

Climate Trends and Projections for Oregon's Second Congressional District

Bulleter Overview of Facts, Impact, and Future

Trends

TEMPERATURE: Temperature has increased about 2°F during the last century, with potential to increase another 5°F to 8°F during this century. Summer temperatures will rise more than winters.

PRECIPITATION: Winters are expected to become wetter and summers dryer, while annual average precipitation is expected to remain steady. Rain is projected to fall as heavier downpours, inducing floods and erosion rather than soil moisture replenishment.

SNOWPACK: Snowpack accumulation is projected to continue declining, to as low as 10% of historic levels by late century. Combined with earlier snowmelt, this will reduce summer and fall stream flow.

WILDFIRE: Wildfire season, already 2.5 months longer than in the 1970s, is expected to become more severe. Wildfire may consume two to six times greater area than historically burned by mid-century.

Economic Impact

AGRICULTURE AND MANUFACTURING

- Timber and Wood Processing - Climatic shifts will likely compromise the viability of important forest and timber species in the district.
- Fruits, Vegetables, and Nursery Stock – Limited irrigation water, increase in plant pests and disease, and growing competition from weeds will reduce production. Wineries and food processors will also be affected.

TOURISM

- Recreation – Extreme temperatures, wildfire, and drought may reduce summer tourism.

Dwindling snowpack will affect ski areas.

- Fishing - Warming waters and reduced stream flow threaten cold water sport fish populations.

HUMAN HEALTH

- Increased drought, wildfire, heat, and infectious disease can cause respiratory illness, dehydration, water contamination, heat-related illness, occupational and recreational hazards.
- Vulnerable communities will be: low-income households, private well users, agriculture and outdoor recreation workers, firefighters, the elderly, and children and pregnant women.

Future

TRAJECTORY: The current emissions trajectory can only continue for 17 more years if we wish to maintain a global temperature increase below 2°C (3.6°F), as International Agreements dictate.

SOLUTIONS: Support renewable energy ventures that are sustainable and emission free, such as geothermal, wind, and solar. Reducing emissions of warming gases is critical to reach global temperature goals.

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For more information on these Bullets, see the full summary at: <http://socan.info/oregon-legislative-district-summaries/>

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