

## Cris Costello – Senior Organizing Manager

Cris has been organizing the grassroots for the Sierra Club since May 2007. She is the Senior Organizing Manager for the Sierra Club Our Wild Florida Campaign, which encompasses the Everglades Restoration, Red Tide, Stop Pre-harvest Sugar Field Burning, and Wildlands campaigns.

Cris works with partner environmental advocacy, civic, and social justice organizations; local government staff and officials; and homeowner and community associations around the issues of Everglades restoration, springs protection, environmental justice, water quality regulation and standards for Florida's fresh and estuarine waters, conservation land acquisition, endangered species protection, and building relationships between the watersheds of North and South Florida to better withstand polluter pressure aimed at dividing and conquering the state's environmental community. Her work since 2019 as the coordinator for the No Roads to Ruin Coalition and Steering Committee—the fight to stop new toll roads from cutting through some of Florida's last remaining rural/wild land—has encompassed all of the above.

Since day one with the Sierra Club, she has fought to secure and defend strong urban fertilizer management policy at the local and state levels. To date, 17 counties and well over 100 municipalities have embraced strict, no-exemption, nitrogen and phosphorus rainy-season application bans, the backbone of accessible, low-cost, meaningful urban water quality protection.

Prior to joining the Sierra Club, Cris was a rural and urban grassroots community organizer in Arkansas, Iowa, Missouri, and Washington D.C.; a Peace Corps Volunteer in Honduras; a union organizer and negotiation/arbitration specialist in California, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Wisconsin during a seventeen-year career in the labor movement; and a consultant to the Gulf Coast Community Foundation in Venice, Florida. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa.