

The following is a note made by a group of students a few years ago. I did not type this, I only merged the e-mails that they sent to me.

How does _____ help or hurt an ecosystem?

Climate Change

- Different climates help different places
- Global warming
- Causes death of animals and plants
- Rising sea levels
- Causing species to become extinct
- Changes terrain
- Changes lifestyle
- Changes precipitation
- Ice caps are melting
- Natural disasters
- Forces animals to re-locate
- Ruins habitats

Competition For Resources

- When we take land for ourselves it takes land away from animals
- Animals are a part of most human diets
- Some animals will starve if other animals eat their food
- If food is scarce, animals will fight for it, which could cause injury or death
- Could result in less plant life = less oxygen

Diseases and Parasites

- Spreads amongst organisms (food chain)
- Eat dead carcasses
- Lowers population
- Kills organisms

Predator/Prey Populations

- When predators catch their prey it decreases the prey population
- Number in both populations is always changing
- Some species are endangered
- Disease in prey may result in decrease in predator
- If prey are eliminated, predators may become eliminated
- If there are too many predators they may kill off all the prey

Forest Fires

- Smoke pollutes the air and the habitat
- Animals are killed
- Loose oxygen producing trees
- Plants and trees are destroyed
- Can spread quickly
- Land is destroyed, landscape is changed
- Contributes to global warming
- Helps some plants grow
- Creates an opportunity for new plants
- Can affect water flow