

Federal Climate Change Legislation

Safeguarding Nature For People and Wildlife

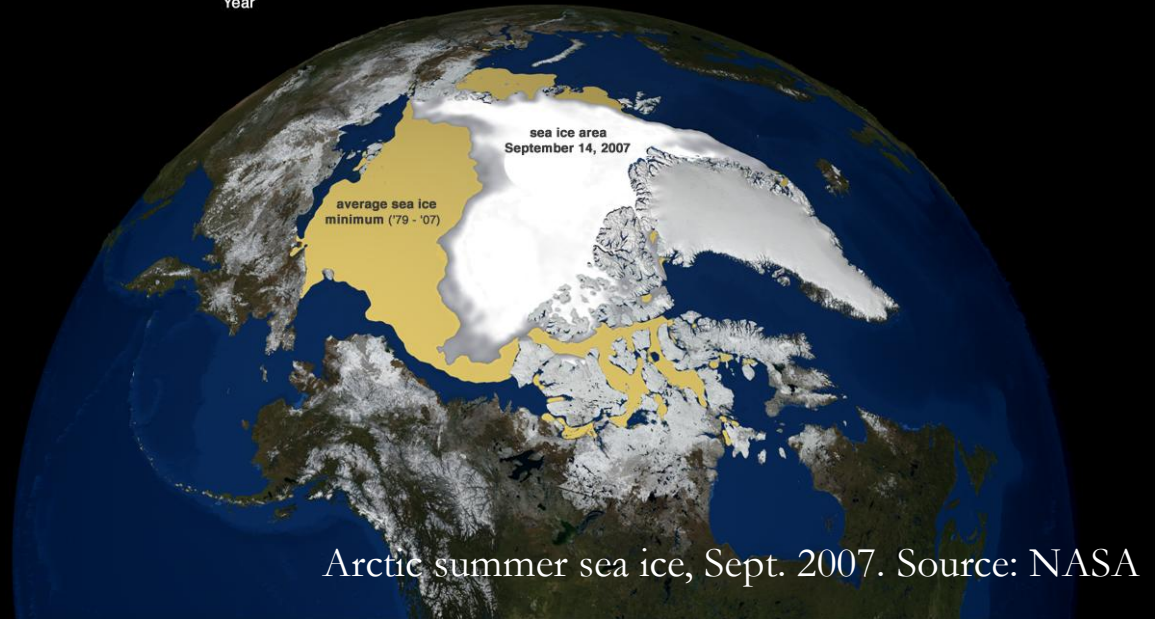
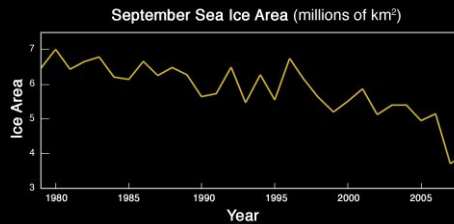
John Kostyack
**Executive Director, Wildlife Conservation and
Global Warming**
June 24, 2009



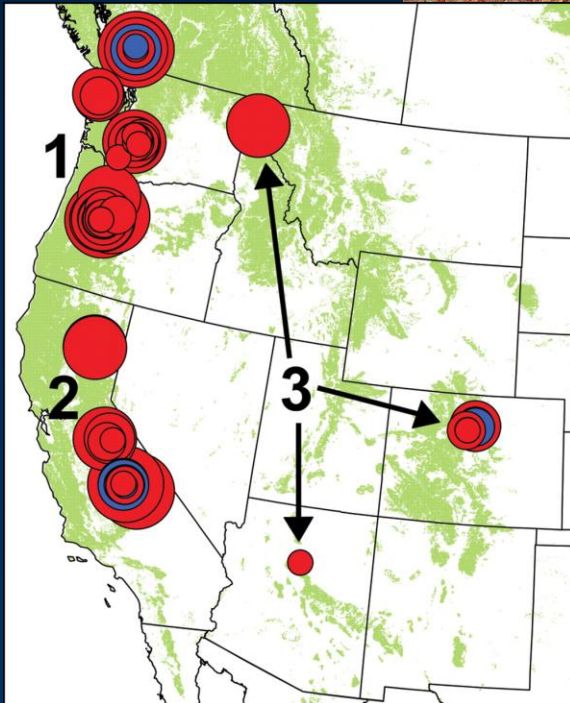
Global Warming is Disrupting Ecosystems that People and Wildlife Depend Upon ... in Polar Regions



