

Oregon, a state proud of and dependent on natural resources, should take action on climate change.

Our air is impacted. NOAA characterized the 2018 fire season as one that “nobody wants to repeat” with 1.34 million acres burned, compared to an average 757,828 acres. The report prepared for the Oregon Tourism Commission stated that “there was a \$51.5 million loss in visitor spending attributable to Oregon wildfires in 2017.” The impact on health from the worst air quality in the country was not quantified, but it is significant.

Our water is impacted. In September 2018, Wickiup Reservoir near Bend was down to 2% of its capacity, raising questions whether crops could be irrigated. In June, Salem issued a drinking water advisory due to cyanotoxins, which ‘bloom’ when water temperatures rise.

Our ski areas suffer from warm winters. Hoodoo and Willamette Pass Ski areas were closed for a significant part of the winter of 2015 due to lack of snow. Warmer winters will increase these events.

Farmers are at risk. In 2018, a farmer died trying to stop a wheat field fire. Farmers depend on irrigation water, which can be affected by low snowpack.

The science is clear on climate change, and we are feeling the impacts now. It’s time to take action against climate change.