

Opinion

LAS CRUCES SUN-NEWS

THE SUN-NEWS EDITORIAL BOARD

Rynni Henderson, President; Lucas Peerman, News Director; Walt Rubel, Editorial Page Editor

YOUR OPINIONS

Sorg, Climate Assessment both wrong

The December 1 Sun-News published Commissioner Sorg's column citing the 4th National Climate Assessment: "Act Now on Climate Change." Both Sorg's column and NCA4 are error-laden because both use anti-free market propaganda, not facts, measurements, observations, and data.

Sorg says we'll have "hotter summers" and "less water in the future," unaware hottest summers in rural NM were in the Dust Bowl, and even before, if you examine records for Orogrande, Columbus, Santa Rosa, Cimarron, and Tucumcari. Sorg's unaware Jornada Range's rainfall increased over the past century; however, there's a 60-year periodicity of precipitation in the West, the Pacific Decadal Oscillation. In the PDO-Warm 80s and 90s, it was wettest in the past 2,000 years according to tree rings analyzed by University of Arizona's Tree Ring Lab. Now we're in PDO-Cold which brings drought, but droughts not as severe as the 1950s and 60s.

NCA4 in which Sorg places so much faith never uses the term "climate cycles," such as I mention above, despite repeated searches using those words. NCA4 says extreme weather is increasing, but fails to see EF3 and stronger tornadoes decreased the past 60 years, hurricane frequency, down over the past four decades, wind speed kinetic energy of tropical storms and hurricanes, down over the past five decades, and Cat 3 and higher hurricanes striking the USA over the past nine decades, down sharply, despite alarmist gnashing-of-teeth editorials by USA Today's and Washington Post's innumerate.

Citing increasing fires in the West fails to account for decades of suppressing all fires, drastically reducing logging, and failing to clean debris/deadwood, providing drastically increased fuel loads.

Gil Sorg, politician, quotes political documents. Bob Endlich, meteorologist, quotes measurements. Believe who you want, people, but measurements tell vastly different stories from what political "leaders" say.

*Robert W Endlich,
Las Cruces*