

Reversal on wildfires, climate change unlikely, Oregonians say

By MICHAEL KOHN
EO Media Group

SALEM — Humankind has little chance of solving the climate crisis and the growing frequency of wildfires. That's the majority opinion of Oregonians recently polled in a survey conducted by the Oregon Values and Beliefs Center.

Two-thirds of Oregonians (66%) responded there is only a small chance or no chance at all of reversing the direction of climate change. More than 1,150 Oregon residents aged 18 or over took part in the survey, conducted Aug. 9-17. A similar number (67%) said the wildfire crisis in the state will continue to increase.

The concern Oregon residents have about the environment is not without evidence. According to NASA data, Earth's average surface temperature has risen about 2.12 degrees Fahrenheit since the late 19th century, an increase caused by human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels.

Most of the increase has occurred in the past 40 years, reports NASA, with the seven most recent years being the warmest.

Research provider Rhodium Group reports the U.S. contributes 11% of the world's carbon emissions into

the atmosphere. China leads the planet among polluters, contributing 27% of the world's carbon output. Other leading polluters include India (6.6%), the European Union (6.4%), Indonesia (3.4%), Russia (3.1%), Brazil (2.8%), and Japan (2.2%).

Climate change impacts the planet in a variety of ways, including the melting of polar ice, which causes sea levels rise, as well as droughts, flooding and other extreme weather events. Most Oregonians (54%) believe climate change is the primary cause of wildfires, the survey said.

What else can be the root cause for the increasing number of wildfires? Some 23% of Oregonians believe the primary cause to be public forest practices allowing excess dead fuels to build up, and 11% said the main cause is environmentalists who oppose forest thinning, the survey said.

Demographic quotas were set to ensure a representative sample of answers for the survey. The margin of error was 1.7% to 2.9%

According to the survey, most Oregonians favor support for environmental causes even if it means slowing economic growth — 76% of respondents said they would lean toward environmental protections compared



Flames from the enormous Bootleg Fire in Oregon's Klamath and Lake counties silhouette a firefighter in July 2021. It was one of the country's largest fires this year.

to just 13% who favor support for the economy over the environment.

The survey showed broadly that Oregonians see climate change as causing severe events such as hurricanes, flooding and forest fires. Among the respondents, 81% believe climate

change is at least partially responsible for creating longer, hotter summers, and 80% believe climate change is at least partially responsible for the drought.

What needs to be done for humankind to mitigate the impacts of climate change? More than half (60%) of

respondents said strong individual actions and government regulations are needed, while 11% of respondents said no action is needed.

The survey also asked what actions respondents had taken to address climate change. Some 61% of respondents said they have "dramat-

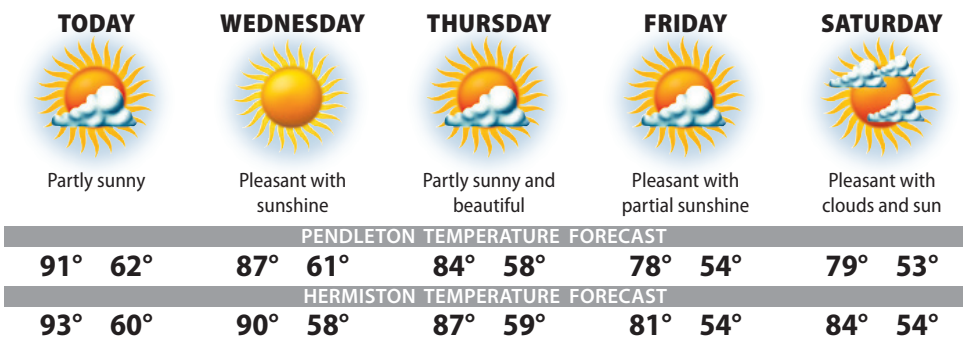
ically" reduced their use of gas-powered vehicles while 57% said they have "examined and reduced important emissions behaviors." One-third of respondents (34%) said they have communicated to elected officials the need for policies to combat climate change.

Would Oregonians be willing to pay more for gas to help offset emissions? Some 65% said yes, but amounts varied — 13% said less than 25 cents, 9% said 25 cents to 50 cents, and 12% said between 50 cents to \$1 extra. Others were willing to splash out more: 9% said they would pay \$1-\$2 extra, 7% said \$2-\$4 extra, and 15% higher than \$4.

The survey also included data on race and socioeconomic backgrounds. Nineteenth (93%) of respondents were white or Caucasian; 4% were Hispanic or Latino; 3% were Native American; 2% were African American, and 2% were Asian or Pacific Islander.

