



The Road Report & More

Health, Science, & Climate Action

Dr. Shahir Masri

Update from the Road

The climate journey has continued through Oregon, Washington, and now Montana. One of our events took place in Long Beach, WA, a town that has suffered from income loss associated with climate change, even earning itself mention in the recent National Climate Assessment. In 2016, warm waters accompanied by an algal bloom impacted the local economy, which is largely dependent on shellfish. Consequently, there was a nearly 25% increase in the number of families requesting food assistance in the months that followed! We also passed through Glacier National Park where we interviewed a ranger about regional climate change (video coming soon!), as well as Missoula, MT, where we participated in a local sustainability event, complete with live music and food. Now we're heading to Wyoming, where earlier today I witnessed the first coal train I've ever seen. Train car after train car, full of coal, undoubtedly en route to a power plant, waiting to be burned. The top of each car was uncovered, with each coal mound in plain sight. Moving swiftly, I can only imagine the harmful coal dust that blows off during transit, and what this means for surrounding communities. Today and tomorrow were meant as rest days to camp at Yellowstone National Park. Yet, as luck would have it, unforeseen weather has brought snow to the area. Beside climate change, the theme of our journey this spring has been rain and snow!



Landmark Court Case



for Climate Justice

Last week marked an important date for climate change and the future of our planet. It was not a key tipping point or a carbon emissions deadline. Instead, it was a court hearing in which a three-judge panel listened to lawyers make their case as to

whether or not the court has a duty under the Constitution to address climate change. Supported by [Our Children's Trust](#), this landmark case, *Juliana v. United States*, was filed by 21 youth plaintiffs in 2015 and may become the court case of our time, having a major influence on the trajectory of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States, and in turn the world. Not surprisingly, the lawsuit has faced numerous requests from the U.S. government to stop the case from going to trial, including a recent request for “early” appeal. Despite these obstacles, the Juliana 21 sat in the courtroom last week as their attorney Julia Olson fought for their right to go to trial where they can be heard and present their evidence. Thousands of supporters from around the world also joined to watch the livestreamed hearing as part of the #AllEyesOnJuliana campaign, making this the largest livestreamed appellate hearing in American history. The judges questioned attorneys on both sides as it relates mostly to one core issue: What is the proper role of the judiciary in a constitutional case about climate change? As the hearing concluded, we now wait to see what the judges have determined about the fate of this case. Please help bring this case before the eyes of the world by forwarding this newsletter to friends, family, and colleagues. [Click here](#) to view the evolution of *Juliana v. United States*, and stay updated by following YouthvGov on Instagram!

Glacier "less" National Park

Last week we traveled to Glacier National Park, which has been somewhat of a “ground zero” as it relates to glacial retreat in U.S. Excitingly, we interviewed a park ranger about climate change and related impacts to the region. While we often hear about global warming in terms of the average

temperature of the planet, it's important to note that warming can be quite different from one place to the next. In the case of Glacier NP, the rate of warming in upper elevation areas is nearly three times the global average. Consequently, glaciers have been disappearing rapidly from the landscape. In 1850, the park had a whopping 150 active glaciers. Today, there are sadly just 25 that remain. If the current rate of melting continues, Glacier NP is projected to have no more glaciers by 2030! Similarly, snow pack in the region has been diminishing over time. The disappearance of snow and ice within the park has implications far greater than mere aesthetics. Rather, snow and ice are important sources of cold water to feed creeks and streams throughout spring, summer, and fall. Less snowpack therefore means increased water stress for surrounding ecosystems during dry months. Additionally, certain species within the park are adapted to frigid snow-melt. As these cold water sources disappear, and stream temperatures rise, these species are falling under increasing threat. [Click here](#) to learn more about climate change at Glacier.



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Alzheimer's: How Donating Blood Reduces Your Risk

While iron is extremely important to our bodies, too much iron can be a bad thing. We've all heard that antioxidants are good for your body. Well this is because they "fight" oxidizing agents, which are harmful to your health. Well, in certain instances, iron is an oxidizing agent. Since our bodies are efficient at storing iron, various iron reserves tend to accumulate throughout one's life. Studies have in fact linked disorders such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease with high levels of iron in the brain. So what can you do? [Click here](#) to continue reading!



Have a great week!
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