

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

Bulleted Points

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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 though is expected to be heavier in the winter and reduced in the summer.
- CD6 can expect heavier downpours that cause flooding and damage, instead of steady rainfall that replenishes soils and waterways.

SNOWPACK:

- Snowpack accumulation is projected to continue declining, to as low as 10% of historic levels by late century.

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, Wood Processing and Livestock:
 - Climatic shifts will likely compromise the viability of important forest and timber species in the district and make raising livestock more challenging.
 - Ecologically and commercially important forest species will likely be compromised, timber and wood processing are not important components of the CD6 economy
 - Drought is expected to be particularly important for those managing livestock
- 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.

TOURISM & RECREATION:

- Tourism, contributing substantially to the CD6 economy, will be compromised by extreme temperatures, wildfire, and drought.

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

HUMAN HEALTH:

- Increased drought, wildfire, heat, and infectious disease threaten those with underlying respiratory conditions
- The rest of the population faces potential dehydration, water contamination, heat-related illness, and occupational and recreational hazards.
- Congressional District 6 is mixture of rural and suburban areas both of which include a significant elderly population and a large number of 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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