

News From The States

EVENING WRAP

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By [Clay Wirestone](#)

Take our world. Please!

Wisecracks aside, this Earth is the only one we have to live in, dreams of space exploration aside. So you'd think that we would have taken better care of it, rather than – (gestures incoherently at climate change, pollution and those denying any problems exist).

All of that's a roundabout way of saying we have news about the environment today, and it's not the brightest or shiniest or happiest. So brace yourself.



The Big Takeaway

A new national report shows tough times ahead for the Southwest United States, [reports the Nevada Current](#). Over the next 10 years, residents will want to buckle in as the “rapidly warming climate drives food shortages, intensifies droughts, floods, wildfires, diseases, and jeopardizes public infrastructure like roads and dams.”

Yes, humanity has taken steps to reduce emissions, but nowhere quick enough to keep the temperature from warming more than the 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold. That's where things become dicey for us humans.

“We need to be moving much faster and we need to go much further,” said Allison Crimmins, the director of the National Climate Assessment, last week.

For reference, 60 million people live in the Southwest, and floods and fires have cost Nevada tens of millions of dollars in recent years. Heat-related illnesses and hospitalizations have also increased.



Miles of flooding stretched between Las Vegas and Fallon, Nevada, on US-95 earlier this year. Don't worry, though, everything is fine.

(Jeniffer Solis/Nevada Current)

But we're not just talking about the Southwest.

Researchers at Oregon State University have found that the value of private timberland in the three states — California, Oregon and Washington — has dropped some \$11 billion in the past 19 years. That's a drop of 10%, attributed to drought and fire risk.

[This story comes to us](#) from the Oregon Capital Chronicle which points out that these drops aren't because the trees have gone up in smoke or anything. They're simply riskier to own.

“This study shows that climate change is already reducing the value of Western

forests,” said David Lewis, a natural resource economist at Oregon State, and one of the researchers. “This isn’t a hypothetical future effect. These are damages that have already happened because it is riskier to hold assets like timberland.”



Wildfires in September 2020 burned a large swath of the Oregon Cascades. Again though, everything is definitely fine. Totally.

(Photo courtesy Oregon State University)

If all this feels like a bit too much to handle right now – and I’m right there with you – Maryland Matters [might have just the solution](#).

Maryland Matters spoke with three therapists who counsel patients grappling with climate anxiety. As the effects of a warming world become clear in our daily lives, they say, more people face challenges in dealing with that world. Some can’t get out of bed.

“They were so paralyzed by fear,” said Dr. Heidi Schreiber-Pan, a Towson psychotherapist. “It was right in their backyard.”

The three offer different approaches to handling the crush of news and its attendant feelings. You can focus on positive change being made, you can take matters into your own hands and do what you can to reduce your carbon footprint, and you can advocate forcefully for change.

Okay, I feel a bit calmer now just typing this all out.

More from the climate and energy file: [EPA gives partial approval to state plan for improving Interior Alaska air quality](#) ... [Some states act to protect residents from extreme heat — with a new focus on young people](#) ... [Pillen letter to Nebraska Environmental Trust labeled ‘unusual’ and ‘political interference’](#) ... [Kentucky could win ‘massive’ solar investment in federal competition. Here’s what’s possible](#)



Also Trending

The Washington State Standard reports [on the wrenching choices](#) faced by aging parents who care for adult children with disabilities. Many have looked after their kids for decades but now have to figure out the future.

“I have to be the strong one,” said 86-year-old Helga Teske, who lives with her 50-year-old son.

Last year, Washington state had nearly 10,800 people above age 40 who could receive care through state developmental disabilities programs, Demkovich writes. And more than one in five of them still receive parental care. Stay tuned: A second part of the report will appear tomorrow.

Meanwhile here in Kansas, where I’m writing from today, we ran a [series last month](#) about the families of those with disabilities waiting for state services. Those on state waiver lists can linger for years without care.

As states grapple with painful budget choices in years to come and as caregivers continue to age, expect pressure like those we see in Washington and Kansas to only increase.



From The Newsrooms

- [\(Oklahoma\) Some Republicans willing to compromise on abortion ban exceptions. Activists ensured they didn’t.](#)
- [Arkansas declines to release police officer database, preventing public](#)

[oversight of problem cops](#)

- [Missouri rape hotline reporting requirement in abortion-rights petition draws criticism](#)
- [Ohio Catholic bishops spent big on failed effort to defeat abortion-rights amendment](#)
- [The veterinarian shortage is serious in West Virginia. Agricultural leaders hope a new program can help.](#)



One Last Thing

Pour one out for Marty Krofft, the puppeteer and businessman [who died Saturday](#) at age 86.

Marty and brother Sid shaped a generation of children through their distinctive TV shows, which included “The Banana Splits Adventure Hour,” “H.R. Pufnstuf” and “Land of the Lost.” The duo’s heyday was the 1970s, but they kept on working and produced a show for the Nickelodeon channel as late as 2015.

The secret of their success? “We screwed with every kid’s mind,” Marty Krofft told the Hollywood Reporter. “There’s a Krofft look — the colors. There’s an edge. Disney doesn’t have an edge.”

Sid survives his brother. And let’s face it, those strange-looking puppets will survive us all.



*The hand of a grumpy adult changing the channel from a really rocking kids' show, probably. Did we mention that everything was fine?
(Twitter)*

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