

Man vs. Nature – Convenient, Consequential, or Cash Cow?

Robert J. Reece

21APR10

Heat waves throughout Europe. Tornadic activity becoming more violent. Hurricane Intensity increasing. Droughts and ocean levels rising. For the moment, Global Warming is here to stay. But are humans to blame, or is this just one of the Earth's natural weather patterns? If it is the latter, should we humans be attempting to change these patterns? What consequences would we have to face for tampering with 'Mother Nature' in thinking we humans know the ideal, steady temperature for the planet?

In 1975, Newsweek ran an article written by Peter Gwynne¹, publishing the results from a study conducted by the National Academy of Science. The scientific consensus and warnings were ominous.

The central fact is that after three quarters of a century of extraordinary mild conditions, the earth's climate seems to be cooling down.

Meteorologists disagree about the cause and extent of the cooling trend, as well as over its specific impact on local weather conditions. But they are almost unanimous in the view that the trend will reduce agricultural productivity for the rest of the century.

Also included in this article was a survey conducted by Dr. Murray Mitchell of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (N.O.A.A.) and George Kukla of Columbia University that warn of decreases in ground temperatures and

increased northern hemisphere snow covers.

Earlier that decade, on April 18th, 1970, while an estimated 20 million people were celebrating the upcoming first Earth Day, Ecologist Kenneth Watt² promoted Earth Day by declaring to a Swarthmore College audience the following:

The world has been chilling sharply for about twenty years. If present trends continue, the world will be about four degrees colder for the global mean temperature in 1990, but eleven degrees colder in the year 2000. This is about twice what it would take to put us into an ice age.

Earth Day is recognized around the world as an environmental shining star, but the original intent, in part, was a warning about the cooling of our planet.

In Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth"³ an alarm has been raised pertaining to the melting of the Arctic ice cap. Since this ice sheet is a floating mass of ice, there is a simple way to discredit this warning in your own kitchen. Take a glass $\frac{3}{4}$ full of water. Put two to three ice cubes in the glass. Since the Arctic ice cap is a floating mass, be sure your ice cubes float as well. Mark the level of the water and leave it on the counter. Once the ice melts, check the level of the water. The level will be the same. There will be no increase in the level of the water, just as if the Arctic ice cap was melting, there would be no



increase in the world's sea level. While showing the melting of parts of the ice shelf in Antarctica in "An Inconvenient Truth", Al Gore fails to mention that this melting was tracked in December, during the southern hemisphere's summer. He also fails to mention the crack in the ice sheet, used as a dramatic introduction to his 'documentary', is actually a Hollywood created scene.

Gore, and others, also uses the melting of some glaziers as evidence of global warming. What they fail to mention in this climate alarm is that, while some glaziers are melting, there are others that are getting thicker. Evidence of this can be seen on the top of Washington State's, Mt. St. Helens. Since its eruption/explosion on May 18th, 1980, the volcano's ice cap has almost already reached the size it was before its explosive activity.



Al Gore also shows a computer-generated polar bear, searching for a sheet of ice to rest from swimming. Keep in mind that polar bears, on average, can swim 60 miles before needing to rest. Gore warns of the declining population of the polar bear. In actuality, polar bear populations have increased since the 1960's. In a 12 page document for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's review of the animal's status⁴, Dr. Mitch Taylor, a global warmist and wildlife biologist with the

government of Nunavut, a Canadian territory, who also happens to be a world-renowned authority on polar bears says that “Polar bears are becoming the poster-species for "doomsday prophets" of climate change, even though groups pushing for higher protection for the animals don't have the evidence to prove their case.”

