise - Joy's review

By J. Ezell

IMO, Paving Paradise should be required reading for all DEP and ACOE employees, all water management district employees, all regional planning council members, all legislators, cabinet members, all elected officials in the state, the Governor and his staff, all developers and real estate brokers and agents. St. Joe and Lennar come to mind immediately. Craig Pittman is my favorite Florida writer, and his work shines in this book. I highly recommend it to anyone who cares about the Sunshine State.

Paving Paradise: Florida's Vanishing Wetlands and the Failure of No Net Loss (Florida History and Culture)

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful.

Read this book now

By Susan I. Cerulean

Craig Pittman and Matthew Waite explain why bulldozed and buried wetlands underlie the foundations of thousands of mines, highways, golf courses and shopping malls all over Florida, despite clear federal and state policy calling for no net loss of wetlands. This probing, well-crafted narrative will keep you turning every page of Paving Paradise. The prize-winning pair of St. Petersburg Times will help you understand the "topsy-turvy world where a minus can equal a plus, dry land masquerades as wet, and supposedly scientific test results don't count if they yield an undesirable answer." It might sound depressing, but the truth can help us move forward, or at least have that choice!

11 of 12 people found the following review helpful.

naked truth

By Robert H. Mooney

From three-decades as government employee -- county, state and federal -- I felt like a streetwalker reading about \$5,000-an-hour "escorts" who portray they are providing a valuable public service. This says it all (from page 167): "One of the areas hardest hit was the western side of the Everglades, where the Corps cranked out permits allowing the destruction of some 4,000 acres of swamps and marshes, even as it drew up plans to spend billions of dollars repairing the damage done by man to the eastern side of the River of Grass."

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