



**WORK SMARTER, NOT HARDER!**  
LEARN MORE ABOUT A CAREER IN REALESTATE  
FLEXIBLE HOURS, UNLIMITED INCOME POTENTIAL

# denverpost.com

September 20, 2007

- Home
- News
- Politics
- Sports
- Business
- Entertainment
- Lifestyle
- Opinion
- Outdoors
- Travel
- Classifieds
- Jobs
- Autos
- Homes
- Shopping

- Breaking News
- Denver & The West
- Columnists
- Crime
- Education
- Front Page
- Iraq
- Portraits of Valor
- Nation / World
- Obituaries
- Special Reports
- Weather
- Blogs
- Podcasts

 [Subscribe / Customer Care](#)
 [Electronic Edition](#)
 [Mobile](#)
 [Email Newsletters](#)

Home > [Denver & the West](#)  
[nation](#) | [world](#)

## Report: Climate shift to hit Indians hard

**Droughts could set off water wars among Southwest tribes, and rising seas may flood Indian lands in Florida and Alaska, the study says.**

By **Katy Human**  
Denver Post Staff Writer

Article Last Updated: 09/18/2007 12:42:13 AM MDT

 [Print](#)
 [Email](#)
 [Share](#)

Climate change likely will hit American Indians especially hard as rising seas flood Miccosukee and Seminole lands in Florida and droughts trigger water wars between Southwestern tribes and others, according to a new report.

Among the hardest hit will be Alaska's native people, University of Colorado at Boulder law professors and scientists said Monday in the report.

The study - "Native Communities and Climate Change, Protecting Tribal Resources as Part of National Climate Policy" - has been sent to members of the U.S. Congress.

Climate change is already eroding the northern permafrost under homes and melting sea ice, leaving coastal towns - mostly inhabited by Native Alaskans - vulnerable to storm surges and high waves.

"Lawmakers will be poorly served if they overlook this population," said Sarah Krakoff, a CU law professor and co-author of the study. She and her colleagues urged Congress to help tribes adapt.

The Navajo Nation has already been involved in climate-change discussions, said Steven Etsitty, director of the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency.

The tribe has been working closely with the U.S. EPA, Etsitty said, on making sure Native Americans have a seat at the table when the EPA is developing climate policies.

"We've been left out in a number of other major initiatives," Etsitty said. "This is another important one, and we want to be involved."

Although many anticipated climate changes are likely to hurt Native Americans, co-author Mark Squillace said, some will be well positioned to take advantage of policy changes.

"Particularly the tribes in the Southwest, they have a great deal of potential in wind and solar-energy development," said Squillace, director of the Natural Resources Law Center at CU-Boulder. "If the federal government wakes up, they could jump-start an alternative-energy program on the Navajo or other reservation."

And many tribes also have powerful water rights, Krakoff said, rights that she said may be challenged.

"In the real world what has happened is that when push comes to shove and resources become more scarce, their powerful legal right evaporates," Krakoff said.

That could open the door to tense litigation and expensive legal bills, she said, so the government should begin making plans and talking with tribes.

There are also equity issues, Squillace said.

"In almost every case, the tribes are contributing relatively little to the causes of climate change, but they're sharing more of the burden," he said.

Staff writer [Katy Human](mailto:Katy.Human@denverpost.com) can be reached at 303-954-1910 or [khuman@denverpost.com](mailto:Katy.Human@denverpost.com).

### Most Popular

Most: [Commented](#) | [Emailed](#)

- [Study: Recent marriages more fragile](#)
- [Is best from Broncos yet to come?](#)
- [Seeds are currency at CSU bank](#)



1.4 million square feet & every inch dedicated to children

### Most Commented

- [Denver Jena 6 rally tonight](#)
- [Thousands rally in La. to support Jena 6](#)
- [Plans aim to help immigrants adapt](#)
- [Fears exploited at immigrant forum](#)
- [Bly fearless to a fault](#)


  
 Select A Category
 
  
 POWERED BY DMC

### Marketplace Links

**Mortgage Rates at 4.65%**

\$250,000 loan for \$650/month. See New Payment - No SSN Rqd. Save Now Refinance.LeadStep..

**AARP Auto Ins Quotes**

Over 50? Save \$303 On Auto Ins With The Hartford. Free No Hassle Quote AARP.TheHartford....

**Buy One, Get One Free**

Vinyl replacement windows. Includes installation. [www.khwindows.com](http://www.khwindows.com)



Print Email Return to Top Share » Subscribe

ARTICLE COMMENTS (1 COMMENTS)

Login | Sign Up

» View all this article's comments



Add A Comment

If you're not registered with our site, you will be asked to do so. It's quick (it takes about 30 seconds) and we only require your email and first and last name. You are responsible for the content you post. Comments that include profanity, personal attacks or any other inappropriate material are prohibited. By using our site you agree to our ground rules and our terms of use.