In fact, a photo was circulated in early 2007 of two polar bears, stranded on a shrinking glacier. Global warming alarmists used this photo as more evidence to support their claim that the polar bear population was decreasing. In actuality, this photo was actually taken in 2004. This photo was described at the time “Mother

polar bear and cub on interesting ice sculpture carved by waves” taken by Amanda Byrd (seen here on the right). Along with this photo are others, showing a scientist having trouble digging through the



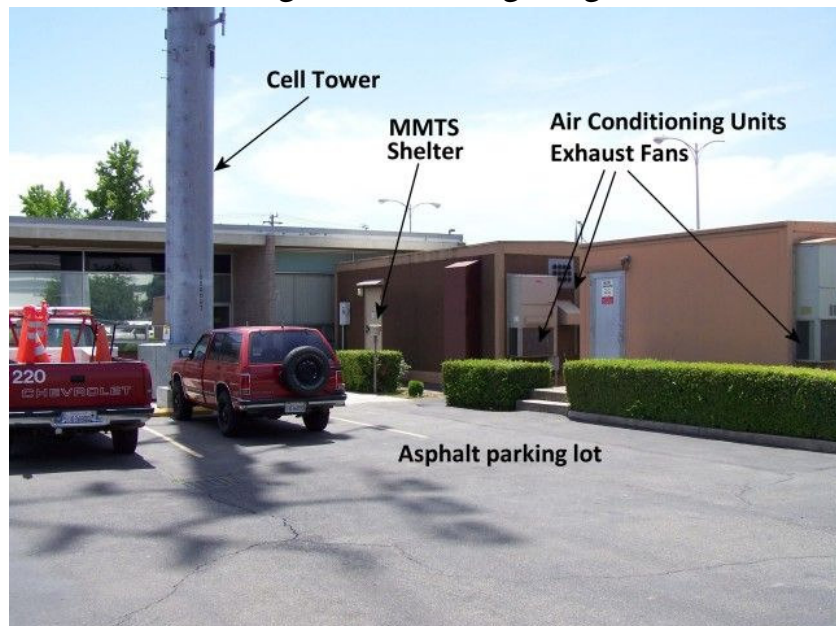
ice pack, due to it being thicker than they intended, while another stands by with a shotgun in hand, to guard against the multiple polar bears in the area. Ironic in actuality, due to the claim by these scientists that the ice pack was thin and polar bear population are decreasing, yet their actions show evidence of a different result; a result that they are misleading the public.

While ignoring the facts that may discredit his opinions, or calling them outright lies, Al Gore claims that his projections of the world climate are now

rising past any temperatures in history. Again, this is another falsehood, used as a scare tactic. In fact, the world mean temperature has not risen since 2001, and the four models used in tracking the global mean temperature all show a decrease of almost one degree (C) from December 2006 to December 2007⁵. This amount of drop equals Al Gore's scientists' claims of a temperature rise in the past one hundred years. In other words, the Earth has cooled in one year, what global warming alarmist claim humans have heated it in one hundred.

As mentioned above, 2007 saw a lower temperature by the four main temperature gathering systems around the world⁶. These systems are being ignored, since they do not support the "Man made global warming" argument. Instead,

many are using land-based weather and temperature reporting systems⁷. Although these surface stations have been used for many years, they are stationary and the area



has built up around them, including air conditioning units exhaust fans, and cause them to give off false higher temperature readings. The MMTS (Temperature gauge) in this example has been in place for close to 100 years. The environment

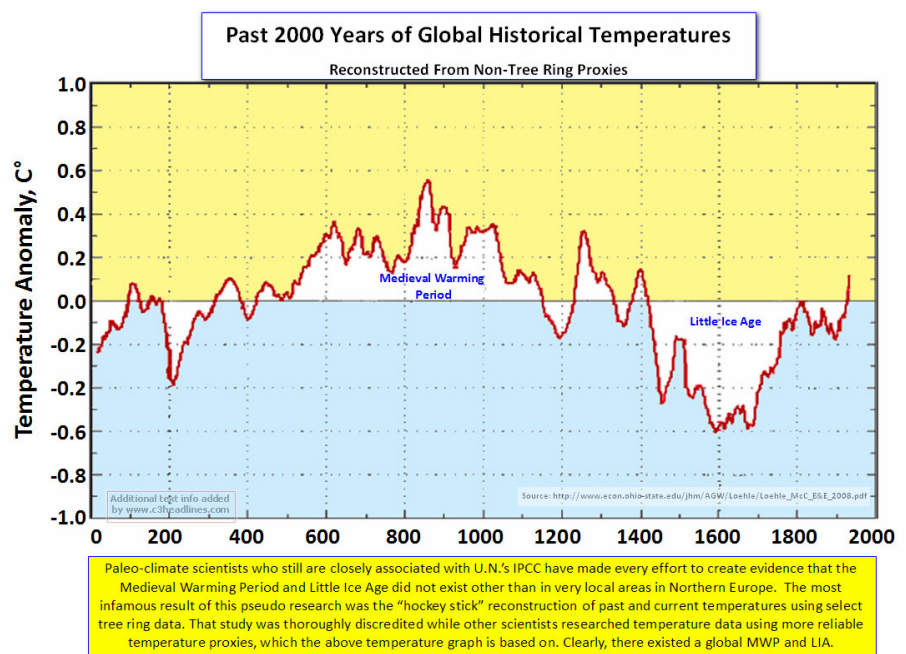
around it has not.

