

Southern Oregon Climate Action Now

**SOCAN**

Confronting Climate Change

<http://socan.info>

***Our Critical Climate: Trends, Impacts & Solutions***

***A Rogue Basin Summit***

*Alan Journet, Co-facilitator SOCAN*

[alanjournet@gmail.com](mailto:alanjournet@gmail.com)

541-301-4107

Whether we delight in the deserts of the Southwest, the plains of Kansas, the forests of the eastern states, or the beauty of our own forests, mountains, and rivers in the Rogue Basin, 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 troubling regional trends. 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 that 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 that have been evident over the last four decades.

To explore these trends and address them, Southern Oregon Climate Action Now is organizing a two day fall conference: “Our Critical Climate: Trends, Impacts & Solutions – A Rogue Basin Summit” It will run 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

October 14<sup>th</sup> will focus on solutions. Following a keynote presentation by Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy outlining what Eugene is doing, the morning session will provide a series of short presentations describing successful current efforts in the Basin. The culmination of the conference will be a series of ‘Break-out’ sessions on October 14<sup>th</sup> when attendees will join small interest groups each focusing on a different area of concern: Water; Forest Health and Fire; Agriculture; Sustainable Energy; Transportation; Building construction; Recreation and tourism; Human health; Individual action. These facilitated groups will develop ideas for action. During the coming months, representatives from these sessions will continue meeting to develop plans further.

Our goal is to inspire actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the regional level and help communities prepare for inevitable regional climate change consequences.

The target audience of 300 includes elected officials, government department staff, professionals, decision-makers, media, students, and the general public. Registration for the two-day conference is: \$45 for 'early birds' before July 15<sup>th</sup> (\$55 after that date) with a final deadline of September 30<sup>th</sup>. The registration fee 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>.