



Perspectives

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

When the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced in mid-July that the U.S. had "the warmest 12-month period of any 12-months on record," it was no surprise to the millions of Americans who have been sweltering through this summer's record heat.

Without question, the issue of global warming is one that cannot be dismissed. Highly respected data shows that years such as this are no longer abnormal — they are becoming more and more frequent.

However, one aspect that rarely makes it into the headlines in discussing climate change is the fact that population growth is a huge contributing factor. As an increasing population feeds more activity that impacts climate, we're definitely going to pay a huge price in the long term unless we reverse course now.

And if the summer of 2012 produces such extreme weather, with America's population at 313 million and world population at 7 billion, what can we expect in just 40 years when the U.S. has a projected 438 million people — and close to 9 billion people inhabit our globe?

According to the Worldwatch Institute, a nonprofit environmental think tank, "the overriding challenges facing our global civilization are to curtail climate change and slow population growth. *Success on these two fronts would make other challenges, such as reversing the deforestation of earth, stabilizing water tables, and protecting plant and animal diversity, much more manageable....If we cannot stabilize climate and we cannot stabilize population, there is not an ecosystem on Earth that we can save.*"

Those are strong words — but rich with truth. And while there are many people who say we don't have to worry about this problem now because an

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HIGH TEMPERATURES SCORCH NATION

Is Climate Change at Play?

Record high temperatures...widespread drought...a growing crisis in raising cattle, corn and hay...record wildfires...and no rain! What's next?

Last year, it was Texas that suffered through an unprecedented drought. This year as the worst drought since 1956 encompasses more than half the contiguous states in the U.S., farmers and ranchers are scrambling for survival. This past June ranked as the third-driest month nationally in more than 118 years and wildfires burned more than 1.3 million acres — the second highest number of acres burned on record for the month. Markets are in turmoil as cattle prices keep dropping and prices for corn, hay and other crops keep climbing — and there is no way to forecast what the final price tag will be for farmers, businesses and consumers.

Is this what climate change looks like? Are we in for more long-term heat waves, droughts and other weather extremes?

There is no definitive answer but the *Huffington Post* recently reported that: "For 13 consecutive months, temperatures ranked among the warmest third of their historical distribution for the first time on record." It noted that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration points out: "The odds of this occurring randomly is 1 in 1,594,323."

Speaking of the increasing warming trend, *Reuters* quotes National Climatic Data Center scientist Jake Crouch as stating: "What's going on for 2012 is exactly what we would expect from climate change." And the *U.S. Drought Monitor* pointed out that one recent climate study "found that manmade global warming made the 2011 Texas heat and drought 20 times more likely to occur compared to the 1960s."

There is a strong argument within the climate change community that as world population increases and fosters more economic activity, we're going to see more and more anomalies in our weather (see NPG President Don Mann's column).

The critical question that remains is just how long are we going to let our population numbers soar without moving to find — and implement — the solutions that can keep climatic chaos from being a regular part of American life.

As one Missouri farmer noted, right now the only solution will "come from the skies."

SUPPORT FOR ARIZONA-STYLE IMMIGRATION LAWS

In deciding *United States v. Arizona*, the U.S. Supreme Court overruled parts of that law but upheld a provision that allows law enforcement officers to verify a person's immigration status during routine stops. Within only a few days of the Court's decision, Quinnipiac University pollsters were out in the field asking about tougher immigration laws and found that 61% of respondents would like to see Arizona-style immigration laws in their state.

NPG, THE DREAM ACT and *US v. ARIZONA*

Following President Obama's directive related to the DREAM Act and the U.S. Supreme Court's decision on the constitutionality of Arizona's SB 1070, NPG issued two national press releases which can be viewed in full at www.NPG.org.

In commenting on the President's end run around Congress in protecting up to 1.4 million illegal immigrants from deportation and putting them on track toward amnesty, NPG President Don Mann noted: "President Obama's actions are an insult to representative government and should sound the alarm for everyone who considers American citizenship sacred. A president unilaterally dictating immigration policies and passive legislators failing to aggressively assert their authority to counter his action does not bode well for responsible immigration control in the future."

Our prime objective in speaking out on both of these important issues, which will have huge consequences for setting future immigration policies, is to give voice to thousands of NPG supporters and millions of Americans who understand that our dysfunctional immigration system must get back on track soon if we are going to rescue our country from a devastating population crisis.

PR Newswire, which distributes and tracks national press releases, reported that more than 200 local and national news organizations picked up each of our press releases. These included *Yahoo! Politics*, *CBS New York.com*, *The Sacramento Bee*, *KING-TV NBC-5 (Seattle WA)*, *Houston (TX) Chronicle*, *Kansas City (MO) Star*, and dozens of other news venues. This positive response enables us to take NPG's message to millions!

"ILLEGAL" OR "UNDOCUMENTED" IMMIGRANT?

There is a debate in the journalistic community as to what term should be used when describing the millions of foreign nationals living in the U.S. illegally. Should they be called "illegal" or "undocumented?"