Photo: Larry Master



... and in Temperate Zones



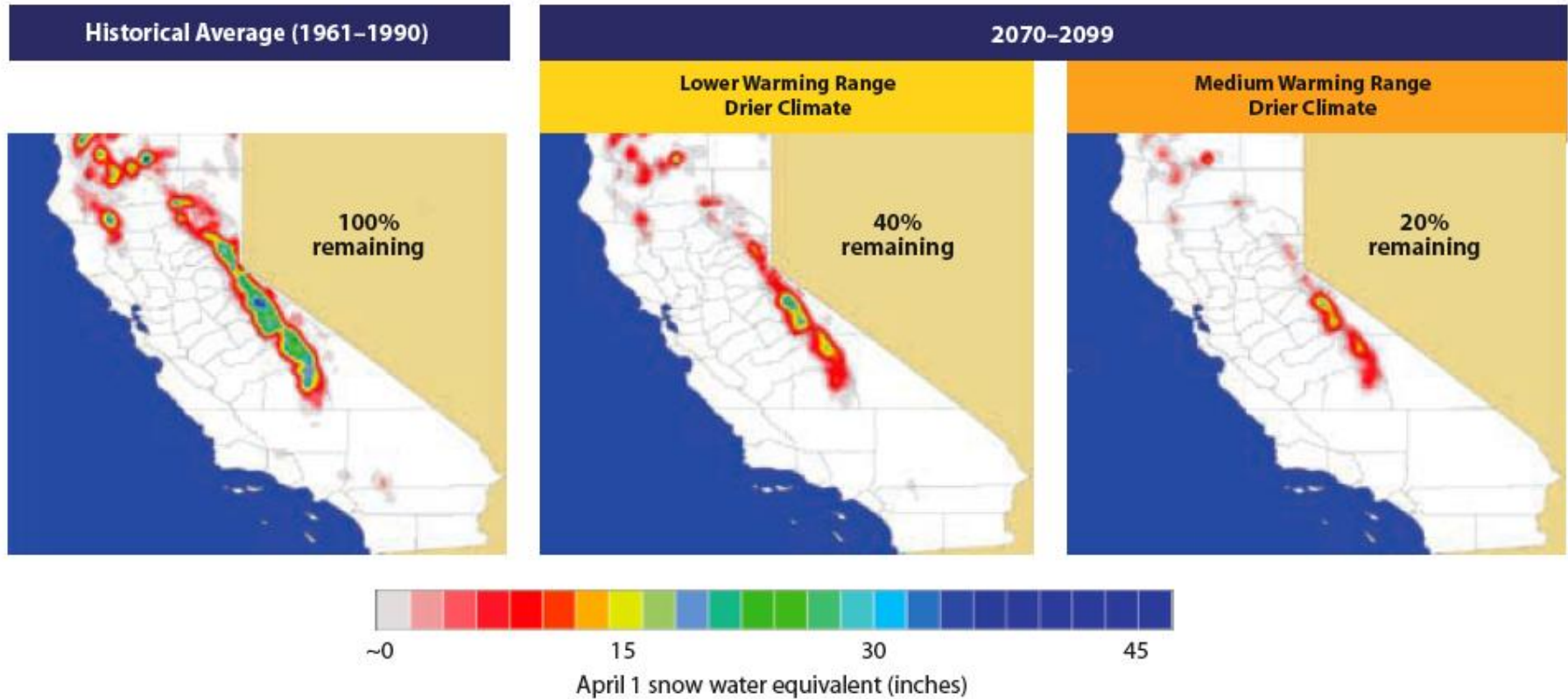
Old Growth Tree Mortality
van Mantgem et al. (2009)

Mountain Pine Beetle Damage, Colorado
Photo: Allen L. Thornton



A Problem of Too Little Water...

