

Potential effects of climate change in North America

The subject of climate change remains controversial, with people harboring strong opinions that do not always agree. Regardless of where individuals stand on the topic of climate change, there's no denying that potential variations in climate — even by just a few degrees — can have a serious impact on the planet.

The Canadian Center of Science and Education's Journal of Sustainable Development says that climate change can affect regions all across North America. Some of the direct effects can include changes in sea level, extreme weather events and precipitation changes. Indirect impacts may include alterations to ecosystems that cause migrations of species or extinction of certain plants and animals. Climate change also has the ability to affect agriculture, which can result in economic difficulties for those who rely on agriculture to earn their livings.

The following are just some of the ways climate change may affect areas of North America and elsewhere.

• **Increase in wildfires:** In 2016, the Earth's surface temperatures were the warmest on record since modern record-keeping began in 1880, according to independent analyses

by NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Globally, average temperatures were 1.78 F warmer than they were in the mid-20th century. Hotter temperatures can contribute to drought and wildfires. Drier conditions make the land parched and more forest-fire fuel is created as a result.

• **Tree-killing insect growth:** According to researchers at Dartmouth University, warmer temperatures in forests across North America promote insect outbreaks and plant diseases, which put forests at risk. For example, pine bark beetles have recently killed trees over more area of U.S. forests than wildfires. Warmer temperatures allow these invasive species to established themselves.

• **Availability of water:** Due to diminishing snowfields, the availability of fresh drinking water for people and animal species has become a major issue. Although drought rates have decreased generally, about 5 percent of the contiguous United States fell into the moderate to extreme drought categories for May 2017, based on the Palmer Drought Index. This adds to the pressure of availability of groundwater sources. Lower precipitation may also have contributed to

below average water levels along the Mississippi River and Great Lakes within the last several years, as recorded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

• **More severe storms:** According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, severe weather changes could be a byproduct of climate change. These include many of the stronger nor'easters that affect the flank of the Northeastern coast of the United States and Canada.

Many notable weather events might be attributed to global climate change.



Climate change could be behind everything from stronger storms to drought to wildfires.

- High Lift
- Bull Dozing
- Backhoe
- Trackhoe
- Scraper
- Lakes and Basements
- Septic Systems



KEMPF EXCAVATING

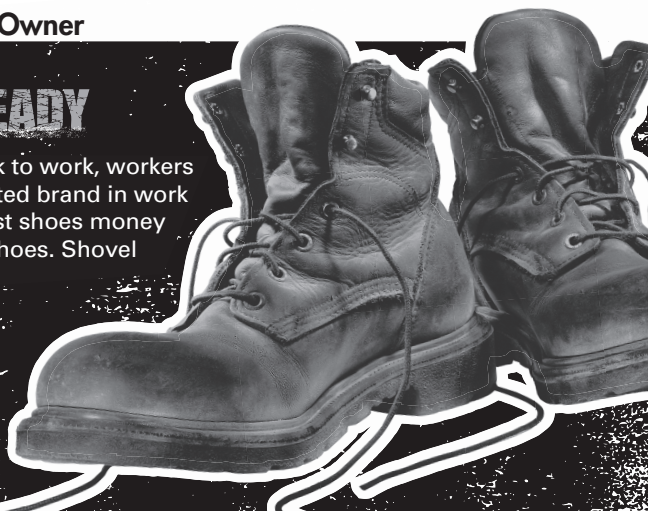
812-630-4046

HERE'S AN ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN: GRAB A SHOVEL.

Rick Krutz – Owner

RED WING SHOES
SHOVEL READY

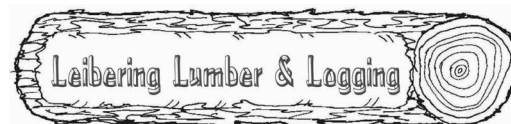
As America gets back to work, workers look to the most trusted brand in work boots for the toughest shoes money can buy. Red Wing Shoes. Shovel Ready since 1905.



KRUTZ SHOE SALES

Hwy 66, 1 Mile West of Troy
812-547-8439
Mon.-Fri.
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sat. 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

802 Main Street, Jasper
812-556-0315
Mon.-Fri.
8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Sat. 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



543 W. 8th St. - Ferdinand
812-367-1646



514 W. 8th St.
Ferdinand
812-367-2971

LEIBERING & SONS, INC.

Complete woodland management
P.O. Box 201 • Lamar
Phone 812-544-2523 • Fax: 812-544-3054
Email: leiberlinginc@psci.net



Leiberling and Sons Angus Farm

P.O. Box 201 - 12729 N CR 900 E • Lamar
Phone 812-544-2523 Fax 812-544-3054
Email - leiberlinginc@psci.net