

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! As a newcomer to the area, I delight in the vistas and natural beauty of the Applegate Valley. The answer to why the 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.

But anyone who lives here knows that we have been experiencing some troubling trends throughout the region. We are living in a warming climate: NOAA data from Medford, for example, tell us that the city has warmed nearly 2 degrees Fahrenheit over the last century, with 2014 a full 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 uses, trends that have been 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." It will occur October 13 and 14 and explore current trends and projections and their local consequences, and what we can do to address the problems caused.

Our keynote speaker 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 presentations on 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 outlining what Eugene is doing, to be followed by discussion of successful current efforts in the Basin. The afternoon focus will be the culmination of the conference involving a series of 'Break-out' sessions where attendees will join small interest groups focusing on different areas of concern: Water; Forest Health and Fire; Agriculture; Sustainable Energy; Transportation; Building construction; Recreation and tourism; Human health; Individual action. These facilitated groups will initiate ideas. During the coming months, representatives from these sessions will continue meeting to develop plans further. Our goal is to inspire actions that help communities prepare for inevitable regional climate change consequences and help reduce our contribution to the problem.

We anticipate 300 attendees including elected officials, government department staff, professionals, decision-makers, media, students, and the general public. Registration is: \$45 for 'early birds' before July 15th (\$55 after that date) with a final deadline of September 30th covers morning coffee/tea and

lunches for the two days. Developing details about the event, to be held at Medford's Inn at the Commons can be found at <http://socanclimatesummit.info>.