

Snow Forecasts Were All Wrong

By Ken Gregory

March 22, 2013

The Climate Research Unit declared 13 years ago that in a few years children won't know what snow is. But recent snowstorms have many climate alarmists declaring that global warming causes more snow, contrary to previous predictions and climate records.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has been warning us for years that global warming will mean reduced snowfall. The IPCC's third assessment report stated, "Milder winter temperatures will decrease heavy snowstorms ..." See [here](#). [2001 15.2.4.1.2.4]

The UK Independent reported in March 2000 that Dr. David Viner, a senior research scientist at the Climatic Research Unit (CRU) of the University of East Anglia, predicted that within a few years winter snowfall will become a very rare and exciting event. "Children just aren't going to know what snow is," he said. See [here](#).

The IPCC's fourth assessment report stated, "Without snowmaking, the ski season in western North America will likely shorten substantially, with projected losses of 3 to 6 weeks (by the 2050s) in the Sierra Nevada of California ..." See [here](#).

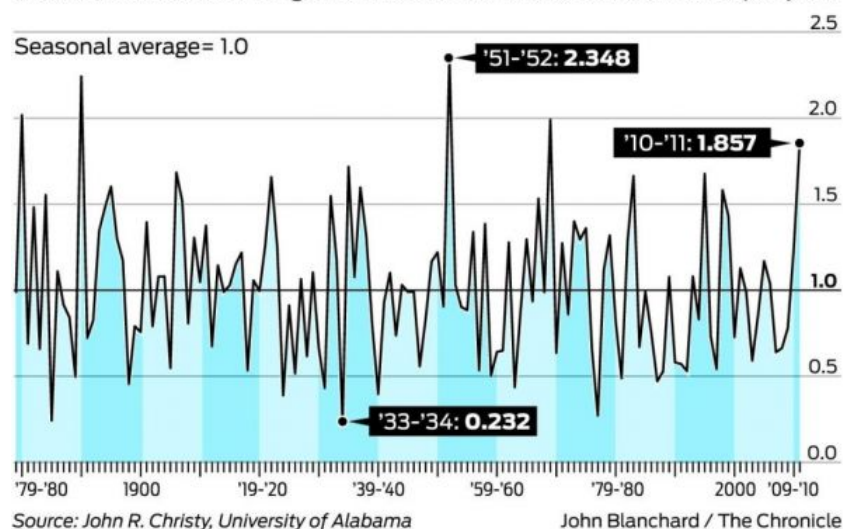
But climate records show these predictions were all wrong!

Snowpack records of the Sierra Nevada show there has been no trend in 130 years. "The dramatic claims about snow disappearing in the Sierra just are not verified," said Dr. John

Christy, a climatologist at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. See [here](#).

Western slope Sierra snowfall average

Chart shows seasonal (Nov.-Apr.) snowfall amounts relative to a long-term average of 1.0. Depending on where you are in the Sierra snowfall totals could range from about 100 inches to 200 inches per year.

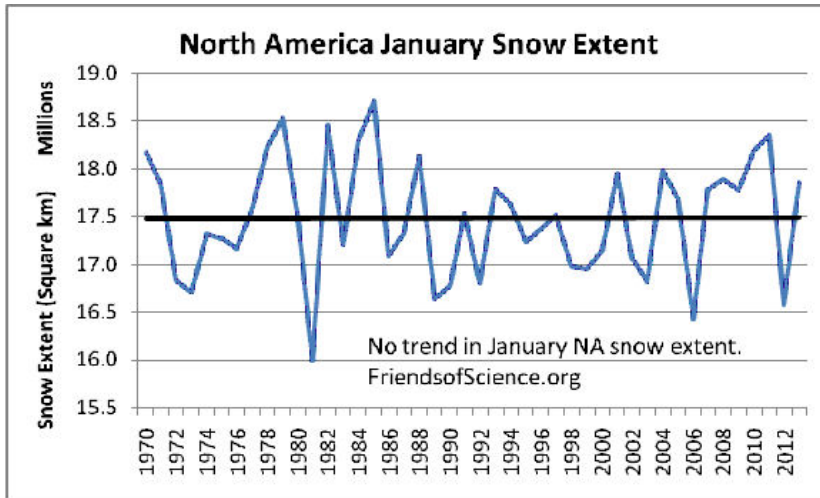


A major winter snowstorm in the USA has set 1027 new snowfall records in a week. Almost 50% of the contiguous USA was covered in snow in February 2013. See [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

In the winters of 2010 and 2011, the entire UK was covered with snow. This winter is one of the longest and coldest for 50 years in Britain with more snow predicted. See [here](#). The

heaviest snowfall in a century has hit Moscow this winter, bringing the city to a near standstill. See [here](#).

A graph of North America January snow extent [here](#) shows significant yearly variation, but the linear trend indicated by the thick black line shows no trend.

