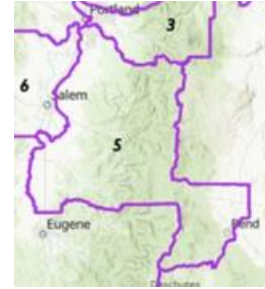


Climate Trends and Projections for Oregon's Fifth Congressional District:

Bulleted Points

Hogan Sherrow



Trends & Projections

TEMPERATURE:

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

PRECIPITATION:

- Overall precipitation is not predicted to change drastically, but the pattern is expected to change with precipitation heavier in the winter and reduced in the summer with heavier downpours that cause 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.
- This will be particularly striking in the Southeast region of CD5 where reduced snowpack and earlier snowmelt will negatively impact Mt. Bachelor and the eastern Cascade Mountain range
 - Meanwhile, summers will see extreme temperatures and greater propensity for 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 a particular concern in the Southeast area of CD5, where summers are notably dry and hot.

Economic Impact

AGRICULTURE AND MANUFACTURING:

- Timber and Wood Processing:
 - Climatic shifts will likely compromise the viability of ecologically and commercially important forest species in the district.
 - Timber and wood processing are still important parts of CD5's economy though this has reduced over the years.
- Fruits, Vegetables, and Nursery Stock:
 - Limited irrigation water, increase in plant pests and disease, and growing competition from weeds will reduce production.

- Wineries, food processors and cannabis growers will also be negatively affected, particularly important in the Northwest region of the district where wineries are a critical part of CD5's economy.

TOURISM:

- Recreation:
 - Outdoor tourism brings in millions to the annual CD5 economy
 - Extreme temperatures, wildfire, and drought will negatively impact summer tourism.
- Fishing:
 - Warming waters and reduced stream flow threaten cold water sport fish populations, a critical concern along the Deschutes, where fishing tourism is an important part of local economies.

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.
- Congressional District 5 is a mixture of suburban and urban areas in the Northwest part of the district with rural conditions and small cities evident in the Southeast part of the district.
- Both areas have a significant elderly population and many low-income households that are at particular risk.

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.

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

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