

Divided Oregonians agree: Climate change is a problem

In recent poll, people from both parties also say wrong measures are being taken to address it

By KALE WILLIAMS
The Oregonian

SALEM — Oregon and Washington residents across the political spectrum agree climate change is a problem, but many think the measures that their state governments are taking to address the issue are the wrong approach, according to a survey.

The survey found 97% of Democrats, 86% of Independents and 64% of Republicans said they think climate change is “definitely” or “probably” happening, according to the poll.

The results represent a stark contrast with national opinions on global warming, which 97% of climate scientists agree is being caused by human activity. While a gap remains between Democrats and Republicans, in the Pacific Northwest the divide is only 33 points, as opposed to a 46-point chasm nationwide.

That might be due to a long history of bipartisan



Beth Nakamura/The Oregonian, File

Students participated in a climate march in downtown Portland on Dec. 6, 2019, as part of a national series of climate strikes.

concern for the environment in the region, said Paul Manson, a visiting political science professor at Reed College.

“In the Pacific Northwest, there has long been a broader tradition of conservation values that bridges party affiliation, most famously linked to Oregon

Gov. Tom McCall,” Manson said. “Despite the heightened partisanship of our current era, this tradition persists in our region and might be a path forward for meaningful policy change.”

Experts have long predicted the Northwest would see increased temperatures, prolonged periods of

drought and more intense fire seasons as carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere grow.

Many of those predictions have come to pass recently, with more than two-thirds of Oregon in severe drought and thousands of residents reeling from massive wildfires exacerbated by

warming conditions.

Though the evidence of a warming climate has been enough to convince people of both parties in the Northwest, finding workable solutions has proved difficult.

Twice in the past three years, Republican lawmakers in the state have fled the Oregon Capitol to deny Democrats the opportunity to vote on a measure that would implement a so-called “cap and invest” strategy to cut the state’s carbon emissions. The bill would have put a cap on emissions that would have steadily decreased over time and required large polluters to acquire “allowances,” either in a state auction or from other participants trading on a secondary market.

After the second Republican walkout, the governor issued an executive order earlier this year that codified many of the goals of the failed legislation, but she did not have the authority to implement the cap-and-invest system, instead telling state agencies to make curbing emissions their top priority.

In Washington state, a 2019 bill that would have imposed a tax on carbon emissions also failed.

The survey found that respondents did not favor market-based solutions to

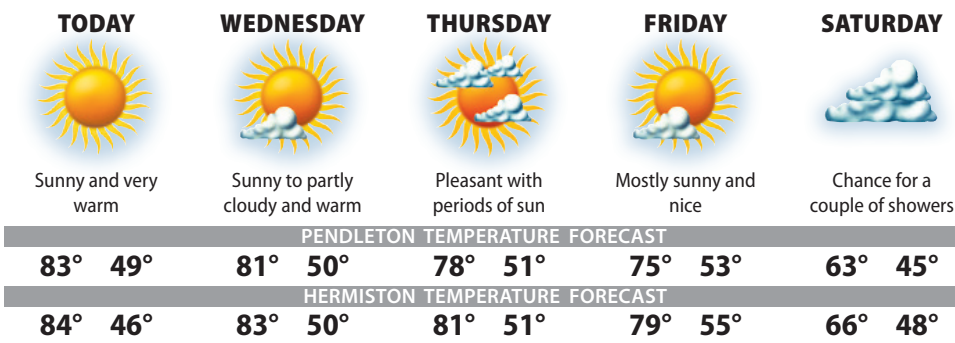
the climate problem like carbon taxes and cap and invest. Instead, the survey found Oregon and Washington residents preferred direction action by the government, including strict limits on the amount of carbon emissions and enforcement on those who fail to comply. Respondents also favored raising taxes on high-income earners to fund environmental initiatives.

Chris Koski, a professor of political science and environmental studies at Reed College, said the results came as a bit of a shock.

