

Community Comment  
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## Wind, Water, and Fire

Wind, water and fire are common realities in our daily lives. Wind keeps our air fresh and clean, moves seeds about, powers the sails on boats, and moves the blades on wind turbines that generate electricity. It's part of our weather system which gives us necessary precipitation.

Water is the foundation of life. Not only does it make up much of our bodies and most other living things, but it is necessary for ongoing life. Most animals need a daily complement of water to remain healthy. In addition to all the ways water supports life, water also provides recreation of an active nature as well as a passive value in it's aesthetic attributes. Just consider the value of an ocean or lake view as an add on to property value, for example.

Fire has become an essential part of human existence and quality of life. We use fire for two important purposes; to provide heat and to cook our food. In addition to these two essential uses, fire has fueled modern industry and transportation. It's safe to say that wind, water, and fire support life on earth and are manipulated by humans to support modern life as we know it.

But wind, water and fire can also be deadly foes. We once again witnessed the destructive power of these three life partners. Hurricanes hit Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico causing billions of dollars of damage and loss of animal and human life. The wind power alone can cause massive damage to vegetation, structures and utilities. But wind and water together sharply adds to the potential for damage. When water leaves its normal place, we often call this flooding because our stuff is inundated and often destroyed. Wind can multiply the problem by causing storm surges which is yet another way water can flood and do great damage.

Fire was critical for putting humans on the course to modern civilization. But when fire is not contained by normal methods, it can become a course for catastrophic destruction. We see this in structure fires which can injure or kill people and destroy property. We also see this in wildland fires which can destroy thousands of acres of natural resources. And then, as we build suburban densities in wild areas, we get the worst of fires destructive potential. The fires south of us illustrate this all too well.

This globe, our world and absolute support system for our very existence, is warming. We are the cause of much this temperature increase. Science supports this with factual evidence. Climate change doesn't care about race, religion, party affiliation, country of origin, or how much money you have. The impact on all of us, especially our children

and grandchildren for unknown generations will be impacted by the actions, or lack of action that we take today.

We have been fowling our nest and overpopulating this earth of ours for a long time. Like delayed structural maintenance, there comes a point where you can't save the structure.

Life on Earth is just that; a living thing. We can help ourselves by managing our planet.

My grandchildren will know I did what I could. Will yours?

This has been Sam Pennisi for community comment.