



Jamestown, North Dakota, March 9, 1966 (Photo by NOAA)

## Vanishing Snow: Should There Be A Law?

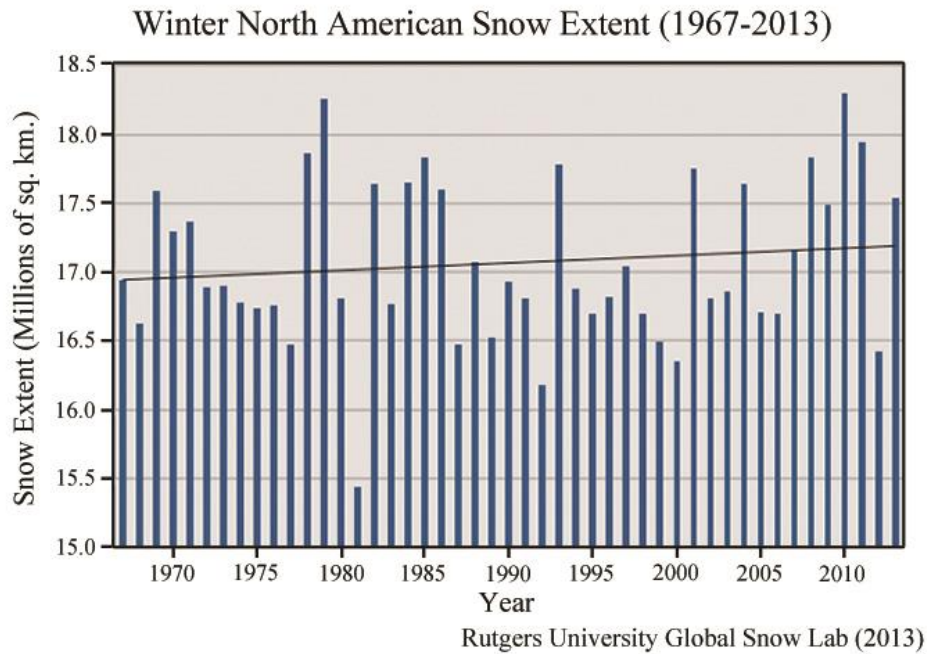
By Steve Goreham

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Last month, more than 100 ski resorts [joined](#) the Business for Innovative Climate & Energy Policy (BICEP) Climate Declaration. The BICEP [declaration](#) urges that Americans “use less electricity,” “drive a more efficient car,” and choose “clean energy” to combat climate change. Ski resorts are concerned that global warming will reduce snowfall and hurt the skiing industry.

Skiing executive Auden Schendler [said](#), “Aspen Skiing Company joined the climate declaration because if there is an industry that ought to care about climate change, it’s the ski industry.” The 2007 Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [warns](#) of a difficult future for the industry: “...snow cover area is projected to contract...mountainous areas will face glacier retreat, reduced snow cover and winter tourism...shifting of ski slopes to higher altitudes.”

There’s just one problem. Continental snowfall has been increasing. According to the Rutgers University Global Snow Laboratory, North American snowfall extent has been gradually [rising](#) over the last 40 years. The year 2010 showed the largest continental land area covered by winter snow since the data set began in 1967.



What makes otherwise sensible people fear that snow is disappearing when snowfall is actually increasing? It's the ideology of Climatism, the belief that man-made greenhouse gases are destroying Earth's climate. Belief in this same ideology causes people to purchase light bulbs that are slow to light and to buy electric cars that can't go very far. Climatism causes state governments to mandate erection of wind turbine towers that often stand idle.

But if snowfall is changing, why do people believe that government action can change such a climatic trend? In the fall of 2009, the mayor of Moscow [declared](#) that the Russian Air Force was now able to "keep it from snowing." Five months later, in February of 2010, Moscow received 21 inches of snow in a single storm. Last winter, Moscow [received](#) the most snow in a century.

Nevertheless, we probably have bipartisan support in Congress for regulation of snowfall. Save the polar bears *and* the snow.

Steve [Goreham](#) is Executive Director of the [Climate Science Coalition of America](#) and author of the new [book](#) *The Mad, Mad, Mad World of Climatism: Mankind and Climate Change Mania*.