

Investing in Resilient Communities

North Central Oregon

Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, Wheeler, Morrow & Umatilla Counties

Climate change is already affecting North Central Oregon, where higher temperatures, drought, declining water supplies and wildfires are disrupting agriculture, forestry practices, tourism, recreation and overall quality of life. For this region to adapt and thrive, it is important to identify risks and to invest in solutions that safeguard and restore natural resources, protect communities and enhance the region's economy.

LANDSCAPES AND WILDFIRE

Forests and range fires are becoming more frequent and intense due to increased fuel loads in forests, insect-killed trees, higher temperatures and drought.

- **Invest** in rural fire protection districts' fire-fighting capacity and equipment.
- **Control** the expansion of western juniper and invasive plants to reduce wildfire fuel loads.
- **Foster** interagency, and multi-jurisdictional cooperation to manage and prevent wildfires and restore the environmental and economic values of forests and rangelands.
- **Work** with the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation and Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs to manage and protect shared resources.

WATERWAYS & WILDLIFE

Decreasing stream flows, periodic drought and higher temperatures reduce the amount of clean water available for agriculture and domestic use, harm fish and wildlife and increases the potential for invasive species, water borne pathogens, and toxic algae blooms.

- **Fund** watershed restoration to improve water quality, stream flows and aquifer recharge.
- **Modernize** irrigation infrastructure to improve water conservation and provide preserve fish habitat.
- **Invest** in practices to prevent outbreaks of toxic algae and other water-borne pathogens.
- **Engage** with native tribes to protect and enhance fisheries.
- **Implement** measures to ensure the integrity and stability of groundwater aquifers.

AGRICULTURE & IRRIGATION

Hotter, drier summers and more intense storms increase risks for farmers and ranchers. Some traditional crops may not respond well to these hotter and drier conditions.

- **Invest** in technology to develop more efficient irrigation systems.
- **Implement** conservation practices and renewable energy projects to reduce energy costs on farms and ranches.
- **Invest** in soil health and carbon sequestration of farm and rangeland soils.
- **Assist** the dairy industry and confined animal feeding operations to reduce greenhouse gases.

LIVABILITY & SECURITY

The quality of life of those who live in North Central Oregon is at risk from climate change. Investments are necessary to protect the well-being of area communities.

- **Invest** in climate adaptation and mitigation strategies for Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and other waterways and features important to recreation and tourism.
- **Assist** low- and moderate-income residents with weatherization and energy conservation.
- **Provide** health services and programs to address climate induced health risks.
- **Invest** in developing products and markets for materials derived from wildlands fuels management.
- **Prioritize** job creation, skills training and workforce support for disrupted industries.