



CHANGE THE FORECAST FOR WILDLIFE SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL WARMING

Global Warming and NEW MEXICO

New Mexico's growing population is putting pressure on the state's water resources like never before, and global warming may well make the state's water woes even more troubling in the decades to come. The Agency Technical Workgroup for the State of New Mexico estimates average temperatures in the state could rise 6-12 degrees Fahrenheit by 2100 if global warming continues unabated. This will likely bring hotter, drier summers. Wildfires may increase, droughts will get worse and rains—when they do come—will likely come in more severe downpours that may cause more flash flooding. Warmer temperatures also mean less snowpack in the mountains as well as earlier snowmelt, leading to more winter runoff and reduced summer flows in many New Mexico streams. We can solve global warming and revitalize our economy by rebuilding America with clean energy.



Global warming effects on New Mexico wildlife

New Mexico is home to an incredible diversity of native wildlife species, including 447 birds, 154 mammals, 54 fish, 98 reptiles and 26 amphibians. Rising temperatures in the state will likely change the makeup of entire ecosystems, forcing wildlife to shift their ranges or adapt.



- Overwhelming pressures for water resources are already causing the destruction of narrow riparian areas along the streams and rivers of New Mexico. Global warming could exacerbate this habitat loss by restricting water flow even further, hurting fish, wildlife and songbirds such as the southwestern willow flycatcher, which breeds in the area.
- The Mexican big-eared bat, found in parts of Southwest New Mexico, is acutely sensitive to climatic changes. A slight rise in temperature could alter the make-up of plant and tree communities the bat has evolved to depend on.
- Global warming could force birds such as the savanna sparrow and sage thrasher to shift their breeding ranges out of New Mexico. The two species are helpful in keeping outbreaks of rangeland grasshoppers in check.

Global Warming Pollution

Burning coal, gas and oil produces carbon dioxide, which is a greenhouse gas that warms the planet as it builds up in the atmosphere. Some of the carbon dioxide released today remains in the atmosphere after even 100 years, trapping more and more heat.

Since the mid-1800s, emissions of carbon dioxide have skyrocketed, causing global temperatures to rise by about 1° Fahrenheit in the last century. Earth has not experienced such a rapid change in temperature in thousands of years.

A Global Solution

The U.S. must lead the world by passing global warming legislation at home and working with other nations at the Copenhagen climate summit at the end of 2009 to sign a new climate treaty that keeps further warming below 2° Fahrenheit. With a global solution, we can avoid the worst impacts of global warming.



What's at stake for New Mexicans?

Global warming poses a real threat to the future of New Mexico's economy, impacting the state's tourism, agriculture and forestry industries that depend on healthy ecosystems to thrive.

- In New Mexico, global warming conditions could reduce wheat yields by 10-30 percent and sorghum yields by 7-9 percent as temperatures rise beyond the tolerance levels of the crops. Moreover, farmed acres could fall by 20-25 percent.
- Warmer average temperatures could increase concentrations of ground-level ozone, which is known to aggravate respiratory problems such as asthma.
- More extreme fluctuations in rain and snowfall due to global warming are projected to negatively impact water resources in the state, causing an increased need for irrigation in an already water-stressed state.
- Loss of wildlife and habitat could mean a loss of tourism dollars. In 2006, one million people spent more than \$800 million on hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing in New Mexico, which in turn supported 22,697 jobs in the state.* (*Jobs are an average of 2001 and 2006 data.*)

“Global warming poses an overriding challenge to our responsibility to protect wildlife for our children's future. We must advance balanced solutions that work for people, wildlife and the economy to overcome this challenge.”—

Larry Schweiger
President, CEO
National Wildlife Federation

GLOBAL WARMING NATIONAL POLICY SOLUTION:

A federal legislative solution can drive American ingenuity, create millions of green jobs, and restore America's global leadership on global warming. Legislation should:

- * Include ambitious targets to reduce America's global warming pollution as swiftly and deeply as possible. Scientists say that developed countries as a whole need to reduce their global warming pollution by at least 80% from 1990 levels by 2050 to avoid the worst impacts of global warming.
- * Move America toward a 100% clean electricity future by maximizing energy efficiency, modernizing the electric power grid, expanding power generation from renewable energy resources, and investing in clean transportation infrastructure.
- * Invest in natural resources. Forests, coasts, wetlands, clean air and clean water are already being impacted by global warming. Funding is needed to safeguard the natural resources that are critical to wildlife populations and human health.
- * Lead a worldwide effort to finance clean energy technology, forest conservation, and adaptation to unavoidable impacts of global warming.

For more information, visit: www.nwf.org/globalwarming.



Clark Ridge National Laboratory

New Mexico's solutions to global warming

Considering New Mexico's tremendous wind resources, the state has the opportunity to be a leader in developing innovative solutions to global warming.

- New Mexico has the resources to generate more than eight times its electricity needs from wind power, giving it the potential to be a leader in the emerging wind power market.
- State law requires utilities in New Mexico to provide 10 percent of the state's power from renewable sources by 2011, one of the strongest "renewable portfolio standards" in the nation.

The Western Climate Initiative

The Western Climate Initiative is a collaboration between Arizona, California, New Mexico, Oregon, Washington, Utah, Montana, British Columbia and Manitoba to develop regional strategies to address climate change. WCI is identifying, evaluating and implementing collective and cooperative ways to reduce greenhouse gases in the region. The partners set an overall regional goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 15% below 2005 levels by 2020. By August 2008 the Partners will also complete the design of a market-based mechanism to help achieve that reduction goal.

Following some simple guidelines, you can cut your global warming pollution, become more energy efficient and give something back to nature.

- **Convert to compact fluorescent bulbs:** If every household in America replaced its next burned out light bulb with a compact fluorescent, we would prevent more than 13 billion pounds of carbon dioxide from being emitted. That's the same as taking 1.2 million cars off the road for an entire year.
- **Become a Green Tag subscriber:** Many states now offer options for homeowners to buy electricity from clean, renewable sources such as wind, solar and biomass that produce little or no global warming pollution. Green energy can also be purchased through the National Wildlife Federation by visiting www.nwf.org/energy.

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