NATIVE AMERICANS IMPACTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE

"In the real world what has happened is that when push comes to shove and resources become more scarce, their powerful legal right evaporates," Krakoff said. - No real changes in 231 years of US history.

Posted by Celia Javadi (aka javadic) at 7:53 AM on September 20

Report Abuse | Report Good Comment (must be logged in to vote)



» View all this article's comments

Porta Power

Your source for usec warehouse equipment.We Buy, Lease, Sell, Trade! www.portapowerinc.

Custom Shutters & Shades

In Three Weeks. Or Less. Guaranteed. Free In-Home Estimates. http://rockymount...

Affordable Medical Career Training

Short-term training; Long-term success. Get the skills that get the jobs at PMI! www.pmi.edu

Buy a link here

News: Recent Comments

Comment on Denver Jena 6 rally tonight (16 minutes ago)

Please take a look at the Jena Times chronology of this event. It is at http://www.thejenatimes.net/..

Comment on Congress could sever Iraq funding, Salazar says (25 minutes ago)

I appaud Sen. Salazar's commitment to finally support a decision for Congress to look at cutting off..

Comment on Arguments in the marijuana debate (25 minutes ago)

Ironman wrote: Marijuana as a gateway drug. If marijuana were legal, as the most dangerous drug in ..

Comment on Thousands rally in La. to support Jena 6 (29 minutes ago)

Fire the DA since he doesn't see this as a racial issue. Drop all charges on the students. The princ..

Comment on Alcohol testing spur complaints (59 minutes ago)

The Godwin's Law thing is inserted by the Denver Post software whenever you try to enter the word H\_..

Visit the news forum for more discussion

See more recent comments

More Denver & The West headlines

- Dog mauls 3-year-old in Northglenn
Hsu facing \$60 million fraud
Ritter pushes Congress on renewable energy
Boulder researchers: Arctic sea ice seems to be rebuilding
Psychiatrist to receive "Heroes" award
Colo. mine only one in U.S. without approved plan
Suicide prevention event planned in Lakewood
79-year-old pedestrian killed by car
Seeds: Currency at CSU bank
Plans aim to help immigrants adapt
Suspect jailed in Aurora shooting
Carman: The verdict's already in on immigrants

- Feds try to derail illegal immigration suit
Jeffco sex offender sentenced for second time
Local readers go for world record
Shabby but stately building faces end
Wolf Creek developers lose court battle
Man with Colorado ties among Phuket dead
Thousands of 'Women of Faith' expected for Friday event
Thieves steal \$4,000 from Habitat store
Denver Jena 6 rally tonight
Denver can't afford more storms
Democratic volunteerism afoot
Urban center planned in Aurora
Teachers union endorses shift on DPS board

Denver & the West Aurora | Boulder | Denver RSS

- Dog mauls 3-year-old in Northglenn
Feds try to derail illegal immigration suit
Hsu facing \$60 million fraud

Entertainment Husted | Movies | Music | TV RSS

- Tell us your On Point
Tickets on sale
Bowie donates \$10,000 to Jena Six

Sports Broncos | Nuggets | Rockies | Preps RSS

- Broncos' Bly fearless to a fault
Transcript of live chat with Woody Paige
Panel: Landis must forfeit cycling title

Opinion Columns | Letters | More RSS

- Greenwood's pride failed him as he stood up heroes
Fears exploited at immigrant forum
In-hospital psychiatric care a failure

Business Al Lewis | Tech | More RSS

- Lufthansa scaling back Munich flights
Ritter pushes Congress on renewable energy
Wolf Creek developers lose court battle

Watercooler Arcade | Crossword | Sudoku RSS

- Nebraska state senator sues God
Man flashes syringe in robbery, crashes
Cop faces heat over squad car joy ride



Sponsored Links

Denver Real Estate | Denver Real Estate | Cadillac | Compare Prices | Personal - Injury - Lawyer | Donate Car | Luxury Denver Real Estate | Reverse Osmosis Water Filters | eCommerce

[| Credit Card Consolidation](#) | [Cabin Kits & Building Cabins](#) | [Find Electronic Components](#) | [Internet Marketing Firm](#) | [Online Shopping](#) | [Printers & Printer Supplies](#) | [Shopping Cart Software](#)  
| [Lasik Denver eye surgery](#) | [Colorado Real Estate](#)

---

All contents Copyright 2007 The Denver Post or other copyright holders. All rights reserved.  
This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed for any commercial purpose.

[Advertise](#) | [Archives](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Ethics Policy](#) | [E-mail Newsletters & Breaking News Alerts](#) | [Mobile](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Web Feeds](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Subscribe / Customer Care](#) | [Terms of Use](#)

[Privacy Policy](#) | [MNG Corporate Site Map](#) | [Copyright](#)