Around the 12th century, the Earth experienced what climatologists refer to as the Medieval Warm Period. It was at this time that historians agree that Europe exited the 'Dark Ages'. Widespread European historical documents, as well as religious records of the time, speak of a warming period. During this period, the island of Great Britain was becoming more populated. Many streets and roads in England today have

'vine' or a reference to vineyards in their names. While England does not have the climate today to maintain vineyards, temperatures during

the Medieval Warm Period were warmer than today, giving the climate needed to support these vineyards; a climate warmer than today's climate and warmer than what is being touted as a global emergency by some.

In covering climate change for the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 1995, Hugh Anderson and Bernard Walter⁸ showed that within the last millennium, during the Medieval Warm Period, temperatures were higher than today and higher



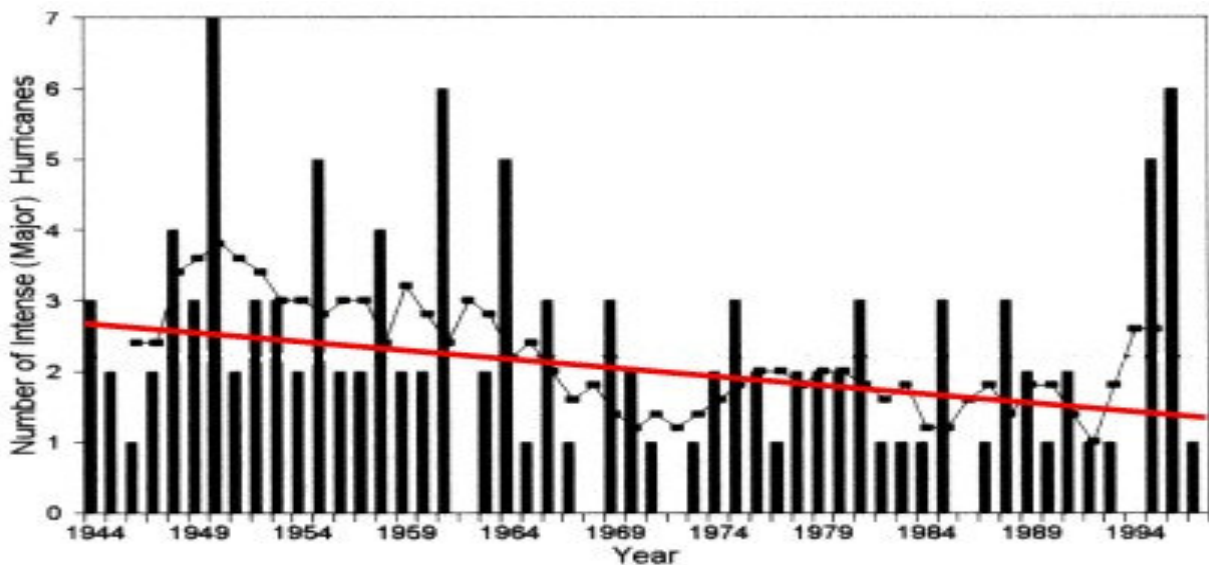
than predictions made by global warming experts of what may be in 50 to 100 years. During this increase in temperature, the glaciers did not melt, flooding the coastlines of the world. And the North Atlantic Current was not stalled, causing a new ice age, as depicted in the Hollywood movie, “The Day After Tomorrow”. The chart below tracks this temperature variation.