“Washington and Oregon climate politics over the past two legislative sessions have focused heavily on failed efforts to create carbon markets and failed ballot initiatives to levy carbon taxes,” Koski said in a statement. “It is somewhat surprising, then, Democrats and Republicans favor regulation over markets. This stands in contrast to multiple campaigns at the state and federal level over the past two decades for cap-and-trade legislation.”

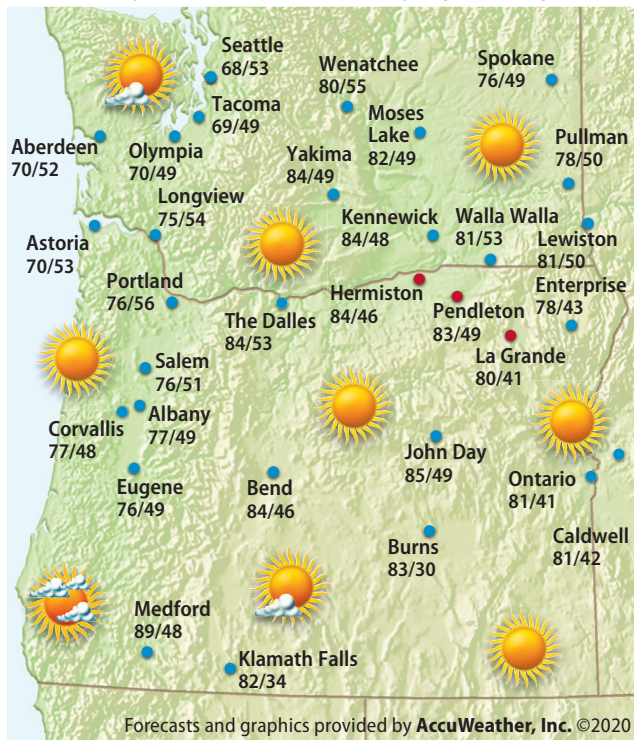
The survey, which was conducted by Northwest Policy Priorities Project, polled 500 adult residents in both Oregon and Washington between Sept. 1 and Sept. 11. The margin of error was 4 points.

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



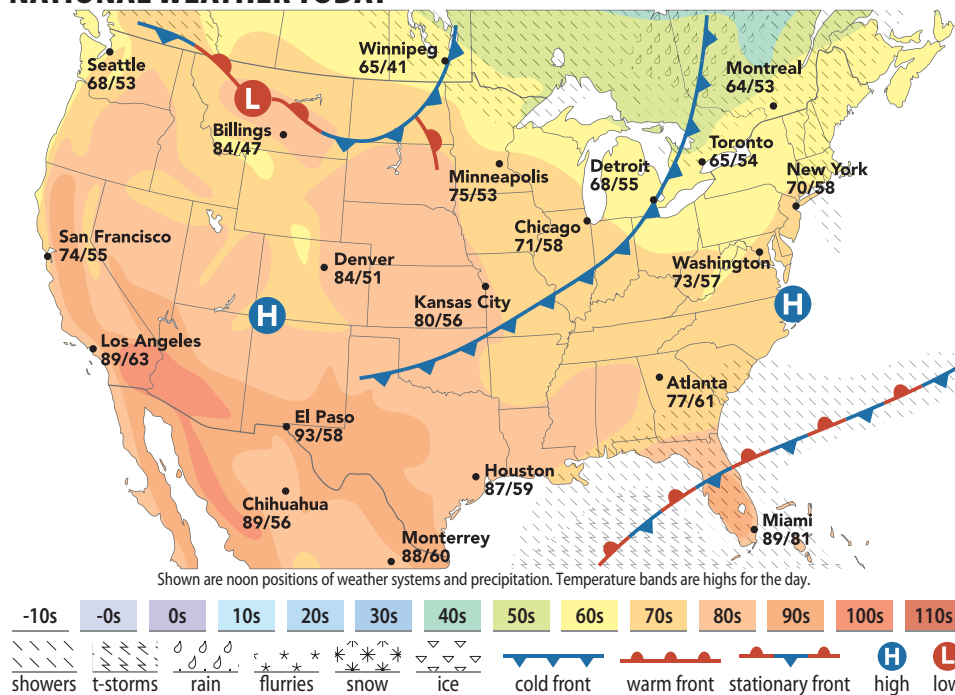
ALMANAC

Table with weather statistics for Pendleton and Hermiston, including temperature, precipitation, and wind data.