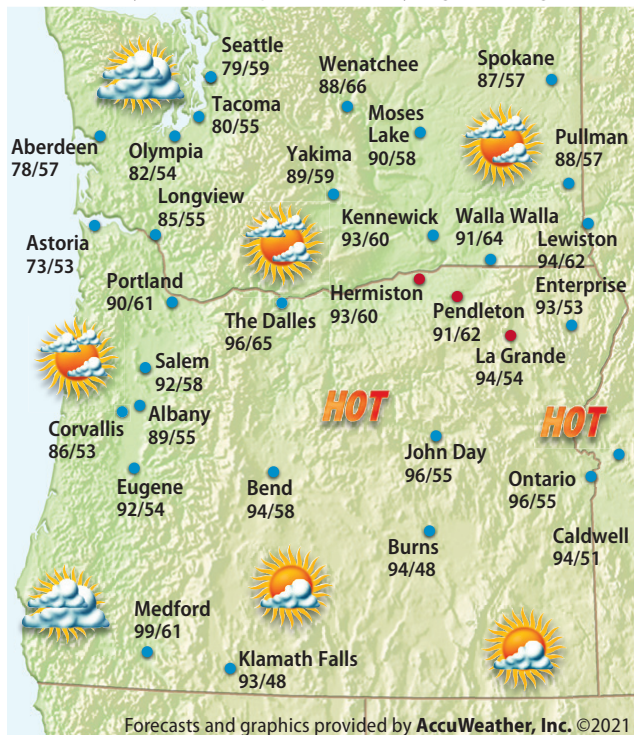
Respondents also listed their geographic locality — 44% were from the Portland area; 28% were from the Willamette Valley, and 28% were from other parts of the state. There also was a question on political affiliation; 41% were Democrat; 22% Republican and 13% were nonaffiliated.

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

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



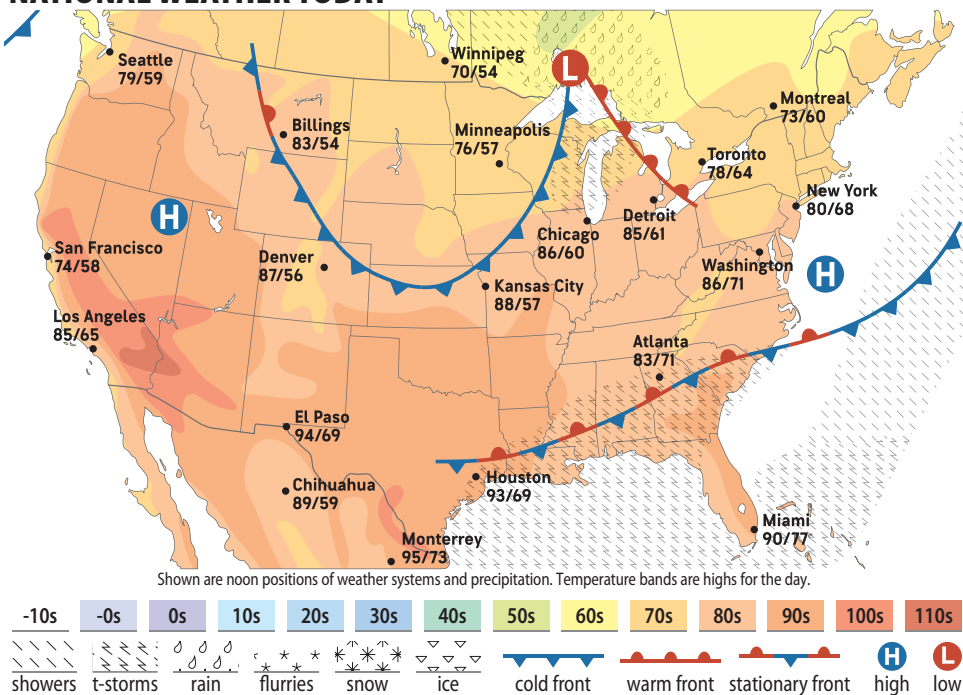
ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.		
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	84°	59°
Normals	83°	53°
Records	102° (1955)	34° (1898)
PRECIPITATION		
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"	
Month to date	0.00"	
Normal month to date	0.09"	
Year to date	4.37"	
Last year to date	8.68"	
Normal year to date	8.74"	
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.		
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	88°	65°
Normals	85°	51°
Records	99° (2003)	39° (1961)
PRECIPITATION		
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"	
Month to date	0.00"	
Normal month to date	0.06"	
Year to date	1.93"	
Last year to date	1.66"	
Normal year to date	5.37"	
WINDS (in mph)		
	Today	Wed.
Boardman	NE 3-6	WSW 6-12
Pendleton	N 6-12	W 6-12
SUN AND MOON		
Sunrise today	6:24 a.m.	
Sunset tonight	7:22 p.m.	
Moonrise today	6:55 a.m.	
Moonset today	8:09 p.m.	

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 108° in China Lake, Calif. Low 23° in Yellowstone N.P., Wyo.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



OHSU: COVID-19 hospitalization rate to flatten, could even decline

By JEFF MANNING
The Oregonian

SALEM — After weeks of explosive growth, the expansion of the coronavirus delta variant appears to be peaking.