Hurricane activity has also been linked to global warming. Contrary to many global warming enthusiasts, there were hurricanes before ‘Katrina’ in 2005. And with Katrina making landfall as a category three hurricane, there have been more intense hurricanes in the past. In fact, by observing the coastline of the Gulf of Mexico, as well as the south east coast of the continental United States, it is clear that the coastline has been influenced by repeated landfall of major hurricanes for many millennia.

Just after the events of Hurricane Katrina, in September, and before the start of the hurricane season in 2006, Al Gore made a prediction at the National Sierra Club Convention⁹, of more intense hurricanes due to global warming. “Now, the scientific community is warning us that the average hurricane will continue to get stronger because of global warming.” The 2006 season turned out to be a quiet season for the most part. There was not a single hurricane that made landfall in the United States, and of the storms that did form, none were of the intensity that were predicted. 2007 was not much more serious as 2006.

In 2007, there was a new idea that Global Warming will actually curb hurricanes. On April 18th, Geophysical Research Letters published a report claiming that a “robust increase” in wind shear, caused by global warming will diminish the intensity of hurricanes. One could assume that the change in the stance on the effects of hurricanes from global warming was due to the prior year being touted as going to be a more violent hurricane season, only to be very mild or that the science is still out on the effects of global warming. This seems to be a convenient, familiar tactic used; change your theories on global warming when the evidence disproves them, but keep the dire warning of a warming climate change, just the same.

The data also show that intense hurricane activity has decreased since 1944. In 1993, Christopher W. Landsea wrote in *Monthly Weather Review*¹⁰ about the decrease in intensity as the chart shows.



Those who feel that global warming is caused by man use the increase in carbon dioxide emissions and chart the increase since 1900. However, when looking at this chart, Professor Patrick Michaels, Dept. of Environmental Sciences, University of Virginia¹¹ claims, “Anyone who walks around and says that carbon dioxide is responsible for most of the warming in the 20th century hasn’t looked at the basic numbers.”

In May of 2001, James E. Hansen, head of the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, gave testimony to the United States Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation¹², showing that carbon dioxide emissions

from humans have almost leveled off. As the chart to the right shows, between 1850 and 1940, carbon dioxide emissions increased by 7.9%.

Since 1940 to 2000, the

increase was 3.4%. Between 1850 and 1915, before the industrial revolution, the increase in carbon dioxide emissions was 6.7%. Yet between 1985 and 2000, in the height of the global industrial economy, the increase was only 1%.

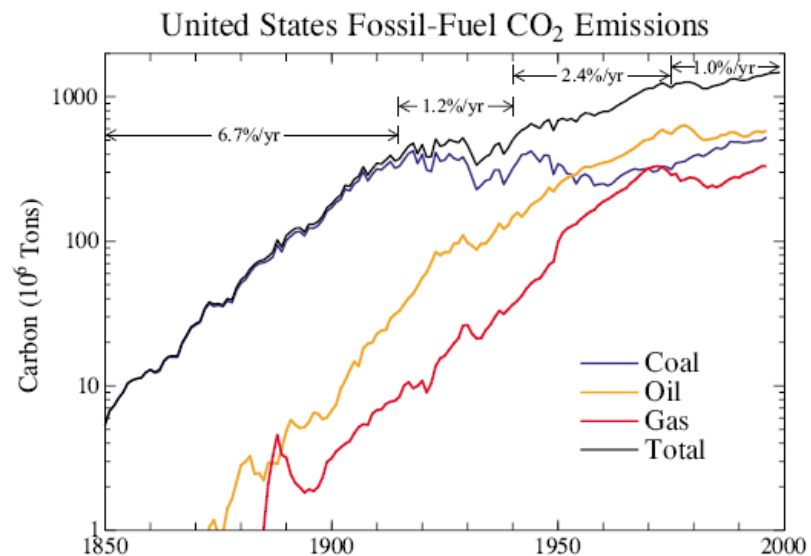


Figure 8. Annual emissions of CO₂ from fossil fuels in the United States (principal data source: Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Department of Energy)

The majority of global warming scientists claim that the increase in industry in the 20th century is a major cause to global warming today and a major increase after WWII increased the damage to our environment. Yet, this chart shows that emissions levels, while still rising, actually decreased in intensity since the end of WWII.

