

# NEW MEXICO

## CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS



Extreme heat, drought, and wildfires have already impacted New Mexico, and pose growing challenges to many aspects of life. Water resources, human health, infrastructure, and food security will be increasingly compromised.

### ALREADY OBSERVED CHANGES

### ANTICIPATED FUTURE CHANGES

### RISKS TO SOCIETY



New Mexico has **warmed an average of 3°F** since 1970, and the state's summers are **warming faster** than any other state in the U.S.

Over **half the hottest years on record** in Albuquerque occurred in the 2010s.

New Mexico is expected to see **twice as many dangerous heat days** by 2050, and more than 3 times as many heat wave days.

Summers in Carlsbad Caverns National Park are projected to be **13°F hotter by year 2100**, and to experience 9 times as many days above 100°F per year.

There are currently 80,000 people in New Mexico **especially vulnerable to extreme heat**.

**Summer heat** in Albuquerque is up to **22°F hotter** than in nearby rural areas. This is the second largest urban heat island in the country.



New Mexico's current **widespread summer drought severity** is **far above average** and ranks in the top 5 in the country.

Over the past 30 years, **rainy patterns** in the Southwest are becoming **less frequent**.

The severity of New Mexico's **summer drought** is expected to **increase** by more than **70%** by 2050.

There's an **80% chance** the Southwest could experience a **megadrought** lasting decades as the climate warms.

Increased temperatures have **significantly altered the water cycle** in the Southwest. These changes are primarily attributed to climate change and **exacerbate drought**.



Over the past five years, New Mexico experienced an average of **4 more large wildfires** and **104,000 more acres burned** in large wildfires than in the 1970s.

By midcentury, New Mexico is expected to experience **25 additional high wildfire potential days** per year compared to current rates. This is tied for the third-largest in the country.

More than **1.4 million people** living in New Mexico—70% of the state's population—are at elevated risk of wildfire. This is the second-largest proportion among western states.

For sources of information, please visit: [www.edf.org/climateimpactsources](http://www.edf.org/climateimpactsources)  
\*Anticipated future changes are for scenarios without climate action



### EXPECTED DAMAGES

IN NEW MEXICO BY 2100 WITHOUT CLIMATE ACTION

- 15 counties, home to 1.3 million people, will experience over a 10% increase in energy expenditures.
- 5 counties, which account for nearly two-thirds of the state's crop sales, will experience an average crop yield decrease of 28%.