

A comparison of climate change adaptation/mitigation strategies: ranchers and farmers vs. the general public in Nevada

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There is scientific consensus that human-induced climate change (i.e. burning of fossil fuels) is happening and will continue into the future. Climate change poses potentially adverse consequences for the ways humans interact with natural resources, including water, land, ecosystems, and health. This research presents a comparison on perceived adaptation and mitigation strategies on negative impacts from climate change between farmers and ranchers and the general public in Nevada. Nevada ranchers and farmers were surveyed by mail during 2009/2010 with a response rate of 26% (n=481). A state-wide telephone survey on climate change perceptions was carried out to reach out the general public in Nevada in 2011. The response rate was 25% (n=1,188). Initial analysis on the adaptation categories identified from Nevada ranchers and farmers include such categories as cultivation, livestock, transportation, energy, water, consumption, and management. In addition 9% of rural residents (n=277) indicated that the impacts from climate change were very little/minimal/none, and thus no adaptation approaches were provided or needed. The knowledge gained from this research will enhance decision making regarding adaptation and mitigation options to negative climate change impacts.