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states) High 107° in Palm Springs, Calif. Low 18° in Angel Fire, N.M.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



New birds arrive at Walla Walla aviary

By CHLOE LEVALLEY
Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

WALLA WALLA, Wash. — Eight new birds, primarily geese and pheasants, arrived recently in the large enclosure at Pioneer Park Aviary from an aviary in Spokane, Washington.

The birds were bought with \$5,000 in donations from the community after several birds were killed in May during a series of break-ins at the Pioneer Park Aviary.

Donations of just over \$30,000 have been committed to the operation since then, including support through Friends of the Pioneer Park Aviary and a donation of \$24,000 from Walla Walla native, businessman and philanthropist Mike Murr and his wife, Eva Murr.

Security cameras have been installed on the exterior of the Pioneer Park Aviary, and security lighting is now set up to try and

prevent future criminal activity at the site.

Recent new arrivals to the bird habitat include a pair of red-breasted geese, with white cheek lines, red cheeks and a red breast. They are brown, russet-colored, black and white.

The new pair of barnacle geese are gray and white with a black neck.

A new common shelduck was brought in and has taken a liking to the lone male in the Pioneer Park Aviary. A Temminck's tragopan hen was also purchased for a lone male.

A pair of Szechuan white-eared pheasants can be found in a smaller enclosure nearby, but they are still timid are getting used to their environment, staff said.

Pioneer Park Aviary caretaker Becky Donley, who found the birds on a Facebook page, picked them up from Spokane and said she brought back more than she was expecting.

“I used to have a blue-eared pheasant here, but she passed away earlier this spring, and I had been trolling the pages looking for a replacement and just could never find anything,” Donley said.

“So when he said he had a pair of eared pheasants who weren't blues but the whites, I was like, 'I'll take them, I'll take them.'”

“I was able to replace the white peafowl,” she said. “I am still on the hunt for a paradise shelduck hen.”

One of the last hens who hatched from the eggs of a peafowl killed this spring was released into the main enclosure, Donley said.

The city-owned Pioneer Park Aviary hosts about 200 birds of between 30-35 species and about a month ago also became home to a tortoise 8-9 years old, donated by a community member.

The tortoise will be visible until the winter weather sets in.

IN BRIEF

Prep football game canceled after Ammon Bundy refuses to wear mask

EMMETT, Idaho — An Idaho high school football game was canceled after anti-government activist Ammon Bundy refused to wear a mask or leave school grounds.

The game Friday, Oct. 2, in Caldwell between the Emmett Huskies and Caldwell Cougars was called off after Bundy refused to wear a mask in violation of coronavirus health protocols, KTVB-TV reported.

The Emmett resident ignored a request by school officials to wear a mask in the stands, and then moved to a fence near the field to continue watching the game.

A school principal and athletic director repeatedly asked the 44-year-old to wear a mask, and then requested that police

arrest Bundy for trespassing, authorities said.

Officers told school officials they would not arrest or remove Bundy because he “wasn't out of control and didn't appear to be a threat to anybody.”

School officials canceled the game at halftime after Bundy refused school and police requests to leave the property.

Police said they planned to submit a report to the Canyon County prosecutor.

Bundy led a 2016 occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon as a show of support for state rights, planning to dissolve the federally managed refuge. He and others were ultimately arrested, ending the 41-day occupation. Bundy was acquitted of all federal charges by an Oregon jury.

Bundy was arrested twice in two days in August 2020 for protests at the Idaho Legislature.

— Associated Press

CORRECTIONS: The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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