The United States has been accused of not caring about the environment for not signing the Kyoto Protocol¹³. Researchers for the protocol claim that the global mean temperature will rise by about 1.9 degrees (C) by the year 2100 if we do nothing. But if the countries abide by the Kyoto Protocol, the increase will only be about 1.7 degrees (C). For the impact that would be made into the U.S. economy, the difference of .2 degrees is not comprehensible. Yet, as mentioned previously¹⁴, the Earth has already cooled by one degree in 2007 on its own.

Also included in the protocol are exemptions for China and India. Guess where American companies would go if global warming regulations are put in place here? If the countries that signed the Kyoto Protocol abide by this economically, China and India, two of the United States' greatest competitors in the world economy, and two of the world's biggest polluters, would have free reign to produce as much pollution as possible, while the U.S. and other countries will be handcuffed. Environmentalists have already hand-cuffed the United States to OPEC¹⁵, in not allowing expanded drilling, exploration, and the building of new

refineries on US soil. Shall America's hands be tied again?

Though the United States has not signed the Kyoto treaty, many politicians in the U.S. are trying to implement measures anyway. "Cap and Trade" legislation is one example that will be discussed later. In March of 2007, Congress attempted to pass a ban on the sale of incandescent light bulbs. While



Fluorescent and compact fluorescent(CFL) bulbs contain toxic mercury. Use L.E.D. replacement bulbs instead and save our environment

CFL's (Compact Florescent Light bulbs) may save energy, they are more expensive to the consumer. Will the government subsidize the cost of these bulbs for low-income families through tax dollars? And since these bulbs contain mercury, how will the government recommend disposal? CFL bulbs contain 5 milligrams of mercury. Though this is a very small amount, once millions of homes begin using these bulbs, and replacing them when they are 'blown', the amount going into landfills and eventually into the groundwater would be enormous. Also, if you break a bulb in your house, you must call the fire department since this is considered a Haz-Mat (Hazardous Materials) situation. Wouldn't a better, more logical choice be to use L.E.D. (Light Emitting Diode)



bulbs instead? These bulbs use less electrical energy, give off less heat energy, and are much safer for the environment.

Proponents of global warming have also pushed for the use of alternative fueled vehicles. Battery celled automobiles are one suggestion. But again, once the vehicle has lived its life, what is to be done with the batteries? And during their lives, how much coal will be burned into the atmosphere to create the electricity to charge these batteries?



The inconceivable idea of using food (corn) as a fuel has already shown to have a major impact on the world's food prices, as well as creating corn shortages in Central America (an area that uses corn as a staple crop). At the same time, the refineries used to make this bio-fuel create more pollution than oil refineries or the vehicles that use oil refined products. And since the United States, alone, uses millions of gallons of gasoline every week, where are we to refine and store these bio-fuels? These three examples show the short term thinking of these ideas.

But since we still burn carbon-based fuels, some have offered the purchase of carbon credits to compensate for a person's carbon 'footprint'. Al Gore touts his purchasing for carbon credits and the idea of living a carbon free life while he

travels across the globe in private jets and limousines. Just one of his houses uses twenty times as much energy as the normal U.S. household. What Al Gore fails to mention is that the company that he buys his carbon credits from is a company that he owns. So, in actuality, he is investing in his own company and asking others to buy from his company. In his earlier mentioned movie, he also fails to mention his ownership in a zinc strip mining company on the land his father once used as a tobacco farm. Strip mining has numerous detrimental effects of the environment.

One of the biggest blows to the global warming supporters came from the founder of the Weather Channel (A channel that some now call a global warming propaganda machine). In November of 2007, John Coleman¹⁶, famed meteorologist said this about global warming. "It is the greatest scam in history. I am amazed, appalled and highly offended by it. Global warming; It is a SCAM." His comments were met with silence from the mainstream media, but it did not stop him from continuing:

I have read dozens of scientific papers. I have talked with numerous scientists. I have studied. I have thought about it. I know I am correct. There is no run away climate change. The impact of humans on climate is not catastrophic. Our planet is not in peril. I am incensed by the incredible media glamour, the politically correct silliness and rude dismissal of counter arguments by the high priest (Al Gore) of global

warming.¹⁷

It seems astonishing that the media will cover every word of what a politician like Al Gore says on global warming, but ignores what a well educated meteorologist has to say on the matter when it differs from the “consensus.”

