

IMPACT REPORT

Important Dates:

- (1) submit topic for approval from instructor on or before September 13, 2011
- (2) impact report due in class December 6, 2011

Assignment:

Each student will write a paper in the form of a letter to a senator discussing a human impact on one of the natural regions of California. Your letter should include the following:

1. description of the problem
 - what is the problem?
 - what are the causes of the problem?
 - what factors contribute to making the problem worse?
 - how does the problem impact California plants/animals?
2. possible solutions for the problem
 - steps that can be taken to minimize the human impact
 - include a variety of strategies, such as conservation, restoration, legislation...
3. include at least 3 references that you used to learn more about the problem/solutions (e.g. research articles, reliable web sites...)

Examples of Impact Report Topics:

1. deforestation (effect on nutrient retention, biodiversity,....)
2. biological magnification (e.g. DDT and birds)
3. overpopulation
4. invasive species
5. habitat loss
6. fragmentation
7. global warming
8. ozone depletion
9. fire suppression
10. water supplies
11. many others....