

MOSCOW-PULLMAN DAILY NEWS

Letter: What are we waiting for?

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When I saw July 25 editorial headline (Wildfires just part of living in Northwest) by Devin Rokyta writing for the editorial board, I thought "Oh no, Devin's gone denier on us." Luckily that wasn't the case. Rokyta made the excellent points that although science tells us global warming is happening, and human activity is at least part of the reason, science cannot prove that any particular fire such as the recent Carlton complex fire, or any weather event such as superstorm Sandy, was because of global warming. However science does tell us that the western fire season is growing longer and conditions are drier due to global warming. Thus we can infer that an event like the Carlton

fire is more likely, and the fire itself was more severe and did more damage because of global warming. Likewise, science tells us that sea levels have risen due to global warming, thus we can infer that superstorm Sandy caused more death and destruction because of global warming. Someday things may be so severe that it will be possible to blame a particular event on global warming, but hopefully that will never come to pass.

Next to this editorial, Richard Eidlin, director of public policy for the American Sustainable Business Council, explained in a His View that instead of being a drag on the economy as commonly portrayed

by some, the new federal Environmental Protection Agency rules on carbon pollution from existing power plants will actually lead to "greater profit and prosperity, boosting economic growth and creating jobs." Likewise a recent study by a highly respected economic modeling firm (REMI) found that a carbon fee and dividend (fees placed on carbon at the source and returned to the people) would have similar positive economic effects. So global warming is making things worse, and fixing it will have positive economic benefits. What exactly are we waiting for?

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