But the biggest blow has come from the United Nations, itself. This was not intentional, but as hundreds of E-mails from U.N.’s Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change (IPCC) scientists showed how they were complaining, worried, and debating how to manipulate data to support their arguments became public in 2009, an even bigger cloud (pun intended) of doubt has been cast of the entire



argument pertaining to man made global warming. In an article by Fred Barnes¹⁸ of Fox News in February of 2010, he states, “Those e-mails raised troubling questions about the panel's impartiality and how deeply politics influenced its decisions.”

Many feel that carbon credits are a back way to tax consumers for our use of energy. Putting more control into the hands of the government with these credits, as well as capping our production capacities, only to be controlled by the government, puts global warming on the fast track of becoming the new Communism (anti-Capitalism). “Cap and Trade” regulation is another way for

global warming alarmists to push their environmentalist agendas. This legislation would put even greater regulations on American companies.

American companies, now, are regulated by the United States government, more than any other country that regulates their domestic businesses. New restrictions, new taxes, and new 'climate saving' rules will have a couple of effects: Either businesses will move to other countries, or they will close their doors. Either way, the American worker is the one that gets hurt. Those businesses that do manage to stay in business will do so by raising prices on their goods and services, once again, impacting the American worker, this time in the pocketbook.

These few examples of the result of Cap and Trade legislation would lead to slowing the economy even more¹⁹. The push for 'Green' jobs does not take into account how many 'normal' jobs will be lost. The ends would not justify the means, seeing that scientists can not agree on what, if any, impact there would be on the global temperature.

Cap and Trade regulations would also impact every household. Home owners that wish to sell their homes would have to pass a government inspection before placing the home on the market. If the appliances in the home do not match what the government says are energy efficient, the seller would have to replace these appliances, including adding the aforementioned, CFL light bulbs (not L.E.D.) in every socket, before a private home could go on the market.

The Cap and Trade bill would also put into place a fee (tax) on everything that emits carbon dioxide. This would include human beings, since humans exhale carbon dioxide. This does not take into consideration that ALL vegetation, including the threatened,

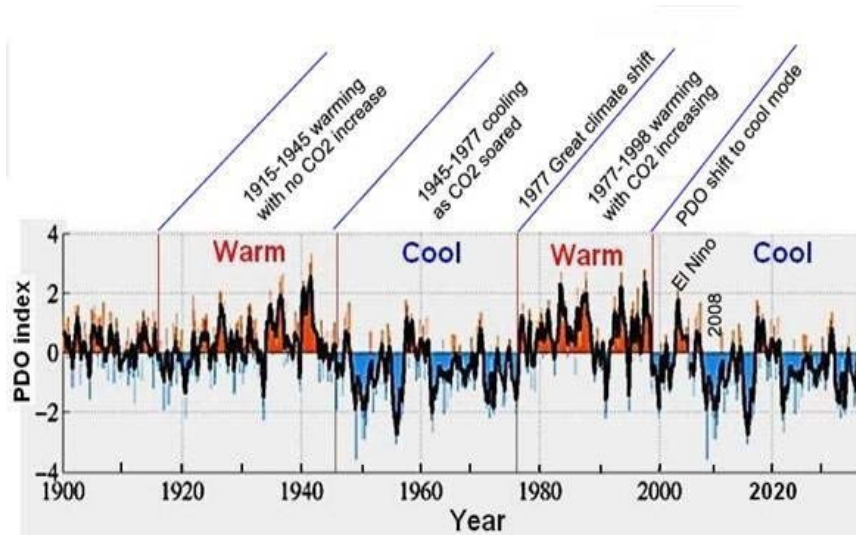


Amazon Rain Forest, relies on carbon dioxide, just as all humans rely on oxygen to survive.

