

## OPINIONS

## CO2 = climate change? The tipping point

BY ALAN VOETSCH

Fellow Applegaters, the fundamental building block for claims of catastrophic global warming (or climate change or whatever the phrase of the month might be) is that our fossil fuel emissions are driving the entire planet's weather and overall climate. Oh, and fires too.

Catastrophic predictions have been happening for decades and are causing unnecessary stress for many people. Nowadays climate change activists no longer seem able to tell the difference between weather and climate. The rise in atmospheric CO2 is the basis used for the constant scary scenarios for us living in the Applegate Valley and beyond.

Global temperatures and atmospheric CO2 have fluctuated greatly over hundreds, thousands, and millions of years. In most cases temperature changes led, rather than followed, changes in atmospheric CO2 levels, not the other way around as climate activists insist. Records support this fact. Ice cores and ocean sediments show great fluctuation throughout Earth's history due to many natural causes.

CO2 levels rise and fall seasonally in response to warming and cooling effects of plant growth cycles. GHG's and aerosols from volcanic eruptions, along with Earth's orbit, solar changes, and many other contributors have combined heating and cooling effects. No one effect is responsible for starting and ending ice ages. Certainly not the very weak greenhouse effect of CO2. Let's look at some of our planet's CO2 history.

Based on various proxy indicators (such as ice cores), CO2 levels have stayed fairly low over the last 650,000 years, even during the six previous interglacial periods when global temps were as much as nine degrees F warmer than today. It is apparent that past CO2 levels have been high at times when global temps were low, and vice versa. During eras when dinosaurs thrived, global temps ranged between 72 - 77 degrees, a blistering 20 degrees higher than today's average of 54 - 57 degrees.

CO2 levels were about 7,000 ppm (parts per million) 600 million years ago. Starting 480 million years ago, CO2 gradually dropped to 4,000 ppm over 100 million years while average temps remained at a steady 72 degrees. CO2 later jumped to 4,500 ppm and guess what? Temperatures dove to about today's current average, even though the CO2 level was ten times higher than present. Yes, as CO2 went up, temperatures plummeted.

CO2 dropped from 4,500 ppm to 3,000 ppm 438 million years ago, but according to fossil records, global temps shot back up to 72 degrees. Regardless of CO2 levels being 7,000 ppm or 3,000 ppm, temperatures rose and fell independently.

More on CO2 in my next article.

Book suggestion: *The Politically Incorrect Guide to Global Warming and Environmentalism* by Christopher C. Horner.

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## Pesticides in our drinking water are a public health issue

BY CLAIR HIGHFIELD, SANDY OLKEN, AND KARI REIN

Do you know that our drinking water is at risk? Right here in the Applegate watershed, our drinking water, the most basic necessity we need to survive, is being compromised by outdated forestry practices created for the benefit of big business. We receive 70 percent of our drinking water from our forests.

Who regulates Oregon's logging industry? Is there any consideration given to how their choices affect us, our children, wildlife, fish, and our homes? The Oregon Board of Forestry regulates logging on private and state lands, and, no, they do not consider how their choices affect us. Unfortunately, Oregon is one out of five states with no limit on corporate contributions to politicians. The timber industry gives more money to Oregon state lawmakers than anywhere else in the nation.

The Oregon Forestry Practices Act lacks guidelines for appropriate stream buffers and allows aerial spraying of pesticides to stop competing vegetation on private and state-owned land. Oregon has the weakest environmental protections of the western states when it comes to logging on steep slopes, stream buffers, and aerial spraying. Aerial spraying is especially hazardous to our drinking water supply because the spray can drift long distances into rivers and streams or runoff into forests' waters, putting people and wildlife at risk. Sadly, there is already a history of the pollution in neighborhood drinking water from spraying in forests. You can research both Gold Beach and Triangle Lake near Eugene, where citizens have experienced the negative effects of these chemicals.

Did you know that some of the chemicals used, like glyphosate and atrazine, are banned in other countries? Atrazine is now present in some water levels in much higher concentrations than are needed to kill frogs and other amphibians. Possible effects of exposure to these pesticides include cancers, miscarriages, thyroid disorders, decreased fertility, and increased risk of birth defects. Unborn young, infants, and children are the most vulnerable to toxins. Studies have shown that the chemical 2,4-D, used in forestry, can interfere with the development of embryos and children's brains. Agent Orange contains 2,4-D and is considered a health hazard to birds and aquatic life.

We are not advocating an end to commercial logging in Oregon's forests, but we are demanding a more sustainable, responsible, and innovative approach to forestry management. The future of forestry needs to include consideration of the climate and the health of people, water, and wildlife.

Oregonians across the state are working diligently to improve Oregon's forestry laws to the same level of protection as those of California, Idaho, and Washington. These protections include increasing streamside buffers for clear-cutting and limiting aerial spraying of herbicides, both of which have major impact on water and our health. To enact these laws, your voice is needed. Please contact your state legislators to encourage them to vote for these important changes. For more information, see forestwaters.org.

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### JO'S LIST

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before approval. "We can disagree, but we should always be kind," says Jo. There is a limit of one megabyte to keep it manageable for all users.

She doesn't count the hours she puts in. She spends about 30 minutes each morning and checks for new messages several times throughout the day. "Though I only agree to publish Monday through Friday, I often find myself posting on the weekends. I will do that if there is a lost or found animal, an immediate threat to the community, or just because there are too many posts waiting in the queue," she said. Her dedication to keeping everyone connected and safe demonstrates her caring nature.

This dedication led to questions about the future of Jo's List and whether she has any help or trainees. She answered,

"No, I do not. When I am ready to move on, the list will become a part of history." Naturally, the next questions were about her personal plans for the future. Jo and her husband, Bob, live on the same hillside property in Williams that they bought in 1987, now filled with extensive gardens, one of her passions. However, she stated, "Personally, I would like to move from southern Oregon, as the summers are too hot and the winters not to my liking. Rural life is becoming more of a challenge than I would like. I also have family in Portland. It would be nice to be closer to them." She mentioned that a rewarding aspect about providing the list was being told she is appreciated, so perhaps an outpouring of appreciation could help to delay her making this change for a while!

She also commented on some changes in the valley. "Nothing stays the same, and that is true of this community. The

legalization first of marijuana and then hemp has brought renewed controversy and problems with neighbors over noise, lights, and most especially water. Back in the day, the controversies centered around timber harvesting, protection for the northern spotted owl, and other environmental issues."

It's true that in many ways nothing stays the same, but there are also things that never change. Qualities such as generosity, caring, dedication, kindness, and a passion for community are attributes Jo Larsen has shared unselfishly and that will endure in the memory and

hearts of her community, whatever she decides for her future. May we all honor her legacy of compassionate connection in our valley.

Subscribe to the list by sending an email to jolarsen@oigp.net with "subscribe" in the subject line. After subscribing, send your posts to joslist@oigp.net. Donations are welcome! You can send checks directly to Jo Larsen at PO Box 286, Williams OR 97544, or donate through PayPal. There are also donation jars throughout the valley.

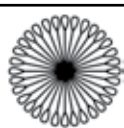
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*Happy Spring!*  
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