

# DWR Climate News Digest

February 2016

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The information provided in the DWR Climate News Digest is a selected compilation of recent popular news articles, publications, and other information relevant to climate change and water management, and is intended to provide educational and thought-provoking material for water managers and water users.

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TOPICS [Find older items in the [Climate News Archive](#)]

## **Reports**

### **[Unnatural Coastal Floods: Sea Level Rise and the Human Fingerprint on US Floods Since 1950](#)**

[Climate Central – February 2016] (*“Also within the last decade, at sites along Florida’s Atlantic coast and the Keys, as well as in San Diego (La Jolla), Seattle, and Honolulu, more than 90% of observed flood days would not have occurred if the central estimate for anthropogenic sea level signal were removed”*)

## **Published Literature**

### **[Running dry: The U.S. Southwest’s drift into a drier climate state](#)**

[Geophysical Research Letters – February 4, 2016]

**[Climate confusion among U.S. teachers](#)** [Science – February 12, 2016] (*“Mirroring some actors in the societal debate over climate change, many teachers repeat scientifically unsupported claims in class. Greater attention to teachers’ knowledge, but also values, is critical”*)

### **[Climate and health impacts of US emissions reductions consistent with 2°C](#)**

[Nature – February 22, 2016]

### **[Economics: Current climate models are grossly misleading](#)** [Nature – February 25, 2016]

*“Current economic models tend to underestimate seriously both the potential impacts of dangerous climate change and the wider benefits of a transition to low-carbon growth”*)

## **Agriculture/Food Production**

### **[Organic farming better suited to climate change, study finds](#)**

[Oregon Public Broadcasting – February 3, 2016]

### **[Global experts illustrate climate change’s destabilizing impacts on flood security](#)**

[Center for American Progress – February 11, 2016]

### **[With climate change, organic agriculture could outperform conventional agriculture](#)**

[Climate Progress – February 11, 2016]

### **[Cover crops improve soil, mitigate climate change](#)** [KRCB – February 16, 2016]

## **General Water Management**

### **[Considering climate change in water resources planning](#)**

[Maven’s Notebook – February 17, 2016] (*“A look at the DWR’s efforts to address climate change impacts, as well as the modeling tools used in climate change analysis”*)

## **Extreme Weather Events**

### **[Are drought conditions in the US Southwest here to stay?](#)**

[Christian Science Monitor – February 7, 2016]

### **[West likely to be stormier with climate change](#)** [Climate Central – February 9, 2016]

*“Currently, the West Coast is likely to receive rain or snow from atmospheric rivers between 25 and 40 days each year, the analysis concluded. By century’s end, that’s expected to rise to between 35 and 55 days annually”*

### **[Searing heat waves could become annual threat](#)** [Climate Central – February 23, 2016]

## **Sea-level Rise and other Ocean Impacts**

### **[Sea-level rise ‘could last twice as long as human history’](#)** [The Guardian – February 8, 2016]

*“We are making choices that will affect our grandchildren’s grandchildren and beyond...We need to think carefully about the long timescales of what we are unleashing”*

### **[Most U.S. flooding linked to climate change](#)** [Bloomberg – February 22, 2016]

### **[Seas are rising at fastest rate in last 28 centuries](#)** [New York Times – February 26, 2016]

## **Human Health Impacts**

### **Health buzz: Zika spread worsened by climate change**

[US News & World Report – February 24, 2016] (*“Changes in temperatures, precipitation and humidity can alter how long the mosquitos live, how often they bit, how many offspring they have and how quickly a virus reproduces inside an infected mosquito, and each of those changes can mean more humans are exposed to mosquitoes”*)

### **Aboriginal leaders are warning of the mental health cost of climate change in the North**

[The Star – February 29, 2016]

## **Tribal Impacts & Traditional Ecological Knowledge**

### **The aftermath of 1492: Study shows how Native American depopulation impacted ecology**

[Science Daily – January 25, 2016] (*“When we looked at the patterns of fire in the tree rings, we could see that up until about 1620, fires were small and sporadic...Native American fields were acting as literal fire breaks. But as the forest started re-growing, much more widespread fires occurred. That continued until almost exactly 1900, when a combination of increased livestock grazing and a change in federal forest management policies began to suppress all fires”*)

### **A Native perspective** [Oregon State University – January 29, 2016]

### **Tribes plans for climate change** [Del Norte Triplicate – February 9, 2016]

### **Scientists and American Indian tribal members talk climate change realities at AAAS**

[Eurekalert – February 13, 2016]

### **Louisiana tribe officially becomes America’s first climate refugees**

[WunderBlog – February 22, 2016]

### **Tribes and researchers study climate using science and traditional knowledge**

[Indian Country today – February 29, 2016]

## **Wildlife and Ecosystem Impacts**

### **Climate change will remove birds’ control over hatching eggs: study**

[Sydney Morning Herald – February 3, 2016]

### **Climate change is leaving native plants behind** [Climate Central – February 8, 2016]

### **Managed forests accelerate climate change** [Discovery News – February 8, 2016]

### [Corvids could save forests from the effects of climate change](#)

[Ars Technica – February 8, 2016] (*“Some corvids can carry dozens of seeds at a time, up to 50 kilometers away from their sources. Give that the trees and birds prefer the same kinds of habitats, scientists believe that corvids might slowly bring forests with them to the right kinds of habitats as the old ones become inhospitable over time”*)

### [Gruesome tumors on sea turtles linked to climate change and pollution](#)

[EcoWatch – February 9, 2016] (*“It’s basic chemistry... You heat water a little bit and nothing happens. But then you add chemicals to the water, certain things accelerate”*)