But maybe there is a more simple condition to be considered for the catastrophic warnings being presented daily about our climate. In psychology terms, Munchausen's Syndrome by proxy²⁰ is a condition where a caregiver or mother induces or fabricates symptoms in a patient or child, only to be seen as the hero for rescuing said person. Could this be a larger version with the many warnings about global cooling in the 1970's sounding very familiar to the warning about Global Warming today? (I.e. The earth is sick, let me fix it.)

The Earth cools and warms itself on a continual basis; on average every twenty-five to thirty-five years. In an article first published in the New York Times in December of 2008, Dr. Don Easterbrook²¹ shows proof of this. He now states, "We're going to have three decades of global cooling, just like we've always had when this happens. CO2 has nothing to do with it." He describes in this article

possibilities on why this has occurred the Pacific Decadal Oscillation and, in this chart, how this will look, temperature-wise.



In the 1970's, as earlier mentioned, the Earth was in a small cooling period. In the 1930's, the earth was in a warming period. This explains how 1935 was recorded as the warmest year on record (for the last one hundred years or so being tracked). And around the turn of the century (1900), the Earth was once again, experiencing a cooling cycle.

Putting all this aside, and if, in actuality, the warming is, as evidence suggests, a natural part of the planet's warming and cooling cycle, what harm will we cause the environment if we try to change the natural course of the climate? We have seen the damage that humans cause when trying to solve an issue with nature. In some areas, the deer population was said to be diminishing, so they were protected. Then, the deer became overpopulated, many dying of lack of food (reminiscent of some polar bears dying of starvation, due to too many bears, not enough food, due to protection but used as an example of global warming). To

reduce the deer population, hunting was allowed once again.

In the American west, forests have become overridden with underbrush (kindling) from years of not being able to have controlled burns, due to the impact on the environment. Because of this, when a fire starts, either man made or natural (lightning), the underbrush is so thick that these fires soon spread for miles. Nature tries to fix itself, but we, as humans, seem to meddle in ways we do not understand, pertaining to the final outcome, only to satisfy what we perceive as what nature should be.

Global warming activists claim that scientists have come to a consensus on global warming. Yet, consensus are, in their very definition, not scientific. By saying that there is a consensus, they admit that there are other opinions, but have agreed on only one. By using a consensus to make a determination, one could say that radio personality Rush Limbaugh is correct in his views, due to his ratings being the highest in the radio broadcast arena. One could also say that the Holy Bible is the only religious account to be correct, due to it being the most published work in world history.

By consensus, these two examples have a majority and therefore are the only correct idea. Then again, 550 years ago, the consensus of world scientists was that the world was flat. 450 years ago, the consensus of world scientists was that the Earth was the center of the universe. Is either of these still the consensus? Up until

2006, the world consensus was that Pluto was a planet²². We have seen that change as well. Consensuses are not scientific, plain and simple.

In October of 2009, at SEJ's (Society of Environmental Journalists), Al Gore refused to answer questions (during a question and answer segment) about polar bear populations in the Arctic²³; one of his more famous parts of his earlier mentioned, "An Inconvenient Truth." The questioner, Phelim McAleer, soon had his mic turned off and was forcibly escorted out of the facility. The excuse the event used was, "His time was up."²⁴ Yet, Gore never answered the initial question.

And in April of 2010, with evidence that the Arctic Ice is increasing, rather than the reports from some scientists that the ice would melt all together, Al Gore refused and evaded attempts to answer the question, instead claiming, "I don't like ambush journalism."²⁵ He also said he was not doing interviews, but having lunch. One is left to wonder, though, how this exchange would have been different, had the reporter asked in favor of Gore's views, or about Gore's 'new' activism (Now that the threat of man-made global warming (or by changing the title to "Climate Change") did not catch on like he thought it would) about PLASTIC.

The Earth's climate has been fluctuating, cooling and warming, maintaining life for longer than recorded history. The last one hundred years that global warming supporters use to support their theories would not equal the initial nerve impulse to create a blink of the eye of the earth's history. They claim that the

largest amount of greenhouse gas is in the form of water vapor (clouds). Yet, by tracking the hydrologic cycle, one can see that, again, this is part of nature's cycle. And clouds cool the Earth.