Reporter Ruben Navarrette, Jr., a *CNN.com* contributor and nationally-syndicated columnist, recently took up this issue and came down on the side of "illegal immigrant." Navarrette notes that a number of his fellow scribes consider the phrase "illegal immigrant" as "biased," "racially offensive" or a "slur."

His response is: "Actually, it is none of the above. The phrase is accurate... It's reality. And as is often the case with reality, it's hard for some people to accept." He goes on to note that: "This isn't about documents. It has been my experience that many of those who have trouble with the phrase 'illegal immigrant' are really troubled by something deeper... they're defending a group of people who engaged in unlawful activity. For some folks, this is messy business. So they try to sanitize it by changing the language."

Navarrette's recommendation is that "illegal immigrant" should triumph as the preferred term. He defends his decision by noting: "My friends in the immigration reform community need to get over their uneasiness and stop sugar coating who these people are and what they've done to get here. We can't fix the problem of illegal immigration until we deal with it honestly and candidly." NPG concurs.

THAT'S NOT A UPS DELIVERY!

Illegal immigration may be rampant but thankfully we have not gotten to the point where UPS trucks deliver illicit border-crossers to American homes.

A recent *Associated Press* article related the story of how alert U.S. Border Patrol officers in Niland, CA pulled over a van — painted brown and with very realistic looking UPS decals — only to find it filled with 13 illegals from Mexico.

What was the giveaway? The agents noted a slightly crooked decal on the back door. The migrants stated that they had agreed to pay \$5,000 to \$8,000 to get to the U.S.

The *AP* story related that vehicles disguised as belonging to legitimate companies and government agencies are on the increase. Recently smugglers have been brazen enough to use fake vehicles that are mirror images of the California Highway Patrol and the Imperial Immigration District.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN (Continued from page 1)

ecocatastrophe is years away, they are simply closing their eyes to the problem. Common sense dictates that we must get control of our population levels before we condemn future generations to extreme temperatures, drought and widespread environmental and economic destruction.

Never has it been more important for us to get our elected leaders and national policymakers to accept the fact that our skyrocketing population numbers must be addressed now — not ten or twenty years down the road.

NPG has been waving the red flag for years by calling for a reverse in our nation's "growth at any cost" policies and for radical reforms in our immigration policies which are driving population growth. Yet, for our message to

finally get to the seemingly disinterested policymakers who can and must halt and reverse our current growth and create sound population policies, we need a chorus of tens of millions of Americans.

The good news is that with ever-increasing temperatures, the ranks of concerned and committed citizens who accept the concept of coming climate disasters are rapidly expanding. We definitely need them fighting in our corner. That's why we are working 24/7 to reach as many Americans as possible with our mission and our message that we have *too many people*. It's also why your ongoing financial support of NPG is so essential to our shared future.

OVERCROWDING IN ENGLAND AND WALES...

Following the 2011 Census of England and Wales, the Office of National Statistics has confirmed that population increased 7.1% in the past decade. Today, there are 56.1 million people in the combined area vs. 52.4 million in 2001 — an increase of 3.7 million.

In a report released by Population Matters, an organization which campaigns for an environmentally-sustainable population in the UK and worldwide, the new data reaffirms that: “England faces unsustainable pressure on housing, roads and public transport and green spaces.”

The rise in population is the largest growth over a ten year period since records began in 1801 and far outpaces a rise in population of 1.6 million or 3% between 1991 and 2001. As in the U.S., immigration is a major factor in population growth. Around 55% of the increase in the recent decade was attributed to net migration, i.e. the level of immigration less the level of emigration.

Population Matters notes that the total population count for England and Wales was greater by more than 500,000 than official estimates rolled forward from 2001.

England and Wales are incredibly densely populated, more than the vast majority of Europe, with an average population density of 371 people per square kilometer. Comparable numbers are: France (146), Germany (197), Italy (185), and Spain (89). According to the 2010 U.S. Census data the U.S. has a population density of 87.4 people per square mile or 33.75 per square kilometer. In 2000, that number was 79.7 (30.77/km²) and in 1990, it was 70.4 (27.18/km²).

SAVING THE EVERGLADES

Two of America’s most valuable ecosystems, the Chesapeake Bay and the Florida Everglades, have been the focus of decades of efforts — with billions of dollars spent — to restore their environmental health. All too often, promises made have ended up as promises not kept — and the reason for failure has more often than not been a lack of funding.

The good news for the Everglades, a 2.4 million-acre wetlands ecosystem, is that there is more money being put into restoration efforts to reverse decades of pollution and development. In mid-July, the Obama Administration announced \$80 million in additional funding to support farmers and ranchers who voluntarily conserve wetlands on agricultural land in the Northern Everglades. These funds are in addition to the three-year, multi-agency \$1.5 billion investment the Obama Administration touts as its contribution to restore wetlands, revitalize water quality and revive the habitats of more than 60 endangered and threatened species.

To meet its long-term objectives a Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) has been created. Approved by Congress in 2000 and originally estimated to cost \$7.8 billion, CERP created a 50/50 federal/state partnership to implement restoration that covers 16 counties over an 18,000 square mile area but now has a price tag of \$13.5 billion. There are many Floridians holding out hope that this formidable plan can come to realization simply because many efforts at restoration in recent decades have fallen victim to numerous lawsuits, political bickering, and expensive, underfunded and sidetracked projects.

