



CHANGE THE FORECAST FOR WILDLIFE
SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL WARMING

Global Warming and NEVADA

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change estimates average temperatures in Nevada could rise about 6.75 degrees Fahrenheit by 2100 if global warming continues unabated. This could lead to earlier peak snowmelt and hotter, drier summers which may result in an increase in wildfires and more intense droughts. Nevada's growing population is already putting pressure on the state's water resources like never before, something that may well become more troubling in the decades to come. Global warming could cause reduced stream flows for important resources like the Colorado River, one of the main water arteries to Las Vegas. This could push southern parts of the state to tap into other areas of Nevada, impacting natural springs and riparian habitat and putting fish and other wildlife at risk. We can solve global warming and revitalize our economy by rebuilding America with clean energy.



Global warming effects on Nevada wildlife

Nevada is home to an incredible diversity of native wildlife species, including 299 birds, 123 mammals, 48 fish, 52 reptiles and 13 amphibians. Rising temperatures in the state will likely change the makeup of entire ecosystems, forcing wildlife to shift their ranges or adapt.

- Desert vegetation—including many plant species unique to Nevada—are vulnerable to changes in temperature and carbon dioxide levels. Such changes brought on by global warming could allow invasive plants to overtake these ecosystems.
- The breeding range of a number of songbirds—including the savanna sparrow and sage thrasher—could shrink or shift out of Nevada if global warming continues. These birds help keep outbreaks of rangeland grasshoppers and other pests in check.
- The marshes of the Great Basin are crucial habitat for migratory waterfowl. Hundreds of thousands of waterfowl such as canvasback and redhead ducks, snow geese and tundra



swans overwinter or breed in these areas. Global warming could make Nevada's hydrological cycle even more unpredictable, putting additional stress on these wetland ecosystems.

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 Nevadans?

The changes from global warming threaten to not only degrade the natural forest and aquatic ecosystems of Nevada but also the health and economy of the state.

- Hotter, drier conditions in summer could contribute to an increase in the frequency and intensity of wildfires, threatening property as well as wildlife habitat.
- Scientists have found that hotter temperatures caused by global warming can lead to higher concentrations of ground-level ozone pollution, a leading cause of respiratory problems, especially in children and seniors. More ozone pollution would make it even more difficult for urban areas like Las Vegas and Reno to meet national health standards.
- Loss of wildlife and habitat could mean a loss of tourism dollars. In 2006, 900,000 people spent more than \$652 million on hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing in Nevada. The industry in turn created 9,106 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.



Nevada’s solutions to global warming

Nevada has been a leader in developing solutions to global warming.

- State law requires utilities to provide 20 percent of Nevada’s power from renewable sources by 2015, with at least 5 percent of that renewable energy coming from solar power. The law gives Nevada one of the most aggressive “renewable portfolio standards” in the nation.
- The state has the potential to generate more than 52 percent of its electricity from wind power, and nearly 46 percent of its electricity from geothermal energy, positioning Nevada as a potential leader in the renewable energy production market.
- Nevada businesses that use renewable energy as a primary energy source and that have a generating capacity of at least 10 kilowatt-hours get a 50-percent property tax exemption for real and personal property used to generate renewable energy.

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.
- **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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