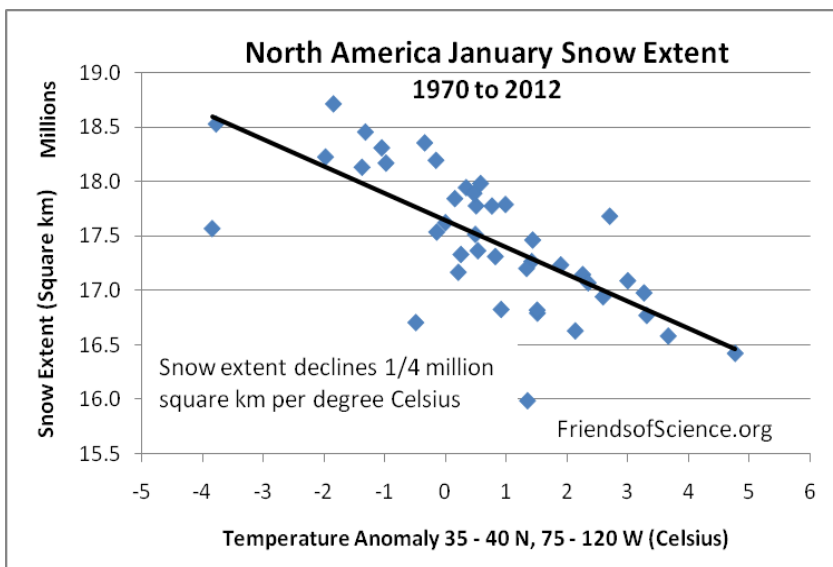


Global warming appears to have little effect on snow extent, contrary to the predictions.

Faced with the embarrassment that the snowfall predictions were all wrong, climate alarmists, desperate to keep the global warming hype alive, now say global warming causes more snowfall. The predictions changes with

every weather event so warming caused more snow and less snow.

A Financial Times article tries to explain “why global warming means more snow”. It claims that late summer Arctic sea ice melting results in more moisture in the atmosphere that will fall as snow in the Northern Hemisphere. See [here](#).



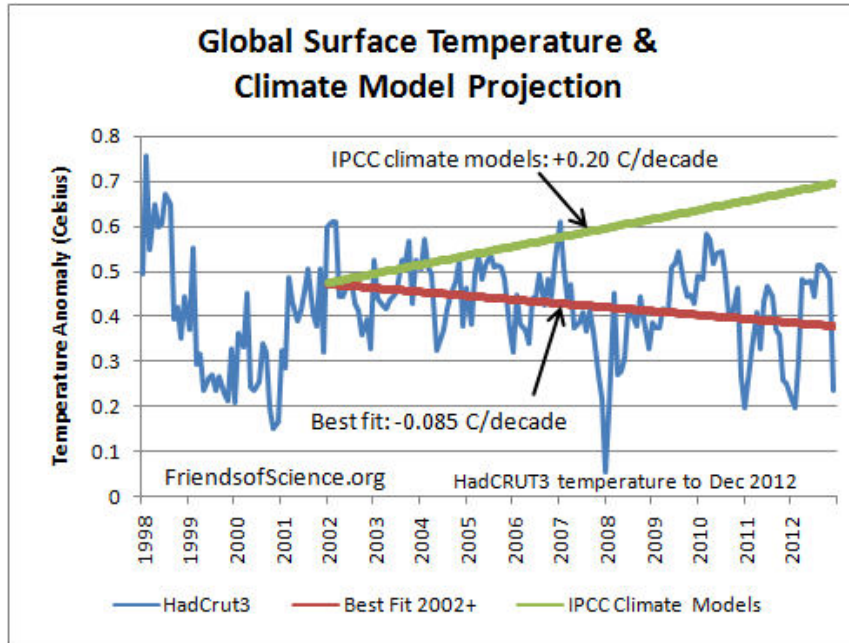
An EasyEarth article explains that global warming caused more moisture in the air that will result in greater snowstorms. See [here](#).

So, can warming cause more snow? Just look at snow extent data versus temperature.

The area of North America covered in snow in January of the years 1979 to 2012 are plotted against the land surface temperatures in

January of the area of the USA that corresponding to the range of the snow extent limit. The graph shows warmer temperatures results in less snow, which agrees with the common sense.

There has been no global warming for 15 years, but recent computer models ignores this and continues to project a 0.20 Celsius/decade temperature rise from the 1998 temperatures. Global temperatures have been falling since 2001 at 0.085 Celsius/decade according to the Hadley and CRU global temperature index.



See [here](#). The models have no skill in simulating the past, so there is no reason to believe they can forecast the future.

During the time from about 1350-1850 a "Little Ice Age" was experienced and is best documented in Europe. This coincided with a period of very low sunspot activity, frigid temperatures and crop failures. NASA reports that such solar patterns are repeating themselves and most solar scientist predict

continued global cooling.

The IPCC has never included a serious assessment of the solar influences on earth's climate; they focused on human influences.

Ken Gregory,
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Data source for the graph:

<http://climate.rutgers.edu/snowcover/files/moncov.namgnld.txt>
http://climexp.knmi.nl/data/ihadcrut4110_240-285E_35-40N_n_1970:2012.dat
<http://www.cru.uea.ac.uk/cru/data/temperature/HadCRUT3-gl.dat>