

Say NO to selling Pine Rocklands: Contact UM President Donna Shalala Today!

[Sign the petition](#) | [Contact Shalala](#)

Pine Rocklands are one of South Florida's most productive and precious ecosystems. Found only in South Florida, and parts of the Caribbean, this unique and rapidly vanishing ecosystem provides critical habitat for a variety of endangered species, including but not limited to, the bald eagle, indigo snake, Florida bonneted bat, and two rare butterflies expected to be earn protection this summer (Bartram's Hairstreak butterfly and Florida Leafwing butterfly).

The issue: University of Miami recently sold 88 acres of imperiled Pine Rockland to RAM Realty Services for the construction of a massive shopping and residential complex. (Read more about this development [here](#).) As part of the negotiation, of the 88 acres sold, 40 would be potentially set aside for conservation. The 88-acre parcel is one of the largest remaining Pine Rockland preserves left outside of Everglades National Park (see map below). To develop its current plan RAM still needs to acquire adjacent Pine Rocklands. It is hoping to buy 35 more acres under UM ownership.

With 2% of this habitat remaining in Miami-Dade County, it is deeply troubling that UM would be party to destroying it. Losing this globally imperiled habitat to build a Walmart is tragic. We should be preserving, not developing, what little is left of our Pine Rocklands!

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) sent a letter to the developer asking it to stop any construction at this time (read the [letter FWS](#) sent to RAM [here](#)). **We have a chance to preserve Pine Rocklands right now:** Please [sign this petition](#) urging Governor Scott and the Florida Legislature to halt and/or prevent development on rare endangered forest lands in South Florida. Equally urgent, contact UM President [Donna Shalala](#) today! ***Ask UM to honor our Pine Rockland heritage. It is questionable for UM to sell endangered land for profit that it received as a gift from Miami-Dade County tax payers. Tell Shalala to preserve and protect UM's remaining Pine Rocklands!***

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For more on this issue, please read today's Miami Herald article [here](#).