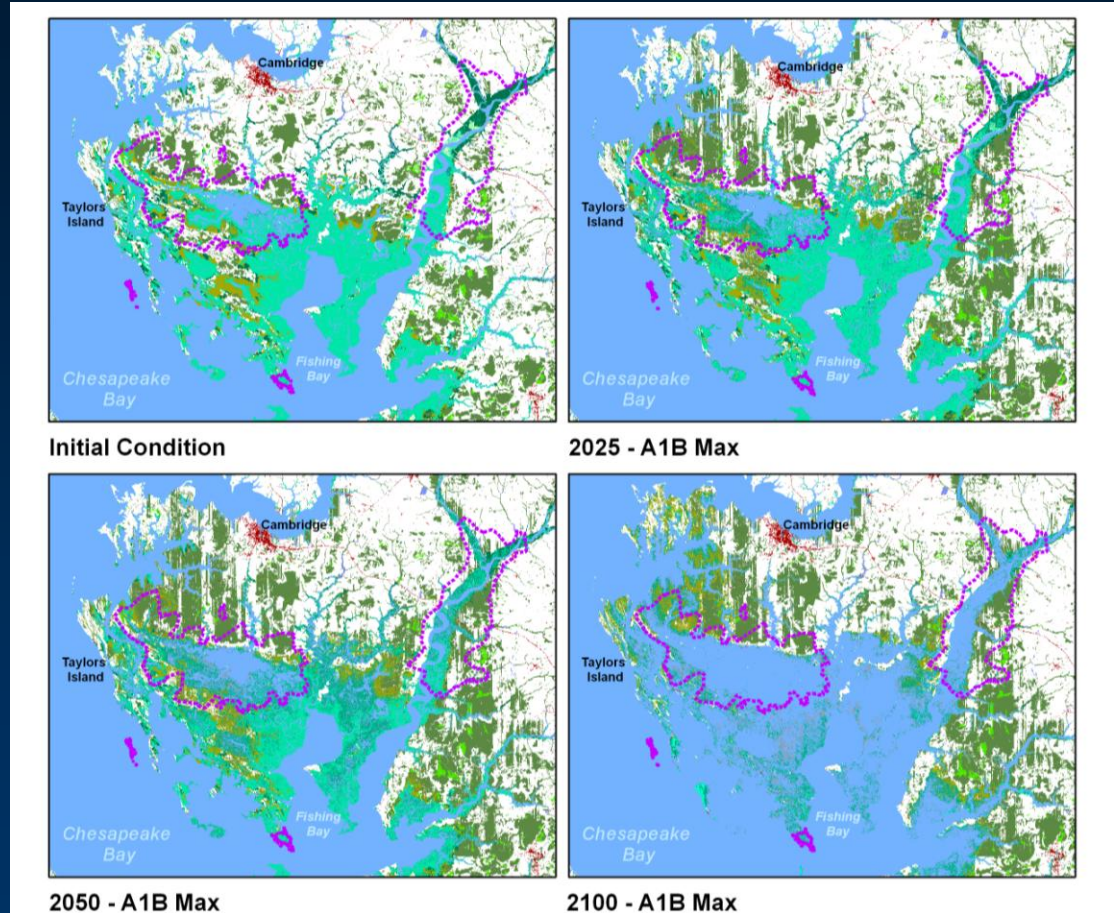
Decreasing California Snowpack



... and Too Much Water



Hurricane Katrina



Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge



A Two-Part Agenda for Confronting Global Warming

- Mitigation: Reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; promoting a clean energy economy
- Adaptation: Safeguarding people and wildlife from the impacts of global warming



America's Clean Energy Security (ACES) Act

- Cap Produces 17% GHG Reductions from 2005 Levels by 2020; Additional Reductions thru Investments in Clean Energy Industries
- Sale of Pollution Permits Generates \$3.4B Annually to Safeguard Assets Threatened by Climate Change



Examples of How ACES Would Safeguard Communities from Climate Change

#1: Rebuilding Coastal Wetlands to Buffer Against Sea Level Rise and Intensified Storms



#2: Restoring Floodplains to Absorb the Impact of Intensified Rainfall Events



Flood Insurance Reform: Another Key Opportunity to Safeguard Communities from Climate Change Impacts

- Original intent of flood insurance law was to insure development in floodplains in return for risk reduction measures
- FEMA instead has encouraged high-risk development, exposing people and property to storms and floods
- Reform coalition has assembled to achieve real risk reductions – including risks from climate change



An Historic Opportunity

- After years of delay, Congress is poised to enact climate change legislation
- Billions of dollars would be available annually – using polluter payments - for helping protect communities from disaster risks associated with climate change
- ACES is top priority – then on to flood insurance reform