

## **SIX FAIRY TALES ABOUT GROWTH IN FLORIDA**

*A Gale Force Film*

*Presented by FEAR: Floridians for Environmental Accountability & Reform*

The only value that reigns omnipotent in Florida is “Growth.” But do Floridians matter?  
Does the future of Florida matter?

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### **SOME FLORIDA FACTS TO CONSIDER:**

\*According to the St. Petersburg Times and the Florida Chamber of Commerce, among the states, Florida is:

- 40<sup>th</sup> in median household income
- 49<sup>th</sup> in per capita spending on education
- 47<sup>th</sup> in state employees per capita
- 41<sup>st</sup> in total spending per capita
- next to the highest crime rate

\*Every day Florida’s population increases by 834 people:

- Florida’s population is now greater than 16 million.
- Florida added 3 million people in the 1990’s. In 1990 the population was about 13 million; in 1980 it was 9.7 million; in 1970 it was 6.8 million; in 1950 it was 2.7 million; in 1900 it was about 528,000.
- Florida’s population is increasing at a faster annual rate (2.35%) than Mexico (1.95%), India (1.8%) and Haiti (1.73%).
- 85.3% of Florida’s population growth in the 1990’s was the result of migration, both from within the U.S. and from foreign countries.

\*Every daily batch of new migrants:

- Daily consumes an additional 140,946 gallons of water
- Daily converts an additional 417 acres of rural land to urban use
- Daily requires an additional five new classrooms
- Daily occupies an additional seven prison beds
- Daily results in two more miles of roads

### **SOME FLORIDA QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT:**

- Do Florida’s long-time residents benefit from this population explosion?
- Are the benefits and losses of explosive population growth spread evenly throughout the community?
- Who are the big winners? The big losers?

*What has Florida's obsession with "economic development" and "growth" achieved besides the creation of an ever-growing, ever-needy, under-served, relatively poor, uneducated population?*

- Continuously diminishing municipal services
- Continuously increasing demand for municipal services
- Sky-rocketing crime
- Low tax base
- Gridlocked roads
- Over-flowing schools
- Destruction of rural communities
- Destruction of wildlife and wildlife habitat
- Destruction of Florida's once abundant water supply
- Environmental ruin
- Ever diminishing quality of life for residents

#### **WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

- Understand that "growth," as it is practiced and promoted in Florida, does not translate into progress.
- Demand accountability of your local and state officials. Ask them to demonstrate how their relentless promotion of growth for growth's sake makes your life better.
- Talk to your friends about the necessity to stabilize Florida's population, through curtailing of in-migration from other states and reduced immigration from outside the U.S.
- Demand that the obsession with "growth" be replaced with a state and local focus on the quality of life of Florida's long-time residents.

*For more information:*

[www.floridasos.com/](http://www.floridasos.com/) (FEAR)

[www.flsuspop.org](http://www.flsuspop.org)

(Floridians for Sustainable Population)

*For a copy of this video and accompanying handout, please send \$15.00 to:*

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***Florida should be a good place to live, not just a cheap place to move to.***

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