

## Election controls environmental direction

For much of the past six years, the Clinton-Gore administration and the Republican-led Congress have been at odds over environmental issues: global climate change, managing public lands, and overhauling laws, such as those governing the Superfund and endangered-species programs. With control of Congress and the White House at stake, this election could break that deadlock.

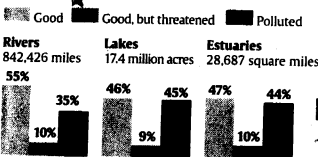
### Toxic pollution by U.S. manufacturers

Industries must report to federal and state governments when they release, as part of normal production, any of nearly 650 toxic chemicals. Industries that release the most toxics into the environment include chemical, primary metals and paper manufacturers.



### Water quality in the USA

Runoff from city streets and agricultural fields — so-called non-point source pollution — is the source of about 60% of the USA's water pollution. But that runoff is not strictly regulated under the Clean Water Act. Water-quality ratings under the EPA's inventory in 1998:



1998 figure does not include releases from seven industrial sectors added that year.  
\* A board foot is lumber measuring one-foot by one-foot by one-inch.

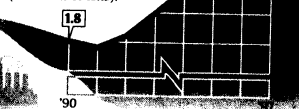
Source: EPA Toxic Release Inventory, 1998 EPA National Water Quality Inventory Report to Congress in 1998, U.S. Forest Service

By Frank Pompea, USA TODAY

### Trends in U.S. greenhouse gas emissions

The primary greenhouse gas emitted into the atmosphere is carbon dioxide; most of it comes from the combustion of fossil fuels. A greenhouse gas is an emission linked to global warming. From 1990 through 1997, carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel combustion rose.

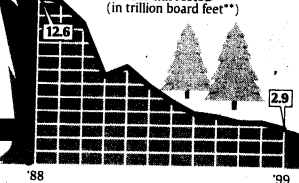
#### Greenhouse gas emissions (in billions of tons)



### Logging in U.S. National Forests

The nation's 191 million acres of national forest are a far less important source of timber than they used to be. But the timber industry is still an important economic force in many Western communities, and production from national forests has been a volatile issue as the Clinton-Gore administration has shifted forest management more toward wildlife and recreation.

#### Timber harvested (in trillion board feet\*\*)



## Comparing the candidates' policies and proposals

	Republican George W. Bush	Democrat Al Gore
<b>Public lands</b>	Recently unveiled a plan to eliminate a \$4.9 billion maintenance backlog at national parks. Criticized Clinton plan to protect 43 million acres of roadless forest and designate large tracts of western land as national monuments. Says "land management decisions are best made at the local level." Supports full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which is used to buy and protect land.	Has advocated strict protections for roadless areas and supports the increased designation of monuments and wilderness areas. Supports full funding for the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund.
<b>Endangered Species Act</b>	Criticized the "heavy-handed approach" of federal agencies that implement the act and says the act should be revised to provide incentives for landowners to protect species. Economic and social costs should be considered before listing species, he says, and the act must protect the rights of private property owners.	Supports the act and says he believes it should be strengthened to include "comprehensive ecosystem protection for habitat" needed by threatened and endangered species.
<b>Climate change</b>	Once a skeptic on whether the Earth is warming, Bush now says "the science proves there's global warming." He opposes the Kyoto Protocol, an international agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, largely caused by the burning of fossil fuels and believed to cause global warming.	Has sought to raise awareness of global warming since his earliest days in Congress. He favors ratification of the Kyoto Protocol and is a strong advocate of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
<b>Sprawl</b>	Says "the challenges of urban growth are best handled by local and state governments," though some federal policy changes, such as eliminating the estate tax, can play a role.	Believes in a strong federal role in helping local communities manage growth. Announced a "livability" agenda that would direct federal agencies to help communities, including \$1 billion to protect farmland and open space, ease traffic and work on "smart growth" strategies.
<b>Air and water pollution</b>	Supports the Clinton administration's Tier II emission standards, which from 2004 to 2009 would require cleaner burning gasoline and lower emissions of nitrogen oxide and sulfur by cars, light trucks and sport utility vehicles. He has not proposed a detailed agenda for further reducing air and water pollution.	Supports the administration's new soot and smog standards and argues for phasing out older power plants that cannot meet clean air standards. Has supported new requirements for polluted water runoff on states and believes the Clean Water Act must be strengthened to enforce those requirements.
<b>Pesticides</b>	Supports the Food Quality Protection Act passed in 1996 that mandates closer scrutiny of the health effects of pesticides, particularly on children. But says it should not be implemented in a way that disrupts access to "safe crop protection products."	Fully backs the law and supports "tough standards to eliminate any unacceptable risks that pesticides may present to human health."
<b>Toxic wastes</b>	One of his main environmental proposals deals with cleaning up toxic waste "brownfields." It involves more flexible federal standards for cleanup, protecting redevelopment of polluted sites from legal liability, and extending tax incentives for such cleanups.	Has been a staunch defender of the Superfund cleanup program and opposed congressional efforts to lower cleanup standards and weaken provisions requiring polluters to pay for cleanups.

