

Sportsman's Pocket Guide to Climate Change in New Mexico

4 Iconic Species & Habitats at Risk

Economic Benefits

Climate change poses a serious threat to New Mexico's bountiful fish, wildlife, and other natural resources. From increased frequency of heat waves and wildfires to reduced snowpack, climate change impacts on natural resources threaten New Mexico's economy.

Every year, roughly 950,000 people spend over \$822 million on hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing in New Mexico. The value of abundant wildlife to New Mexico's economy goes well beyond recreation, providing the cultural identity that keep people and businesses in the state.



Jim Wix/Nomad Pursuits

Forests Scientists have identified warming-enhanced drought as a major factor in extensive forest die-off by causing pinon pine trees to be more susceptible to bark beetle infestations. This has resulted in more than a 90-percent die-off of trees in some high-elevation areas.



George Gentry

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 Minnesota and nationwide.



Nic Callero

Cutthroat Trout Cutthroat trout are already threatened by habitat degradation and non-native fish species. Increased water temperatures threaten to further reduce habitat for this cold water species. This is being felt by anglers, as high water temperatures have led to unprecedented fishing restrictions in Yellowstone National Park.



Nic Callero

Southwestern Streams As a result of rising winter temperatures reducing the winter accumulation of snow pack in western mountains, the amount of available spring and summer melt water is declining. The decline of water availability caused by climate change will exacerbate an already severe shortage of water in many areas of the Southwest.

New Mexico's wildlife and natural resources are the backbone of New Mexico'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:
947,000

-Consumer Spending:
\$822 million

-Jobs Created:
15,301

-Funding for NM Natural Resources in Clean Energy and Climate Legislation:
\$9.2 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:

In the Western U.S., normal seasonal fire periods have expanded by weeks each year due to higher temperatures and changes in rates of snow melt. Dried-out forests are more prone to wildfire and infestations by insects and pests. In New Mexico, across the valley from Santa Fe, overgrown brush and trees are being removed with machines or through controlled burns. This makes wildfire impacts less intense in these areas.

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

New Mexico Conservation Groups

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation
*Amigos Bravos
*Amigos de la Sevilleta, Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge
*Animal Protection of New Mexico
*Animal Protection Voters
*Audubon New Mexico
*Central New Mexico Audubon Society
*Climate Change Conservation Corps
*Eldorado Energy Cooperative
*Friends of Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge
*Friends of the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge
*Gila Resources Information Project
*Mesilla Valley Audubon
*New Mexico Audubon Council
*New Mexico Chapter of The Wildlife Society
*New Mexico Wildlife Federation
*Partnership for Earth Spirituality
*River Source, Inc.
*Sangre de Cristo Audubon
*Southwest Environmental Center
*Steve Vrooman Restoration Ecology
*The Wildlife Center
*WildEarth Guardians

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