



## CHANGE THE FORECAST FOR WILDLIFE SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL WARMING

### Global Warming and IOWA

Iowa's wetlands, forests, croplands and prairies face a serious threat from global warming. The Union of Concerned Scientists estimates that by 2100, average summer temperatures in the state could increase between 9-22 degrees Fahrenheit depending on the extent to which greenhouse gas emissions are curbed. Already, higher temperatures and drier conditions are causing changes within ecosystems like the Prairie Pothole Region, an important breeding ground for millions of waterfowl and other migratory birds. Scientists project that global warming alone could destroy up to 91 percent of the area's wetlands by the 2080s, reducing duck numbers by 9-69 percent and seriously affecting the waterfowl hunting nationwide. We can solve global warming and revitalize our economy by rebuilding America with clean energy.



### Global warming effects on Iowa wildlife

Iowa is home to an incredible diversity of native wildlife species, including 274 birds, 68 mammals, 139 fish, 47 reptiles and 23 amphibians. Rising temperatures in the state will likely change the makeup of entire ecosystems, forcing wildlife to shift their ranges or adapt.



- Warmer average temperatures and changes in precipitation could significantly reduce available wetland habitat, including prairie potholes in Northern Iowa and wetlands in the DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge. These places provide critical breeding and stopover habitat for hundreds of thousands of waterfowl and shorebirds.
- The state bird, the American goldfinch, may contract its breeding range to the northern part of the state due to changes in climate.
- Global warming is also projected to alter prairie grassland habitat, which could cause many of the state's grassland bird species to shift their ranges north.

### Global Warming Pollution

Burning coal, gas and oil produces carbon dioxide, which is a greenhouse gas that warms the planet as it builds up in the atmosphere. Some of the carbon dioxide released today remains in the atmosphere after even 100 years, trapping more and more heat.

Since the mid-1800s, emissions of carbon dioxide have skyrocketed, causing global temperatures to rise by about 1° Fahrenheit in the last century. Earth has not experienced such a rapid change in temperature in thousands of years.

### A Global Solution

The U.S. must lead the world by passing global warming legislation at home and working with other nations at the Copenhagen climate summit at the end of 2009 to sign a new climate treaty that keeps further warming below 2° Fahrenheit. With a global solution, we can avoid the worst impacts of global warming.



## What's at stake for Iowans?

Iowa has more than 19,000 miles of fishable rivers and streams and approximately 230 lakes, which draw a number of hunters, anglers and birders each year. Changes from global warming threaten not only to degrade these and other natural ecosystems, but also the health and economy of the state.

- The summer flood of 1993 left all 99 Iowa counties disaster areas, costing \$8 billion in agricultural damages and crop loss. Global warming models project that this extreme flooding, historically estimated to happen once every 100-200 years, could occur on average once every 10 years.
- Warmer temperatures are expected to bring more extreme droughts to Iowa as warmer air evaporates moisture from the soil more rapidly. Crop yields from corn, one of Iowa's chief crops, could decline by up to a 23 percent.
- Loss of wildlife and habitat could mean a loss of tourism dollars. In 2006, nearly 1.9 million people spent more than \$913 million on hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing in Iowa. The industry in turn supported 17,189 jobs in the state.\* (*Jobs are an average of 2001 and 2006 data.*)

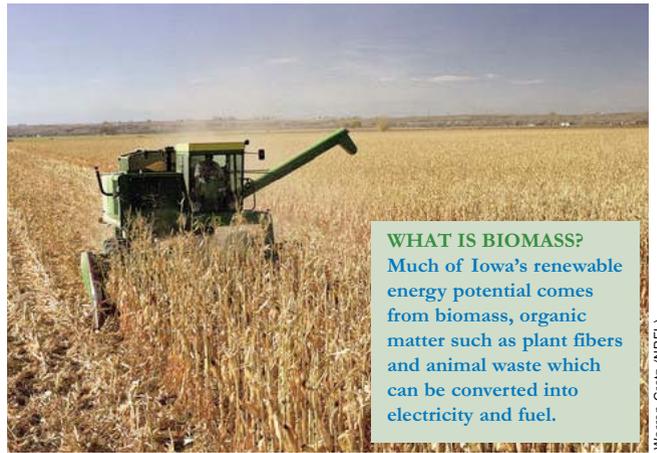
**“Global warming poses an overriding challenge to our responsibility to protect wildlife for our children’s future. We must advance balanced solutions that work for people, wildlife and the economy to overcome this challenge.”—**  
**Larry Schweiger**  
*President, CEO*  
*National Wildlife Federation*

### GLOBAL WARMING NATIONAL POLICY SOLUTION:

A federal legislative solution can drive American ingenuity, create millions of green jobs, and restore America's global leadership on global warming. Legislation should:

- \* Include ambitious targets to reduce America's global warming pollution as swiftly and deeply as possible. Scientists say that developed countries as a whole need to reduce their global warming pollution by at least 80% from 1990 levels by 2050 to avoid the worst impacts of global warming.
- \* Move America toward a 100% clean electricity future by maximizing energy efficiency, modernizing the electric power grid, expanding power generation from renewable energy resources, and investing in clean transportation infrastructure.
- \* Invest in natural resources. Forests, coasts, wetlands, clean air and clean water are already being impacted by global warming. Funding is needed to safeguard the natural resources that are critical to wildlife populations and human health.
- \* Lead a worldwide effort to finance clean energy technology, forest conservation, and adaptation to unavoidable impacts of global warming.

For more information, visit: [www.nwf.org/globalwarming](http://www.nwf.org/globalwarming).



## Iowa's solutions to global warming

The state has been a leader in developing solutions to global warming.

- Iowa's 2002 Comprehensive Energy Plan Update requires state facilities to purchase at least 10 percent of their electricity from renewable energy by 2005 and to reduce their energy consumption to 20 percent below 2000 levels.

### **Midwestern Governors Association Energy Platform and Greenhouse Gas Accord**

Nine midwestern states, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Kansas, Indiana, Ohio, South Dakota, and the Canadian Province of Manitoba, have signed the Midwestern Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Accord. The Accord will establish greenhouse gas reduction targets and a market based cap & trade mechanism to help achieve these targets. Part of the agreement by these Midwestern states is an aggressive energy security and climate program that includes major steps forward on renewable energy, energy efficiency, next generation biofuels, and carbon capture and storage.

To support the shared goal of reducing greenhouse gases, the Midwestern states launched new cooperative regional initiatives to address the following:

- CO2 management to create a regional transportation and storage infrastructure;
- A bioproduct procurement program to support the growth of the region's bioeconomy;
- Electricity transmission adequacy to support thousands of new megawatts of wind energy;
- Low-carbon energy transmission infrastructure that will provide a cost-effective way to supply the Midwest with sustainable and environmentally responsible energy.

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