

Southern Oregon Climate Action Now

SOCAN

Confronting Climate Change

<http://socan.info>

***Our Critical Climate: Trends, Impacts & Solutions
A Rogue Basin Summit***

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Almost everyone loves where they live. We are no exception! The answer to why this area is so beautiful, is revealed in a trip to Grants Pass: "It's the Climate." The forests, woodlands, agriculture, wineries, and rivers we enjoy so much are, indeed, maintained by our climate.

Those living here know the region has been experiencing troubling trends. Our climate is warming: NOAA data from Medford tell us that the city has warmed nearly 2 degrees Fahrenheit over the last century, with 2014 4 degrees F above the annual temperature trend. We are also experiencing decreasing snowfall, advancing snowmelt, reduction in late summer stream flow and water availability for domestic and agricultural use, trends evident over the last four decades.

To explore these trends and seek remedies, Southern Oregon Climate Action Now is organizing a two day fall conference: "Our Critical Climate: Trends, Impacts & Solutions – A Rogue Basin Summit" for October 13 and 14. It will explore current trends and projections, their consequences, and what we can do to address these issues.

Starting us off on the 13th is Dr. Phil Mote, Director of the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute at OSU, who will discuss Pacific Northwest trends and projections and what the consequences might be. This will be followed by exploration of local trends and consequences featuring speakers from the region. That evening, Mary Wood from the University Of Oregon School Of Law will discuss the efforts of "Our Children's Trust," where youth hold governments accountable for protecting natural resources for future generations.

The keynote speaker for October 14th will be Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy discussing what Eugene is doing, to be followed by presentations about successful current efforts in the Basin. The conference peak will be the second day afternoon when attendees will join small Break-out interest groups focusing on one of: Water; Forest Health and Fire; Agriculture; Sustainable Energy; Transportation; Building construction; Recreation and tourism; Human health; Individual action. These groups will initiate solution ideas. During coming months, representatives from these sessions will continue meeting to further develop plans. Our goal is to inspire actions that help communities prepare for inevitable regional climate change consequences and help reduce our contribution to the problem.

The 300 attendees will comprise elected officials, government department staff, professionals, decision-makers, media, students, and the general public. Early bird registration (\$45) ends July 15th after which it rises to \$55, with a final deadline of September 30th. This covers morning coffee/tea and lunches for the two days. For updated information about the event, to be held at Medford's Inn at the Commons is available: <http://socanclimatesummit.info>.