



July 20, 2021

Dear Friends, Family and Eagle's NEST Supporters,

Blazing Heat! Severe Drought! Raging Wildfires!

When I was launching Eagle's NEST US back in 2013, I did copious amounts of research on key current environmental issues - Abuse and Dwindling of Natural Resources – Endangerment of Species and Habitats – Water, Air and Soil Health – and Climate Change. Most scientific models at that time were forecasting dire consequences in the future in many of these categories if human activity did not adjust and change. Many of those predictions regarding climate change were forecasting negative consequences that were 10 years, 50 years, and sometimes 100 years in our future. But they were coming. The predictions around climate change involved many things: higher temperatures, shrinking glaciers, severe drought, raging wildfires, rising sea levels, ocean acidification, more frequent hurricanes and severe weather events, habitat and species loss, just to name some.

As I taught many Eagle's NEST Expedition courses over these years, much of the conversations and dialogue involved climate change in terms of the "future". As I write this letter to you, I now believe this issue is no longer "future", but it should be clearly identified as "now". The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) calls the climate crisis "unequivocal". The consequences raised above are not 10 to 100 years in the future, the predictions are happening right now, **right before our eyes, and we all see it!**

I have been to Glacier (Montana) and Glacier Bay (Alaska) National Parks and witnessed shrinking glaciers **right before my eyes**. My son, Daniel is a wildland firefighter. I am very proud of him, but I worry – fires in the western states are starting earlier in the season, lasting longer and are more devastating, making them more destructive and more dangerous. Daniel has seen this **right before his eyes**. Those of us in the western United States have experienced a brutally hot summer already. Record temperatures have been recorded in the west, including the hottest June on record in California (July looks to be even hotter). NASA declared 2020 the hottest year on record (tying 2016). In fact, the seven hottest years on record globally have occurred in the last ... well ... seven years. This has happened **right before our eyes**. And we have seen the rainfall and the snowpack levels decline. As an example, Fresno, CA is having another extremely dry year, season to date this year has yielded only 6.6 inches of rainfall (compared to a normal of 11.3 inches). Water supplies are at drastically low levels. Many lakes and reservoirs are now at record low levels. Lake Mead (Nevada/Arizona), the largest reservoir in the U.S. and a water source for 25 million south westerners, sinks to record low levels on an almost daily basis. The western United States drought is considered extreme, leading a former head of the Colorado River Conservation District (Eric Kuhn) to say the following, "According to Merriam-Webster, a drought is a temporary condition". What is happening, to him, is something more permanent and more troubling. **"This is aridification"** (emphasis mine). We are seeing this **right before our eyes**.

What Can We Do?

For this letter I want to emphasize our dire water shortage situation. Our first calling in Scripture is to be caretakers of our earth (Genesis 2:15). In the New Testament, Jesus commanded us to love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:31). How we care for our earth and its natural resources, how we love our neighbors as ourselves with our efforts in conserving our natural resources is an important value to adhere to. Each of us can do our part in water conservation ... we can love our neighbors as ourselves.

Enclosed you will find an Eagle's NEST educational card with important and helpful tips and ways that we all can save water at home and in the garden. Certainly there are more, but this list will get you started. We are asking all Eagle's NEST supporters to post this guide where it can be a daily reminder – on the refrigerator, the bathroom sink, on your coffee table or desk. Wherever you will see it. **Join Eagle's NEST US** in this important task of water conservation. Water doesn't grow on trees, it's up to all of us to do our part while we love our neighbors as ourselves as we conserve this vital natural resource.

We can do this! We can make a difference!

Ps – If your business, non-profit, church or office would like this same colorful Water Doesn't Grow on Trees guide in a 17" mini poster form, we can provide those for you to post in areas where it can make a difference for others to see. We will provide them at no charge to you. Just ask!

We thank God for you and are blessed
by your prayers, encouragement and support.

Joy and Peace!

Todd Slinde, President & CEO

Eagle's NEST US

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Providing Quality Creation Education Leading to Better Environmental Integrity and Conservation