## CLIMATE CHANGE, WILDLIFE, AND YOU

## **10 SPECIES HARMED BY CLIMATE CHANGE**



Moose. Credit: USFWS.



Loggerhead sea turtles. Credit: USGS.



Karner blue butterfly. Credit: USFWS.

1) Moose are declining in the Northeast as tick populations boom due to shorter winters and less snow cover.<sup>1</sup>

2) American pika in the Rocky Mountains will have nowhere to flee as their alpine habitats warm past the level to which they can adapt.<sup>2</sup>

 Loggerhead sea turtles are losing critical nesting beaches as sea level continues to rise along the East Coast.<sup>3</sup>

 Polar bears are losing the Arctic sea ice they depend on to hunt seals.<sup>4</sup>

5) Snowshoe hares have evolved to turn white during the winter to camouflage with the snow. Less snow is making the species vulnerable to predators.<sup>5</sup>

6) Piping plovers are losing their coastal habitat from sea-level rise and severe storms.<sup>6</sup>

7) A warming ocean is stressing coral reefs and contributing to coral bleaching and infectious disease.<sup>7</sup>

8) Brook trout are losing valuable habitat as cold, fast flowing streams become shallower and warmer.<sup>8</sup>

9) Although Karner blue butterflies have had some regional conservation success, they are at risk as climate change alters their reproductive patterns and disconnects them from the wild lupine they depend on.<sup>9</sup>

10) Canada lynx, which have massive paws and thick fur that enable them to thrive in deep snow, are at a disadvantage as snow cover is reduced.<sup>10</sup>

For more information on how climate change affects wildlife in the U.S., check out the National Wildlife Federation's reports and other resources at: http://www.nwf.org/ What-We-Do/Energy-and-Climate.aspx.

<sup>1-6</sup> DOI. https://www.doi.gov/blog/9-animals-are-feeling-impacts-climate-change, <sup>7</sup> NOAA 2017. https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/ coralreef-climate.html, <sup>8</sup> USGS. https://nccwsc.usgs.gov/sites/default/files/files/NCCWSC\_Story\_BrookTrout\_0.pdf, <sup>9</sup> NPS. https://www.nps. gov/indu/learn/nature/upload/Karner-bulletin2014.pdf, <sup>10</sup> USFWS. https://www.fws.gov/northeast/climatechange/stories/lynx.html

Top photo credit: BLM.

## YOU CAN FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE AND SAVE WILDLIFE



- Contact your Senators and Representatives and tell them about the need for a federal price on carbon pollution and robust funding for climate research and renewable energy.
  - Ask your Governor to commit your state to the #WeAreStillIn campaign and become a member of the U.S. Climate Alliance.
  - Join the #IAmStillIn campaign to show your own commitment to the climate goals established by the international Paris Agreement.
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- Create backyard habitat for wildlife and work with your community to create habitat in public places. Wildlife need help in a rapidly changing climate.
- Purchase higher fuel efficiency vehicles, including 100 percent electric cars.
- Carpool, bike, walk, and take public transportation.
- Reduce, re-use, and recycle. Recycling saves energy and water.
- Attend your local town hall meetings and get involved in local policy. Contact local media, including newspaper editorial boards.
- Offset your carbon emissions through organizations such as Terrapass.
- Install energy efficient appliances. Energy efficiency can have a big impact for a small investment.
- Install renewable energy systems for your home and contact your local utility to demand affordable clean energy replace fossil fuels.
- Educate yourself. Read the news, read the science, and take action accordingly.

## **Quick links for more information**

- NWF's Action Center: https://online.nwf. org/site/SPageNavigator/ActionCenter
- Contact your political representatives: https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials
- #WeAreStillIn: http://wearestillin.com/
- U.S. Climate Alliance: https://www.us climatealliance.org/
- #IAmStillIn: https://www.iamstillin.org/
- NWF's Garden for Wildlife program: http://www.nwf.org/Garden-For-Wildlife.aspx
- More on electric vehicles: https://energy.gov/eere/electricvehicles/ electric-vehicle-benefits
- How recycling saves energy and water: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/ files/2016-11/documents/advncng\_smm\_ infogrphc-2014-sm.pdf
- Terrapass: https://www.terrapass.com/
- How energy efficiency makes a difference: http://www.ase.org/resources/ top-5-reasons-be-energy-efficient
- Planning for a home renewable energy system: https://energy.gov/ energysaver/planning-home-renewableenergy-systems
- More fast facts about climate change: http://www.nwf.org/Eco-Schools-USA/ Become-an-Eco-School/Pathways/ Climate-Change/Facts.aspx

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