The number of new COVID-19 cases requiring hospitalization, which skyrocketed in August, should start to flatten after Monday, Sept. 6, and will begin to decline in October or November, said Peter Graven, the leading data scientist at Oregon Health & Science University, Portland. Graven has been modeling expected coronavirus-related hospitalization numbers on a weekly basis since the beginning of the pandemic.

Yet the pandemic is far from over. The potential high point next week of hospitalized COVID-19 patients

could reach a record setting 1,208.

Graven attributed the expected turnaround to more masks and more vaccines.

"We're seeing evidence that people have changed their behavior to protect themselves and others," he said, "and that will need to continue if we're going to be able to free up space in our hospitals."

August proved to be the third deadliest month in Oregon since the start of the pandemic.

Graven's data show masking rates have ticked up to about 80% and Oregonians have refrained from gathering in indoor markets, grocery stores, bars and in large groups. In addition, more people appear to be getting vaccinated in response to the alarming

surge in critically ill Oregonians.

"We still have lots of people getting sick," he said. "There's still a ton of transmission going on out there. For anyone who works in health care, the next month will continue to feel like crisis mode."

There's another development worrying Graven — the beginning of school. It remains to be seen whether teachers and students will be able to maintain a tight masking discipline all day, a necessity against the highly infectious delta variant.

So far, children under 12 are not eligible to take any of the vaccines.

"I am concerned about it," Graven said. "There is pretty good evidence that we didn't have outbreaks (in schools.) But this fall is different — it's the normal full day."

IN BRIEF

Nearly 80% of August deaths among those without shots

SALEM — Nearly 4 in 5 coronavirus deaths in Oregon during the first four weeks of August were among unvaccinated or partially vaccinated individuals, according to new data released by the Oregon Health Authority.

And roughly 5 in 6 of the 51,391 known COVID-19 infections during the same period were among people who were unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated, according to a state report released Thursday, Sept. 2.

The share of so-called breakthrough cases and deaths among fully vaccinated Oregonians remains tiny compared to the 2.4 million Oregonians who were fully vaccinated as of

Aug. 28, demonstrating the effectiveness of vaccines at preventing severe COVID-19.

Since the start of the pandemic, the state has identified 13,166 breakthrough cases, which is defined as a person who tests positive 14 days or later after receiving their full course of vaccinations, which is two shots of Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine or one shot of Johnson & Johnson vaccine. That's slightly more than one half of 1% who have been infected with the disease after being fully vaccinated.

The health authority report says 650 people with breakthrough cases have been hospitalized — 0.027% of vaccinated Oregonians. And the 113 Oregonians who died after a breakthrough case amounts to 0.0047% of those vaccinated.

—EO Media Group

CORRECTION

In the Page A1 story "Pendleton's three new principals introduce themselves," published Tuesday, Aug. 31, the photos of Patrick Dutcher and J.P. Richards were misidentified.

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.

EAST OREGONIAN

— Founded Oct. 16, 1875 —

211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton 541-276-2211
333 E. Main St., Hermiston 541-567-6211
Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed major holidays

EastOregonian.com

In the App Store:



East Oregonian (USPS 164-980) is published Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, by the EO Media Group, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801. Periodicals postage paid at Pendleton, OR. Postmaster: send address changes to East Oregonian, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801.

Copyright © 2021, EO Media Group

Circulation Dept.

For mail delivery, online access, vacation stops or delivery concerns call 800-781-3214

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

	Local home delivery	Savings (cover price)
EZPay	\$10.75/month	50 percent
52 weeks	\$135	42 percent
26 weeks	\$71	39 percent
13 weeks	\$37	36 percent

Single copy price:

\$1.50 Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

ADVERTISING

Regional Sales Director (Eastside) EO Media Group:

• Karrine Brogoitti

541-963-3161 • kbrogioitti@eomediagroup.com

Multimedia Consultants:

541-564-4531

• Audra Workman

541-564-4538 • aworkman@eastoregonian.com

Business Office

• Dayle Stinson

541-966-0824 • dstinson@eastoregonian.com

Classified & Legal Advertising

Classified advertising: 541-564-4538

Legal advertising: 541-966-0824

classifieds@eastoregonian.com or legals@eastoregonian.com

NEWS

- To submit news tips and press releases: call 541-966-0818 or email news@eastoregonian.com
- To submit community events, calendar items and Your EO News: email community@eastoregonian.com or call Renee Struthers or Amy Velho at 541-966-0818.
- To submit engagements, weddings and anniversaries: email rstruthers@eastoregonian.com or visit eastoregonian.com/community/announcements
- To submit sports or outdoors information or tips: 541-966-0838 • sports@eastoregonian.com

COMMERCIAL PRINTING

Commercial Print Manager: Holly Rouska
541-617-7839 • hrouska@eomediagroup.com