

Mayoral Endorsement

- Extending from the rim of Crater Lake at some 6,000 feet down to the ocean at Gold Beach, the Rogue Basin experiences a wide range of climates and supports an equally wide range of natural biological communities of plants and animals.
- This beautiful Basin also supports a wide diversity of wildlife, forestry, and agricultural crops - all dependent on this climate.
- The climate at Medford, lying in the heart of the Basin and thus representative of it in terms of climate patterns, tells the story of century long climate trends across the region.
- Over the last century NOAA's National Weather Service office data for Medford show us undeniable trends.
- The main observed trends are: increasing temperature (nearly 2 degrees F), increasing number of heatwave days over 100 degrees F (from 7 to 10), decreasing snowfall (down fifty percent) resulting in reduced high elevation snowpack and diminished late summer stream flow.
- This, combined with early snowmelt, causes late summer/fall water shortage and greater drought risk - in turn leading to higher fire risk.
- These trends pose serious threats to many attributes of our Basin that make it a desirable place to live.
- It behooves residents of the Basin not only to understand the trends and their consequences, but also to consider what we can all do to minimize impacts while also adjusting behaviors that might be making the problem worse.

To understand and address these concerns, I, John Stromberg, Mayor of the City of Ashland, do hereby endorse the October conference, "Our Critical Climate; Trends, Impacts & Solutions - a Rogue Basin Summit," organized by Southern Oregon Climate Action Now and encourages residents of the Basin to attend and participate.

Dated this 4th day of August, 2015

John Stromberg, Mayor

Barbara Christensen, City Recorder