Source: USA TODAY research

# Environmental canyon lies between nominees

## Advocacy groups, business leaders say a lot is at stake

By Tom Kenworthy  
USA TODAY

In a presidential election that offers clear choices on a whole range of issues, few are as stark as the environment.

From their general philosophical approaches to how they would address specific problems ranging from global climate change to pesticide regulation to saving endangered animals, Republican George W. Bush and Democrat Al Gore differ sharply.

"Prosperity will mean little if we leave to future generations a world of polluted air, toxic lakes and rivers, and vanished fields and forests," Bush said in an environmental address last spring. But he also has lambasted the "old system of mandate, regulate and litigate."

He promised that under a Bush presidential administration, there would be fewer dictates from Washington on environmental pol-

## Analyzing key issues

This is the last in a series of articles analyzing key issues facing the next president.

**Today:** Preserving the environment.  
**Previously published:** Americans without health insurance (Sept. 22); education plans (Sept. 26); the military's search for a mission (Oct. 3); saving Social Security (Oct. 17); spending the surplus (Oct. 25) and paying for prescription drugs (Wednesday).

icy and more cooperation with state and local governments, business and private citizens.

Gore, whose book *Earth in the Balance* is a battle cry for tougher environmental protections, wears proudly the mantle of environmentalist. "We have to do what's right for our Earth because it is the moral thing to do," he said in a speech in June.

Groups representing business and environmental interests say the stakes are enormous because critical choices are looming on meeting clean air and clean water standards, global climate change, public lands conservation and a host of other issues.

As public lands are increasingly

managed to enhance recreation and protect wildlife, rural communities throughout the West are undergoing an economic transforma-

tion. Even staunch advocates of that change, such as the Idaho Conservation League's John McCarthy, say that in many places, the "short term future is pretty grim."

"All three branches of government — the White House, Congress and the Supreme Court — are up for grabs in 2000," says Daniel Weiss, political director for the Sierra Club, which expects to spend \$2 million supporting Gore this year. "These institutions will determine environmental protection for the next decade and beyond."

Citing the government's role in developing regulations on clean air,

water quality and fuels, and the impact of those regulations on local communities' ability to develop economically, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Vice President Bill Kovacs says, "The critical infrastructure of the U.S. is at stake."

For advocates on both sides, there is little middle ground.

Environmentalists charge that when it comes to pollution, Bush nearly always sides with industry and that Texas and its large cities are among the nation's worst in toxic emissions, smog and water quality problems. Bush prefers to point out the progress his state has

made in cutting air pollution, reducing toxic releases, cleaning up hazardous waste sites and improving drinking water quality.

Business sees Gore as a classic "command and control" environmentalist whose policies would stifle economic development and trample on private-property rights.

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## Analysis: Nader may not be such a threat to Gore

By Richard Benedetto  
USA TODAY

Green Party presidential candidate Ralph Nader's threat to the chances of Democrat Al Gore might be exaggerated. A vote for Nader is not necessarily at Gore's expense, according to analysis of the USA TODAY/CNN/Gallup Tracking Poll.

A look at likely Nader voters in the tracking poll shows:

► 43% say Gore is their second choice.

► 21% say Republican George W. Bush is their second choice.

► 21% say they would not vote if Nader weren't running.

Translation: About four in 10 votes for Nader would come from the Gore column and two in 10 from Bush.

Using that rule of thumb, if Gore were to lose a state by as little as 1 percentage point, Nader would have to have gotten at least 5% of

the vote to be a deciding factor.

Nader shrugs off suggestions that he's a spoiler who would hurt Gore. If Gore loses, "it would be clear he beat himself," Nader said Wednesday in Madison, Wis.

Two states where Democrats fear Nader could be a Gore spoiler are Oregon and Minnesota, long-time Democratic strongholds:

► In Oregon, Gore leads Bush 45%-44%. Nader is polling 6%.

► In Minnesota, Gore leads Bush 44%-41%. Nader has 8%.

In a tight race, the 18 electoral votes in those states could be pivotal. The current USA TODAY Poll shows Bush ahead of Gore 47%-43% nationally, with Nader at 3%.

If that lead were to hold, Nader would have to get 20% to be a national factor.

Most national polls show him at 3% or 4%.

► Tracking poll, 10A

