

Investing in Resilient Communities

Oregon Coast & Coast Range

Clatsop, Tillamook, Lincoln, Coos, Curry, & Columbia Counties; parts of Lane & Douglas Counties

Climate change is already impacting the Oregon Coast, Columbia River Estuary and Coast Range, where weather and ocean patterns influence all aspects of life. For coastal communities to adapt and prosper, it is imperative to identify areas of risk and invest in solutions that restore natural resources, protect livelihoods and enhance the economy.

WATER & AGRICULTURE

Lower seasonal precipitation causes water shortages for domestic and agriculture use, and for aquatic species like salmon that need fresh water to survive. Higher temperatures and changes to ocean chemistry degrade the ecological functions of estuaries. Infrastructure such as dikes, levees, tide gates and agricultural fields are threatened by tidal influences and seasonal flooding. Toxic algae blooms may make surface waters periodically unsafe and unusable.

- **Prioritize** land use and infrastructure planning to address natural hazards intensified by climate change.
- **Upgrade** dikes, levees, tide gates, and structures to protect against seasonal or more frequent inundation.
- **Implement** community water conservation strategies, including facilities upgrades and education programs.
- **Support** practices to sequester carbon by restoring tidal wetlands and encouraging streamside plantings.
- **Support** cost-saving measures that help the dairy industry to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Restore** estuaries, streams and rivers to enhance and restore their natural resource functions.
- **Install** renewable energy systems such as wind, biogas electricity and solar when feasible.

FORESTS & WILDFIRE

Increased severity of wildfire in the Coast Range threatens lives and property as well as power, communications, transportation and water supplies. Higher temperatures and drought can increase tree disease and insect infestation.

- **Reduce** wildfire fuels in wildland-urban interface on public and private lands.
- **Assist** homeowners and landowners to implement fire risk reduction strategies.
- **Support** strategies for technological innovation and develop markets for wood derived from wildland fuels management.

UTILITIES & TRANSPORTATION

Sea-level rise combined with extreme storm events increase coastal erosion and flooding can endanger infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water and sewer systems.

- **Prioritize** the development of robust emergency response and communication systems.
- **Implement** ODOT's Climate Adaptation Strategy and fund state and local road improvements.
- **Address** weaknesses and threats to roads and bridges in geologic hazard areas.
- **Upgrade** water and wastewater treatment plants and their collection and distribution systems.
- **Expand** opportunities for business and industry to retrofit equipment for energy and water conservation.

LIVABILITY & SECURITY

Investments are needed to support the quality of life for people who call the Oregon Coast and Coast Range home.

- **Collaborate** with Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, Confederated Tribes of the Siletz and Coquille Indian Tribe to protect shared natural resources and invest in community resilience.
- **Prioritize** economic diversification, job creation, skills training and other workforce support in communities and for industries disrupted by climate change, including fisheries, timber, agriculture and tourism.
- **Create** job opportunities in infrastructure improvement and natural resources restoration and management.
- **Assist** low-and moderate-income residents with weatherization and energy conservation.

[OCCRI Fourth Oregon Climate Assessment Report \(2019\)](#); [Oregon Global Warming Commission - 2018 Biennial Report to the Legislature](#); [NOAA Fisheries - Record Warming Drives Unprecedented Ocean Change \(2019\)](#); [Oregon DAS - Oregon Acidification and Hypoxia Plan \(2019\)](#); [Partnerships for Coastal Watersheds - An Overview of Oregon's South Coast \(2010\)](#)