

Climate Trends and Projections for Oregon's First Congressional District:

Bullet Points

Hogan Sherrow



Trends and Projections

TEMPERATURE:

- Temperature increased about 2°F during the 20th century
- Potential increase during this century will be another 5°F to 8°F above the 1981-2010 average.
- Temperatures will rise more during summer months than during winter months.

PRECIPITATION:

- Overall precipitation is not predicted to change drastically in terms of annual average
- Precipitation is expected to be heavier in the winter and reduced in the summer with t heavier downpours and snowstorms causing flooding, instead of light, steady rainfall that replenishes soil moisture and stream flow.

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 imposing risk of drought.

WILDFIRE:

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

Economic Impact

CD1 is home to the “silicon forest” buffering the district from much of the immediate and early impacts of climate change. However, some activities will be impacted negatively.

AGRICULTURE AND MANUFACTURING:

- Timber and Wood Processing:
 - Climatic shifts will likely compromise the viability of important timber species.
 - While timber and wood processing play a smaller role in CD1's economy, it is still important to some coastal residents.
- Fruits, Vegetables, and Nursery Stock:
 - Reduced irrigation water availability, increase in plant pests and disease, and growing competition from weeds will challenge production.
 - Shifts may result in the wine and cannabis industries shifting to this and other northern districts.

TOURISM, RECREATION & FISHERIES:

- Outdoor tourism brings in millions annually to the CD1 economy.
 - Extreme temperatures, wildfire, and drought will impact summer tourism, making this coastal destination less desirable.
 - Coastal fisheries are threatened by warming waters and acidification which threaten coastal fisheries while warming waters and reduced stream flow threaten cold water sport fish populations, a critical issue along the major rivers and their tributaries, and where they meet the Pacific Ocean.

HUMAN HEALTH:

- Increased drought, potential dehydration, wildfire, heat-related illness, water contamination, and infectious disease threaten all residents, especially those with underlying respiratory conditions.
- CD1 has fewer vulnerable communities than many of the other districts
 - the patterns will remain the same.
- Low-income and rural households, BIPOC communities, private well users, agriculture and outdoor recreation workers, firefighters, the elderly, children and pregnant women will be at particularly high risk.

FUTURE TRAJECTORY:

- The current global, national, and state emissions trajectories must be reversed, if we wish to maintain a global temperature increase below 2°C (3.6°F), as International Agreements dictate.

SOLUTIONS:

- Naming the solution is simple: We must halt our extraction, exploitation, and reliance on fossil fuels, reduce our greenhouse gas emissions immediately, and promote carbon sequestration. Achieving the solution is much more challenging. Drastically reducing emissions of warming gases is critical to reaching global temperature goals. We must switch to sustainable, emission-free sources of energy, such as geothermal, wind, and solar.

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

We invite copying of these materials, but request that authorship together with the SOCAN logo and attribution be retained.

The full report is available [here](#).