WHG Challenge

Vast Oil Reserve May Now Be Within Reach,and Battle Heats Up
By Norimitsu Onishi of the NY Times. Published on February 3, 2013

The finding of vast oil reserves may have a big impact on me only a year or two down the road. I will be getting a car soon, so the more oil that is found will make gas prices cheaper which will make driving an easier experience for me. The article talks about a oil reserve in California called the Monterey Shale which could lead to another oil boom in California. People have known about this large oil reserve for decades, but the new drilling technology has finally made it accessible and a affordable price.

Neil Ormond, the president of Petroleum Land Management, said,"There are billions of barrels of oil buried in the Monterey Shale, and as far as I know, nobody's been able to find it yet." This is good and bad to hear all at the same time. It's nice to know there is oil there, but bad to know nobody has found it yet.

Kassie Siegel, a lawyer at the Center for Biological Diversity, has a different opinion on the matter. She says,"If and when the oil companies figure out how to exploit that shale oil, California could be transformed overnight. Fracking (a type of oil drilling) poisons the air we breathe and the water we drink. It is one of the most, if not the most, important environmental issue in California."

All in all, I see the finding of more oil a good thing as the future comes along. It will help me as a young driver because of the high prices of everything else that goes into a car, expensive gas prices won't have to be one of them.

Federal Forecast for Climate Change: It’s Getting Hot in Here
By Bryan Walsh of Time Magazine. Published on January 15, 2013.

The world is no doubt going through a climate change, but the impact on me could be much bigger than I imagined. Studies show that 2012 was the hottest year on record for the continental U.S. That's not all. Extreme weather conditions like hurricanes, tornados, etc. have been more common over the past decades than ever before. As Walsh states in his article,"Climate change will increase the likelihood of water shortages and competition for water."

There are no signs the extreme weather will stop anytime soon. Scientists believe that average temperatures in the U.S. will rise anywhere from two to four degrees Fahrenheit over the next couple decades. These climate changes could affect me and everyone around me because people could fight over the Great Lakes if a water shortage occurs.

Outlook Grim For Mammals And Birds As Human Population Grows
By Newsroom America staff Published on June 19, 2013

As human population grows, animals will start to become extinct. This affects me because I live in a region where hunting and fishing are a part of daily life. The author states,"Scientists at the Ohio State University expect an increase of 10.8 percent species threatened with extinction by 2050." "Our projection is based on human population density alone. It doesn’t take into account climate change, industrialization or wars. So the actual numbers that we predict for 2050 will be very different because everything we do will exacerbate the problem," said Jeffery McKee of Ohio State University and lead researcher on the study. He also says that this will be hard to stop because keeping population in check isn't as easy as being more conservative towards the planet. If population increases and keystone species are removed, the impact on the environment could be much greater than anyone is thinking. So being in a hunting and fishing region like I am, food could become more expensive and feeding a family will be more difficult.