With how far we have come from that first Earth Day in 1970, we as a globe have either taken great strides to avoid the gloom and doom of the Global Cooling predictions, and corrected the cooling climate so much so that now we are entering Global Warming, or maybe we used a little common sense to see through the alarmists' dire warnings and political motivation then and should do the same now. But as a dire thought, common sense is a very rare commodity today.

-
- ¹ Peter Gwynne, “The Cooling World”, *Newsweek*, April 28, 1975, p.64
- ² Kenneth Watt, Swarthmore College, April 18, 1970
- ³ Al Gore, “An Inconvenient Truth”, 2006
- ⁴ CBC News, Polar Bear Worries Unproven, Expert Says, <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/north/story/2006/05/15/nor-bears-managemnet.html>
- ⁵ Anthony Watts, January 2008 – 4 sources say “globally cooler” in the past 12 months, <http://wattsupwiththat.com/2008/02/19/january-2008-4-sources-say-globally-cooler-in-the-past-12-months/>, February 2nd, 2008
- ⁶ Anthony Watts, January 2008 – 4 sources say “globally cooler” in the past 12 months, <http://wattsupwiththat.com/2008/02/19/january-2008-4-sources-say-globally-cooler-in-the-past-12-months/>, February 19, 2008
- ⁷ Surfacestations.org, <http://www.surfacestations.org/>, July 16, 2009
- ⁸ Hugh Anderson and Bernard Walter, <http://vathena.arc.nasa.gov/curric/land/global/climchng.html>, 28 March 1997
- ⁹ Al Gore, On Katrina, Global Warming, <http://www.commondreams.org/views05/0912-32.htm>, September 9, 2005
- ¹⁰ Christopher W. Landsea, A CLIMATOLOGY OF INTENSE (OR MAJOR) ATLANTIC HURRICANES. *Monthly Weather Review*, Vol.121, pg. 1703-1713, (1993). <http://www.aoml.noaa.gov/hrd/Landsea/climo/index.html>
- ¹¹ Professor Patrick Michaels, “The Great Global Warming Swindle”, 2007
- ¹² James E. Hansen, The Forcing Agent Underlying Climate Change, *An Alternative Scenario for Climate Change in the 21st. Century*, http://www.giss.nasa.gov/research/features/200105_senate/, 1 May 2001
- ¹³ Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 11 December, 1997
- ¹⁴ Anthony Watts, “Globally Cooler”
- ¹⁵ OPEC – Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Founded in 1960, including the countries of Iraq, Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Qatar, Indonesia, Socialist Peoples Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, United Arab Emirates, Algeria, Nigeria, Ecuador, and Angola)
- ¹⁶ Huliq News, John Coleman says Global Warming is a Scam, <http://www.huliq.com/41129/john-coleman-says-global-warming-is-a-scam>, November 8th, 2007
- ¹⁷ Ibid
- ¹⁸ Fred Barnes, EXCLUSIVE: U.N. Climate Panel to Announce Significant Changes, <http://www.foxnews.com/scitech/2010/02/24/exclusive-climate-panel-announce-significant-changes/>, February 23, 2010
- ¹⁹ Juliet Eilperin, Cap-and-Trade Would Slow Economy, CBO Chief Says, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/14/AR2009101404054.html> October 15th, 2009
- ²⁰ Munchausen Syndrome by proxy, Oxford English Dictionary 2.B, March 2003
- ²¹ Dr. Don Easterbrook, Cooler Year on a Cooling Planet, <http://anhonestclimatedebate.wordpress.com/2008/12/18/cooler-year-on-a-cooling-planet/>, December 18, 2008
- ²² Mason Inman, “Pluto not a Planet, Astronomers Rule”, National Geographic News, August 24, 2006
- ²³ Polar Bears? Censorship? Al Gore, Phelim McAleer Joust at Enviro Journalism Conference, <http://sej2009.sej.org/2009/10/polar-bears-censorship.html>, October 10, 2009
- ²⁴ Ibid
- ²⁵ Preview: Factor Confronts Gore, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fGaHiWDZARNY>, April 12, 2010