

## Climate Trends and Projections for Oregon's Third Congressional District:

### Bulleted Points

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### Trends and Projections

#### TEMPERATURE:

- Temperature increased about 2°F during the 20<sup>th</sup> 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 though increasing in the winter and reducing during summer with heavier downpours and snow and ice storms causing flooding and damage, instead of steady rainfall that replenishes soil moisture and waterways.

#### 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 and place most regions in danger 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

#### AGRICULTURE AND MANUFACTURING:

- Timber and Wood Processing:
  - Climatic shifts will likely compromise the viability of ecologically and commercially important forest species.
  - Timber and wood processing plays a small role in CD3's economy though still important to some eastern residents.
- Fruits, Vegetables, and Nursery Stock:
  - Limited irrigation water, increase in plant pests and disease, and growing competition from weeds will reduce production.
  - Shifts may result in the Oregon wine and cannabis industries shifting to this and other northern districts.

#### TOURISM:

- Recreation:

- Outdoor tourism brings in millions to the annual CD3 economy
- Extreme temperatures, wildfire, and drought will impact summer tourism, making this popular hiking and camping area less accessible and less desirable
- Predicted reduced snowpack could have catastrophic effects on winter activities in and around Mt. Hood National Forest.
- Fishing:
  - Warming waters and reduced stream flow threaten cold water sport fish populations a critical outcome along the Columbia.

#### HUMAN HEALTH:

- Increased drought, wildfire, heat, and infectious disease threaten those with underlying respiratory conditions.
- All residents face potential dehydration, water contamination, heat-related illness, and occupational and recreational hazards.
- CD3 has a larger, concentrated urban population than other districts, including more highly susceptible low-income households and BIPOC, elderly, young and pregnant individuals.
- Residents of CD3 face extreme heat and air pollution that are exacerbated in urban settings.

#### FUTURE TRAJECTORY:

- The current emissions trajectory must be halted and 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.
- Congressional District 3 already houses major hydroelectric sources and more may be needed in this district.

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

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