

OPINIONS

Climate science is not settled—
not even close

BY ALAN VOETSCH

In an article that appeared in the Fall *Applegater*, the writer [Alan Journet] stated that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Oregon Climate Change Program, and the USDA Climate Change Program all say that their conclusions “could be disputed only by someone ignorant of science or exhibiting malicious intent.” That’s BS. They simply don’t want to have a discussion, and want all of us to swallow their opinion without asking any further questions. So they call folks names and try to scare the rest of us. The IPCC is a proven corrupt organization that has been discredited for “cooking the data” many times. And ultimately, the desired result is an increase in our taxes so politicians in Washington, DC, and the United Nations can expand their budgets and continue to grow bigger government.

Folks, don’t listen to him or me. Simply look deeper into this issue and do your own research. There *are* respectable climatologists out there who have rational conversations about climate change without the fear-mongering agenda. You can actually hear some truthful facts on this issue. Find Judith Curry and follow her at <http://judithcurry.com/>.

For instance, on her website the morning of October 27, 2014, among many other topics, are discussions about the effects of solar variability on climate and the possibility of another “Maunder Minimum” (refers to sunspot activity). Trust me, these issues have a great effect on Earth. These are people who actually *want* to have intelligent discussions and not shove an agenda down your throat. There are literally thousands of potential impacts to our climate, and I guarantee that those who insist that humans are the only cause have an unspoken agenda. Many of them are not aware and just repeat what they hear from other “alarmist” groups. This is not critical thinking. Their main goal is to force politicians to enact laws to “save our planet.” Well and fine. But these laws and regulations will cost us even more jobs, higher taxes, higher power bills, and continued higher gasoline costs.

Understanding natural history helps also. Knowing that there are weather patterns within weather patterns—some

very long-term, some short, and some mid-term—still does not mean there is any guarantee about what happens in the future because our planet is always evolving, and nothing that has happened in the past can ever exactly repeat itself.

President Obama’s Undersecretary of Science, Dr. Steven Koonin, in his first term wrote an interesting article in September. You will notice that he also mentions the “Summary for Policymakers” as I did last issue. Read his article here: <http://online.wsj.com/articles/climate-science-is-not-settled-1411143565>.

On October 4, I saw an article on Yahoo linked to Bill Nye (“The Science Guy”) claiming to illuminate us about seven horrible things related to climate change. The first one of the seven stated that the Aral Sea is almost bone dry because of climate change. Thirty seconds later in Wikipedia I found the real reason: in the 60s the Soviet Union started several irrigation projects on the rivers that feed the Aral. That is what caused the problem—look it up. Another of the seven claimed a shift in gravity because of expanding ice sheets at the poles. This is crazy fearmongering. Every time you or I move, there is a small gravity shift. And guess what? It has nothing to do with climate change. The other five were equally unprovable or just plain wacky. They think you’re stupid and can be baffled by scientific BS. Don’t trust the propaganda.

They claim consensus. There is no such thing in real science, only in “climate science.” Read this excellent article by the late best-selling author Michael Crichton: <http://fuelfix.com/blog/2014/10/05/the-corruption-of-science/>. Another article: <http://www.inquisitr.com/1562469/weather-channel-founder-climate-change-is-fake/>. And a long but excellent article here: <http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/07/03/rss-shows-no-global-warming-for-17-years-10-months/>.

My policy is this: extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence. So far all I see is a political agenda that reaches too deeply into our pockets, and it’s only the beginning of what they’re after.

More on that later.

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To those who do not know
what they’re talking about

BY DICK BRADEN

The following is Dick Braden’s response to the opinion piece by Kristi Cowles that appeared in the Fall 2014 Applegater.

Braden Farms is a family-owned farming business from the Central Valley of California and has been in business for 55 years. Fifty-five years of very hard work and determination. It is not “corporate agribusiness” with “owners who have shown no sign of becoming members of our rural community” or “higher-ups [who] will probably never even set foot in our valley, or if they do, it will be to ogle their new kingdom.”