In June, the National Research Council issued its fourth biennial review of progress in the Everglades. The *Associated Press* noted that: “In assessing the state of ten key attributes of the Everglades, the outlook was dire.” *AP* quoted David Guest, an attorney for Earthjustice who has spent decades fighting for restoration as saying: “In 1994, we were screaming bloody murder that it was going to take 12 years and here we are 18 years later and we’re nowhere near solving the problem.”

Will the dollars continue to flow to help the Everglades as Washington confronts the looming budget crisis? We can only hope.

QUOTABLE

“Much of the discussion focuses on the fact that illegal immigration flouts federal law. But the problem is less the initial entry into the U.S. without documentation, and more the succession of law-breaking that must follow. If one crosses the border illegally, then one is not likely to state the truth on dozens of subsequent official documents, from matters of identification to certification of employment and entitlement. At each juncture, the law itself is insidiously eroded and the calls for it to be ignored increase. The real immorality is not a law that is found oppressive, but the notion that anyone, most ironically a foreign national, has the right to pick and choose which laws he will obey. No civilization can survive when the law hinges on individual interpreters. If foreign nationals are not required to abide by U.S. law, why would Americans think that they must?”

Victor Davis Hanson
Nationally-syndicated columnist

CALL TO ACTION!

In response to President Obama’s directive related to the DREAM Act, two Arizona Congressmen, Rep. Ben Quayle (R, AZ) and David Schweikert (R, AZ) have introduced bills to stop it in its tracks.

Congressman Quayle has introduced **H.R. 5953**, Prohibiting Back-door Amnesty Act of 2012. The title pretty much sums up its goal.

In sponsoring **H.R. 5957**, Congressman Schweikert noted that his bill aims to “...prevent the president from dictating any immigration law or granting amnesty. Specifically, it prevents the Department of Homeland Security from enforcing a presidential executive order as immigration law.”

NPG urges its members to use the information we recently supplied on your 2012 NPG Legislative Contact List and contact your own Congressman via phone, e-mail or letter. Ask him or her to co-sponsor these important bills and to put pressure on House Speaker John Boehner to call for a full House vote condemning the president’s actions.

NPG STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

NPG takes great pride in the fact that we reach thousands of students annually with our exciting scholarship competitions. This year, as part of our 40th Anniversary we instituted a new video competition, brought back our successful poster contest, and continued our annual essay challenge.

The results are in and prize money totaling \$21,500 has been sent to 17 very talented young people who demonstrated an impressive awareness of the issue of population growth. In the coming months we will make extensive use of the winning videos, posting them on *YouTube* and other social media to reach today's young people. In addition, we will reprint the winning posters for distribution to schools, libraries and other venues to get our message out.

We are very thankful to all NPG members who were extremely generous in helping to provide the funds for this important educational program. The following students received 2012 NPG Scholarships:

2012 STUDENT VIDEO CONTEST WINNERS:

- \$2,500 - Jackson Kitchell – DeSales University, Center Valley, PA
- \$1,000 - Forrest Anderson Mares – Northwestern College, St. Paul, MN
- \$1,000 - Carly DeSilva – The College of New Jersey, Ewing, NJ
- \$1,000 - Katy Martin – University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI
- \$1,000 - Ryan McCluney – University of North Carolina, Wilmington, NC
- \$1,000 - Anna Winslow – Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

2012 STUDENT POSTER CONTEST WINNERS:

- \$2,500 - Angela McCauley – Albemarle High School, Charlottesville, VA
- \$1,000 - Katherine Bartlett – New Hanover High School, Wilmington, NC
- \$1,000 - Chiara Ferrari-Wong – Bergen County Academies, Hackensack, NJ
- \$1,000 - Devin McNulty – Mount St. Joseph's Academy, Flourtown, PA
- \$1,000 - Gabriela Pabon – Dillard Center for the Arts, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

2012 STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS:

- \$2,500 - Alison Tuch – Virginia Tech University, Blacksburg, VA
- \$1,000 - Sarah Abohana – University of Washington, Tacoma, WA
- \$1,000 - Bailey Cassidy – DePaul University, Chicago, IL
- \$1,000 - William Davison – Ozarks Technical Community College, Springfield, MO
- \$1,000 - Cheryl Gaul – Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA
- \$1,000 - Corey Gier – Fort Hays State University, Hays, KS

2012 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS DONOR PACKET. CLAIM YOURS TODAY!

We've created a special packet of winning entries in our 40th Anniversary student competitions. It includes a DVD featuring our brand new student-created videos, postcard prints of the most creative student posters, and the successful essays which captured the top prizes. As a thank you for returning a gift of \$25 today, we'll gladly send this packet to you to share with friends, family, and especially young people.

MAKE A BEQUEST TO NPG

NPG makes available, free of charge, a 24-page booklet entitled *Making Your Will: What You Should Know Before You See Your Lawyer*. If you would like to receive a copy please check the appropriate box on the enclosed reply.



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