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### Researchers say Arctic warming has widespread effects on Arctic plants, animals



AP Photo/U.S. Fish and Wildlife

In this undated photo provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, walrus swim to shore on a beach in Alaska. Thousands of walrus are congregating on Alaska's northwest coast because of receding sea ice in the Arctic.

By RANDOLPH E. SCHMID , Associated Press

Last update: September 10, 2009 - 3:40 PM

WASHINGTON - Arctic warming is affecting plants, birds, animals and insects as ice melts and the growing season changes, scientists report in a new review of the many impacts climate change is having on the far north.

As the global climate changes, the Arctic Circle has been warming faster than other regions and scientists have documented a series of affects on wildlife in the region.

Indeed, just last week researchers reported that the Arctic is warmer than it's been in 2,000 years, even though it should be cooling because of changes in the Earth's orbit that cause the region to get less direct sunlight.

"The Arctic as we know it may soon be a thing of the past," Eric Post, an associate professor of biology at Penn State University, said in a statement.

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That Heartland Institute link is a joke. The claim that "atmospheric physics" requires the upper atmosphere to warm is flat wrong. In ... read more

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Post led a research team that studied the Arctic during the International Polar Year, which ended in 2008. Their findings are reported in Friday's edition of the journal Science.

Snow cover has declined steadily in recent years and in the last two to three decades the minimum sea ice coverage declined sharply, a change that affect animals like polar bears that depend on the ice for habitat and hunting.

"Species on land and at sea are suffering adverse consequences of human behavior at latitudes thousands of miles away," Post said. "It seems no matter where you look — on the ground, in the air, or in the water — we're seeing signs of rapid change."

In addition, he added, the Arctic is very complex and "not all populations within a given species respond similarly to warming because physical and landscape features that interact with climate can vary tremendously from site to site."

For example, migratory caribou in Greenland and elsewhere are declining, the researchers said, since the animals have not been able to adjust their calving season to keep it synchronized with changes in plant growth.

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I don't care what the scientific research shows

or if ice is melting before my very eyes. This is a bunch of liberal crap. They are doing it to for their own gain. I don't know what they would have to gain by making this up, but nonetheless this liberal crap is being made up. Greenhouse gas my ass! note: this is an attempt to show republicans how stupid they are.

posted by largeliver on Sep 10, 09 at 4:19 pm |

0 of 6 people liked this comment.

The story doesn't.....

say that global warming is causing anything, it simply says there is Arctic warming, that could mean the rest of the planet is still cooling for all we know. From the research & reports I have seen the planet has been stagnant in temp or cooling for the the last 10 years. The fact of the matter is we don't know what causes our planet to cool & warm and the planet has been doing this for billions of years and will continue to do so. All we can do is adapt as it changes. Animal life will also have to adapt. Over the centuries animals & plants have adapted, some gone extinct, new species emerging and this will continue until our planet eventually dies. There is nothing humans can do to stop this. It is good that we humans like to know as much as we can about our planet and learn but for everything we learn there are a million things we still don't understand. We should embrace our planet & lives, we should be productive and do the best we can, we should be kind to our environment (and we are, the planet has never been cleaner & the US is the leader in being clean) and we should continue to explore, expand, invent and increase our standard of living and life expectancy. We should not be implementing taxes, laws, rules & regulations that harms our economy and our ability to have progress & adapt in the years to come based on junk science and guesses. If we are going to

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2.1 Bathrooms  
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survive & adapt then we need to have a roaring economic system that allows us to produce cheap energy & invent new technologies for what comes at us down the road. The best thing we can do is to be productive. The wealthier our nation the cleaner it is, the stronger it is and the more likely we are to survive. God Bless America.

posted by inreality on Sep 10, 09 at 4:34 pm |

1 of 2 people liked this comment.

automaton, naysayers are NOT just sitting on their as\$ses in their living rooms

They're watching Hannity, listening to Rush, diddling to Malkin, lord-knows-WHAT they're doing with Beck! But to accuse them of doing nothing is inaccurate. -- Too, they're using their little brains to try to find a way to counter the liberal bias that facts have.

posted by a6699f on Sep 10, 09 at 4:45 pm |

0 of 1 people liked this comment.

" Arctic is warmer than it's been in 2,000 years"

Which means what?? 2000 and 1 years ago it WAS warmer! And evil conservatives and their SUVs weren't around. Seeing how the earth has seen periods in which there were NO ice caps on EITHER pole because it was so warm and at least one time of being COMPLETELY frozen over, the so-called "Snowball Earth"...How can anything in between those two extremes be unnatural? What's more if I could choose (and since I don't have the hubris of a leftist I know I can't choose, mother nature will do as she pleases)I would want it warmer rather than colder.

posted by jesseventura on Sep 10, 09 at 4:45 pm |

And the Antarctic is expanding it's ice cover

temps have been going down since 1998-way to go liberal useful idiots!

posted by kakigene on Sep 10, 09 at 4:52 pm |

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