The Braden family has been purchasing real property, developing vineyards, providing jobs, and working very hard in the Applegate Valley for five years. We did not just arrive to “devastate a huge portion of what once was a beautiful, pristine winding green forested road,” as Ms. Cowles stated.

Braden Farms came to the Applegate Valley to develop vineyards and beautify the area, thereby increasing employment opportunities and wages in the area.

Permits were issued for all of the work and development that has been done. Further, developing beautiful, healthy, gently rolling vineyards is hardly “destroying North Applegate Road’s scenic landscape.” In fact, one simply needs to look at the Napa Valley for just one example of the beauty that rolling vineyards bring to an area.

Deer fences have been constructed to protect the vineyards from the deer. Every effort has been taken, on all ranches at all times, to insure that local wildlife have access to food, shelter and water. Thousands of dollars have been spent, voluntarily, to insure that all wildlife can get to the river. We have not built fences to “prevent our wild animals from getting to the Applegate River for shelter and water,” as Ms. Cowles stated.

Ms. Cowles’ next point was in reference to the property adjacent to the Applegate Library. She does not seem to be aware that I own the property the library is located on. In fact, the library pays a yearly rent of \$1.00. This alone indicates an effort to support the citizens and neighbors who

use the library. Ms. Cowles said, “These new corporate owners have shown no sign of becoming members of our rural community—nor have they even shown any interest in who we are!” Again, she is uninformed and has no idea what she is talking about. Further, the property has been developed and has a beautiful and thriving vineyard growing on it as we speak. There is no “dust bowl” as Ms. Cowles claimed.

One member of the Braden family purchased a home and moved her family to the area four years ago. In addition, she owns and operates a winery and tasting room, thereby contributing to the wages and economy of the entire area. Further, her children attend school in the area. Both she and I work for and contribute to the school. Again, the statement “owners have shown no sign of becoming members of our rural community—nor have they shown any interest in who we are” is absolutely wrong, incorrect and uninformed.

I own a home in the Applegate Valley that I visit weekly, sometimes several times a week. Further, I own and operate several vineyards on North Applegate Road. Braden Farms is a large employer, thereby supporting many families in the area. Further, we contribute to and support two schools and fire departments in the area. Again, Ms. Cowles is completely uninformed.

As for the gossip mill saying the grapes grown there will not be sold there, again, the writer doesn’t know the first thing about what she is talking about. The truth is all grapes are sold to the local wineries first, if they want them, with the balance of the grapes crushed locally (which means local income), and the resulting juice sold to a winery in northern Oregon and used to produce Oregon wines.

It is unfortunate that the rumor mill is so active and uninformed. If any of the local gossips were interested in knowing the truth, they would make an effort to actually talk to me and hear the truth.

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See revised Opinion Piece policy on page 21.
This policy is effective with the next issue of the *Applegater*.

APPLEGATE DAM

FROM PAGE 18

an uncertain future regarding the health of salmonid fish (fall Chinook, coho, steelhead and cutthroat trout) in the Applegate River. Coho salmon in the Applegate River belong to the Southern Oregon-Northern California Coast Evolutionarily Significant Unit, and are listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

When the Applegate Dam was constructed in 1980, it blocked an estimated 35 to 80 miles of spawning and rearing habitat above the dam (according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries). The 242-foot dam would require a fish ladder that would be three and a half miles long to maintain the maximum 1.3 percent slope needed to keep the water velocity in the range of 6 to 12 feet per second to achieve the right conditions for upstream fish migration.

Over and over the public has been told that such a fish ladder would be financially unfeasible. That is why AG Hydro had to include a plan within their proposal to trap adult steelhead at the dam’s base and truck them upstream above the dam, and retrofit the existing dam structure to allow fish to get back downstream on their own through a kind of chute.

Hopefully, the Army Corps of Engineers, which operates Applegate Dam, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife can still find funding to restore fish to their original spawning streams above the Applegate Dam.

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Ed. Note: AG Hydro had 30 days to file a request for a rehearing with the FERC. At press time, there was no update available on the status per FERC.



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