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By Jon Sapper  
Climate Change

I was looking into global warming the other day. It seems like an impending disaster. They're predicting more floods and droughts, more rain and snow, food production disasters, more hurricanes and severe weather. They even say the ice melting at the North Pole has caused polar bears to get skinnier. Most polar bears that I've seen look overweight anyway, so maybe a little less weight and lower cholesterol will actually help them. They also say there are fewer penguins at the South Pole and more bark beetles in Alaska eating up the spruce trees. I got an idea....move the penguins to Alaska where there's plenty of beetle food for them. Then they might get more frisky, if you know what I mean. Both problems could be solved.

Please excuse the humor, since this climate change stuff appears to be serious. In fact, a letter was sent to the President by a couple of scientists. Here's part of the letter..... quote, "Aware of your deep concern with the future of the world, we feel obligated to inform you on the results of the scientific conference held recently. The conference dealt with the past and future changes of climate and was attended by 42 top American and European scientists. The main conclusion was that a global deterioration of climate by a magnitude larger than any previously experienced by mankind is a very real probability and indeed may be here very soon. We can expect substantially lower worldwide food production and increased frequency of extreme weather like floods, snowstorms, etc." End quote.

Time Magazine, the New York Times and Newsweek have run feature stories on this. As a result, the White House sent a letter to the Secretary of Commerce and established a sub-committee on climate change.

Media attention created quite a stir. The letter to the President from George Kukla and R.K. Mathews concluded by stating that at the present rate of this global cooling, it is fast enough to bring glacial temperatures in about a century. Global cooling?? That letter was written to President Nixon in 1972 with the magazine articles following shortly after. Now what do I believe?

I guess I'll trust the National Weather Service to give me the right information. Wait a second. I remember some folks in Portland, Oregon several years ago, looked at weather predictions. A five year period was analyzed. The conclusion.....If you look out your window today and predict the weather tomorrow will be the same, you would have had a better prediction rate than the national folks. So I got another idea, let's have one last Congressional study to settle the matter once and for all.

This has been Jon Sapper for Community Comment.