

Sportsman's Pocket Guide to Climate Change in Montana

4 Iconic Species & Habitats at Risk

Economic Benefits

Global warming poses a serious threat to Montana's bountiful fish, wildlife, and other natural resources. From more frequent and severe droughts and flooding to reduced summer stream flows that harm trout populations, global warming impacts on natural resources threaten Montana's struggling economy.

Every year, more than 950,000 people spend over \$1 billion on hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing in Montana. The value of Montana's natural resource economy goes well beyond recreation: healthy forests keep wildfires from raging beyond what is containable and the abundant wildlife and fishing in the Rocky Mountains and throughout Montana provide the cultural identity that keep people and businesses in the state



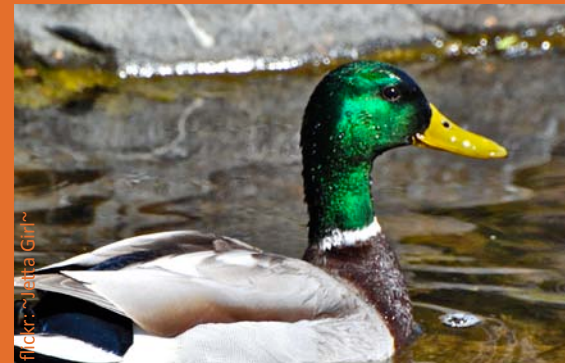
Sage Grouse Habitat loss and degradation have already greatly reduced sage grouse range and abundance, and climate change threatens to change much of its remaining habitat by reducing the abundance and distribution of sagebrush.



Prairie Pothole Region Global warming could destroy as much as 90 percent of the prairie pothole region. The destruction would severely harm the national hunting industry, which relies on waterfowl conceived in the prairie potholes.



Cutthroat Trout Increased water temperatures threaten to further reduce habitat for this cold water species. The impact is being felt by anglers, as high water temperatures in 2007 led to unprecedented fishing restrictions in Yellowstone National Park.



Waterfowl With global warming likely to affect wetland habitats across North America, reproduction rates, which depend on the health of late-spring wetlands in critical breeding areas, may suffer in Montana and nationwide.

Montana's wildlife and natural resources are the backbone of Montana's economy. In addition to providing essential services like safe drinking water and clean air, these resources sustain the state's booming hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation industry.

-Annual Participants in Wildlife Recreation:
950,000

-Consumer Spending:
\$1.1 billion

-Jobs Created:
21,755

-Funding for MT Natural Resources in Clean Energy and Climate Legislation:
\$9.5 million avg. per year

Source: 2006 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Survey on Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation

Call for Urgent Action

The single most important action to protect species and wildlife at risk from climate change is for our local, state, and national leaders to implement comprehensive clean energy and climate policies. These policies must cap and then reduce carbon pollution as well as safeguard America's natural resources. In order to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, the US must reduce emissions by around 80% by mid-century, and as much as possible in the near term.

State-Based Solutions:

The Prairie Pothole Joint Venture (PPJV), established in 1987 under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, has called for the protection of 1.4 million acres of wetlands and 10.4 million acres of surrounding grasslands (for nesting and cover) to help conserve waterfowl and wildlife populations. The PPJV estimates that it will cost \$2.7 billion to conserve the 11.8 million acres.

Safeguarding Wildlife & Natural Resources

To address the impacts we are already seeing on wildlife and habitat and to confront the inevitable impacts of climate change on our natural resources, comprehensive clean energy and climate policies must include funding to safeguard fish, wildlife and natural resources upon which we all rely. These funds should be provided through the revenue generated by the clean energy and climate policies and be dedicated to the federal, state and tribal agencies that manage natural resources. This funding will protect our natural resource based economy, and create tens of thousands of new "green" jobs – restoring wetlands and streams, removing invasive species, building and restoring wildlife corridors, and protecting habitat and natural watersheds.

The following groups support passing comprehensive climate and energy legislation this year. In order to safeguard fish, wildlife, and their habitats, we urge that legislation must include both reductions of greenhouse gas emissions and dedication of allowance value for natural resources adaptation programs.

National Hunting and Fishing Groups

*American Fisheries Society
*American Fly Fishing Trade Association
*American Sportfishing Association
*Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
*Berkley Conservation Institute
*Campfire Club
*Dallas Safari Club
*Ducks Unlimited
*Houston Safari Club
*Izaak Walton League of America
*Mule Deer Foundation
*National Trappers Association
*National Wildlife Federation
*Pheasants Forever
*Quality Deer Management Association
*The Wildlife Society
*Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
*Trout Unlimited
*Wildlife Forever
*Wildlife Management Institute

Montana Conservation Groups

Clark Fork Coalition *Five Valleys Audubon
*Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument
*Hellgate Hunters and Anglers *Keystone Conservation
*Montana Audubon *Montana Rivers
*Musicians United to Sustain the Environment
*Northwest Section of The Wildlife Society



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Contact

Local:
Land Tawney
National Wildlife Federation
406-541-6733 (x.6733)

DC:
Derek Brockbank
National Wildlife Federation
brockbankd@nwf.org

www.targetglobalwarming.org