### [Which species will survive climate change?](#) [Scientific American – February 17, 2016]

### [Climate change: Nearly every United States forest threatened, says study](#)

[Nature World News – February 22, 2016]

## **Greenhouse Gas Mitigation**

### [New ICAP aircraft CO2 standard closer to final adoption](#)

[International Civil Aviation Organization – February 8, 2016]

### [The solution to climate change that has nothing to do with cars or coal](#)

[Washington Post – February 11, 2016] (*“But what’s increasingly clear is that the birds, the forests and all of its other life, the rainfall, the carbon – they all come as a package. And what’s equally clear is that climate change isn’t just about temperatures, or about fossil fuels. It’s about all the ways that humans keep pushing gigantic systems like the Amazon, and hoping that they’ll bounce back, just because they always have before”*)

### [What’s the best way to cut your carbon emissions?](#) [City Lab – February 24, 2016]

## **International Planning**

### [‘Like a shimmering sea creature’: Britain’s first amphibious homes](#)

[The Guardian – February 2, 2016]

### [Australia guts climate change research](#) [Grist – February 9, 2016]

### [Why the Paris climate deal doesn’t depend on the US](#) [Climate Home – February 15, 2016]

### [Fiji, first country to ratify Paris climate change agreement](#) [Tech Times – February 16, 2016]

### [Cambodia preparing for the impacts of climate change, says official](#)

[Voice of America – February 17, 2016]

## **Legislative Updates**

### **[SCOTUS halts climate rule, stuns states planning carbon cuts](#)**

[ClimateWire – February 10, 2016] (*“The one thing utilities have advocated for is efficiencies...The irony [is that] this decision could be slamming utilities who are welcoming a very reasonable and efficient way of reducing greenhouse gases”*)

**[After the stay: Where all 50 states stand](#)** [ClimateWire – February 22, 2016]

## **Communicating Climate Change**

**[7 smarter ways to talk about climate change](#)** [Grist – February 8, 2016]

**[Painter captures the data of climate change in 7 stunning watercolors](#)**

[PBS – February 22, 2016]

## **BLOGS/Commentary**

Joe Romm on **[“No, poor countries aren’t the only ones that will suffer from climate change”](#)**

[Climate Progress – February 9, 2016]

Ruth Greenspan Bell on **[“Why don’t we treat climate change with the rigor we give to terror](#)**

**[attacks?”](#)** [The Guardian – February 15, 2016] (*“They’re both extreme hazards, but evolutionary responses favor real-time threats, not those that take place on an extended time scale”*)

James Hansen on **[“I am an energy voter”](#)** [Columbia University – February 23, 2016]

Joe Romm on **[“No Bill Gates, we don’t need ‘energy miracles’ to solve climate change”](#)**

[Climate Progress – February 23, 2016]

Suzanne Jacobs on **[“Consumerism plays a huge role in climate change”](#)**

[Grist – February 24, 2016]

Justin Catanoso interviews **[“Naomi Oreskes on climate change: We’ve blown it...but](#)**

**[pessimism is not acceptable”](#)** [Pulitzer Center – February 24, 2016]

## **Additional Items of Interest**

**[UN shipping chief: Climate change is ‘top priority’](#)** [Climate Home – February 2, 2016]

**[Climate change and pets: More fleas, more heartworm](#)** [WTOP – February 3, 2016]

**[Climate economists react to Obama’s proposed oil tax](#)** [Climate Central – February 6, 2016]

[Global warming policies we set today will determine the next 10,000 years](#)

[Mashable – February 8, 2016]

[How changing climates shape the fate of empires](#) [Washington Post – February 8, 2016]

[How investors can prepare for climate change](#) [February 9, 2016]

[Climate change linked to fate of empires](#) [Climate Wire – February 10, 2016]

[Climate change has transformed science fiction in one major way](#)

[Tech Insider – February 10, 2016]

[Can only Congress prevent climate change?](#) [Bloomberg – February 11, 2016]

[Climate change remains a confusing topic for many American school teachers, study finds](#)

[International Business Times – February 12, 2016] (*“Teachers didn’t create the polarized culture war around climate change. But they’re the key to ending this battle”*)

[The decisions we make about climate change today will reverberate for millennia. No](#)

[pressure.](#) [Vox – February 15, 2016] (*“The terror of the Anthropocene – our new geologic epoch – in which humans are the primary driver of global change – is that we have now grown in scale and power so much that our decisions echo across centuries. But our brains and moral instincts remain as tribal and parochial as ever”*)

[Death of Justice Antonin Scalia may shift US climate change laws](#)

[New Scientist – February 15, 2016]

[Members of Congress call for investigation of Shell over climate change](#)

[LA Times – February 18, 2016]

[UN climate chief Christiana Figueres to step down, praises governments for Paris pact](#)

[Tech Times – February 20, 2016]

[Congress actually did something pretty great on climate change](#)

[Mother Jones – February 22, 2016]

[Did global warming slow down in the 2000s, or not?](#) [Scientific American – February 25, 2016]

[Climate change might make flights longer](#) [CNN – February 25, 2016]

[Climate change is shifting natural resources and wealth along with it](#)

[Newsweek – February 26, 2016]

***Images to Ponder***



***“Habitat Degradation: Arctic Melt”***



***“Increasing Forest Fire Activity”***

Image credit (for both): <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/art/artist-captures-climate-change-in-7-stunning-watercolors/>

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