

Investing in Resilient Communities

Upper Klamath Basin – Klamath County

Climate change is already impacting Klamath County and the Upper Klamath Basin, where decreasing snowpack, higher temperatures, invasive species and wildfires are disrupting farming, ranching, forests and tourism. Recurring drought, and past water management and land reclamation practices, already have contributed to the decline of natural systems. For the region to adapt to climate change, it is critical to identify risks and invest in solutions that restore natural resources, protect communities and enhance the region's economy.

AGRICULTURE & WATER RESOURCES

Climate change impacts decrease the amount of water available for irrigation. Tribal water rights prioritize Upper Klamath Basin flows needed to sustain native fish runs and aquatic habitat in the Klamath Basin.

- **Upgrade** the Upper Klamath Basin's irrigation infrastructure and support water conservation measures.
- **Assist** farmers and ranchers with ways to reduce energy costs and to develop alternative energy systems.
- **Invest** in agricultural and rangeland soil health, productivity and carbon sequestration.
- **Provide** support to agriculture to offset costs arising from climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- **Prioritize** measures to reduce depletion of groundwater resources and prevent contamination of aquifers.

WATERWAYS & WILDLIFE HABITAT

Many streams, rivers and waterbodies need restoration to prevent further decline and to foster resilience.

- **Fund** restoration and enhancement of waterways, wetlands, aquifers and riparian areas.
- **Engage** California stakeholders and Tribes to collaboratively plan for the entire basin's future.
- **Invest** in practices to prevent outbreaks of toxic algae and waterborne disease.
- **Invest** in monitoring the health of the Upper Klamath Basin's surface and groundwater resources.

FORESTS & RANGELAND LANDSCAPES

Invasive species and more frequent and intense wildfires pose threats to communities, watersheds and traditional hunting and food gathering areas for Klamath Tribes.

- **Reduce** wildfire fuels on public and private lands.
- **Foster** interagency cooperation to prevent and manage wildfires.
- **Assist** homeowners and landowners with risk reduction strategies.
- **Manage** invasive species and western juniper expansion.
- **Support** technological innovation and develop markets for wood derived from wildland fuels management.
- **Promote** practices that improve forest health, economic potential and sequester carbon.

LIVABILITY & SECURITY

Investments are needed to support the quality of life for people who call the Upper Klamath Basin home.

- **Work** with Klamath Tribes to protect shared natural resources and foster community resilience.
- **Prioritize** economic diversification, job creation, skills training and workforce support for disrupted industries including agriculture, ranching and tourism.
- **Invest** in projects and infrastructure to mitigate climate change impacts on tourist destinations and activities.
- **Assist** low-and moderate-income residents with weatherization and energy conservation.
- **Provide** health services and programs that address climate induced health risks.

[OCCRI Fourth Oregon Climate Assessment Report \(2019\); Oregon Global Warming Commission-2018 Biennial Report to the Legislature; ClimateWise: Climate Change Preparation in the Klamath River Basin \(2010\); Water Education Foundation - 2018 Annual Report](#)