

OPINION

<https://www.lcsun-news.com/story/opinion/2021/10/17/letters-editor-school-board-candidates/8490561002>

## Governments need to step up on climate change

We are in big trouble. Those of us who spend time on public lands, pay attention to rainfall and wildlife and care about critters and those who raise or hunt them, know it. For a brief time we could watch a waterfall tumble down the Organ Mountains of our backyard public monument. But we know that this year's rainfall less than three-quarters of the arid "normal" for our high Chihuahuan desert grasslands.

Politicians make bold proclamations about conserving 30% of the land by 2030. But we know that government agencies want to claim over-grazed public lands can be "conserved" by more grazing. Hunters grumble about coming up dry after finally drawing a tag. But we know — from the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish — that the same forage needed by a cow/calf pair will support 2.1 elk and 7.8 mule deer. In a time of scarcity, this leads to zero-sum thinking.

Gloom? Doom? Conflict? Is that the only option as New Mexico heats up, wonderous creations go extinct, fields and grasslands dry up, and livestock munch through a wildlife heritage? It doesn't have to be that way — and government can play a constructive role in finding solutions.

Whether its flooding and eroding coastlines, wildfires charring dreams, or drought withering a way of life, local, tribal, state, and federal government programs can — and should — be there to help people help themselves adjust, adapt, and accommodate to inevitable change.

Peter M. Ossorio and Jean C. Ossorio, Las Cruces

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Ossorio ONE

Peter M. Ossorio and Jean C. Ossorio seem to be among those who think that humans and their governments are able to change the temperature of the earth, the level of the sea, and the spread of a virus to those susceptible to infection by that virus using masks. None of these are possible. Precipitation in the mountain west is controlled by the temperatures of the offshore waters of North and South America, <https://casf.me/el-nino-and-la-nina-controls-rainfall-and-drought-in-western-usa/> Perhaps the Ossorios remember the rainfall tumbling down the Organ Mountains from the 1980s to about 2000 when the Pacific Decadal Oscillation, PDO, Wet cycle brought copious rain and snow and full levels to Elephant Butte Reservoir. The PDO is 60 years long, and this dry spell is but a return to the dry years of the 1950s, but some 60 years on. The

Ossarios mention, “as New Mexico heats up,” but are they aware that long term temperature records in New Mexico show that Columbus, Santa Rosa, Orogrande and Cimarron had their hottest temperatures in the Dust Bowl Years? Tucumcari had its hottest year in 1918; the data from the Western Regional Climate Center are plotted in [https://casf.me/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Examining-the-Hypothesis\\_with-all-of-the-carbon-dioxide-in-the-air-today\\_Surface-Temperatures-are-at-a-high-in-New-Mexico\\_24-Sep-2019.pdf](https://casf.me/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Examining-the-Hypothesis_with-all-of-the-carbon-dioxide-in-the-air-today_Surface-Temperatures-are-at-a-high-in-New-Mexico_24-Sep-2019.pdf)

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Ossorio TWO

Further long-term rainfall amounts are increasing at NMSU, Jornada Range, Los Lunas, and Bosque Del Apache NWR, and Socorro, NM. While long term temperatures are falling at Jornada Range, Socorro, NM, and Bosque Del Apache NWR. The long-term temperatures are increasing at NMSU because the sensors are located near the center of Las Cruces’ urban heat island, and because the sensors have been moved to a location over bare dirt, while the standard requires the sensors to be located over, “ground covered with natural and low vegetation (< 10 cm) representative of the region.” Not bare dirt. The data and more are posted on the website of our climate study group, Cruces Atmospheric Sciences Forum, <https://casf.me/another-false-climate-alarm/>

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