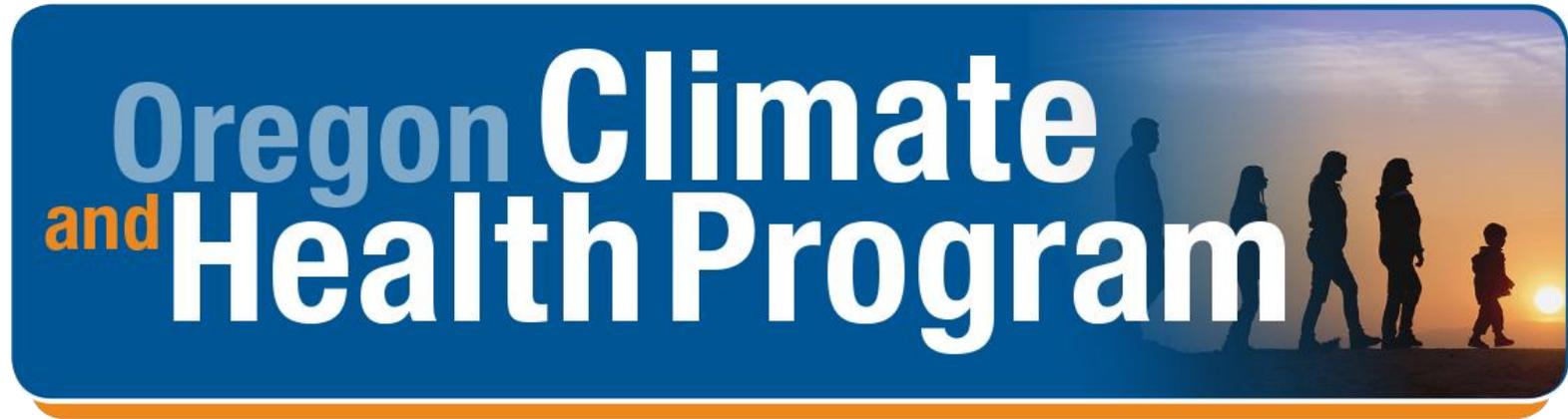


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# Oregon Climate and Health Program

Stories from Partners and Community Members



Oregon  
Health  
Authority

## Stories from Partners & Community Members

The following photos and quotes were collected in 2014 as part of a story project that supplemented the [Oregon Climate and Health Profile Report](#).

For more information about the project, please contact [Oregon's Climate and Health Program staff](#).

This project was funded by the [CDC's Climate-Ready States and Cities Initiative](#).



“Climate change is a reality we all must face. Yet, **the most impacted communities are those who are least responsible.**”

Faduma Ali  
Groundwork Portland



Warmer temperatures could change our growing season and alter types of plants grown in the state. **More alarming is the exposure to new pests and diseases.** This is a significant issue and could have major impacts on what we grow and the cost of production.

Jeff Stone  
Executive Director  
Oregon Association of Nurseries



Concurrent with climate change is the spread of invasive weeds and pests, which necessitate **more work and chemicals to grow food** and nursery products... more plant problems could potentially lead to an increased use of pesticides.

*Weston Miller*  
*OSU Extension*

The wine industry in Oregon is part of an **interconnected tapestry of businesses, industries, and livelihoods that are being threatened by climate change.** We need to work together to find the unique solutions to the challenges that lie ahead.

Sam Tannahill  
A to Z Wineworks



Armida Ramirez • Oregon Child Development Coalition

**Migrant families have to acclimate to changing climates.** We commonly see kids suffer from bloody noses, fevers and dehydration. We provide a packet for each of the growers to post in the migrant farmworker camps that includes tips for how to keep well-hydrated, especially during heat waves.

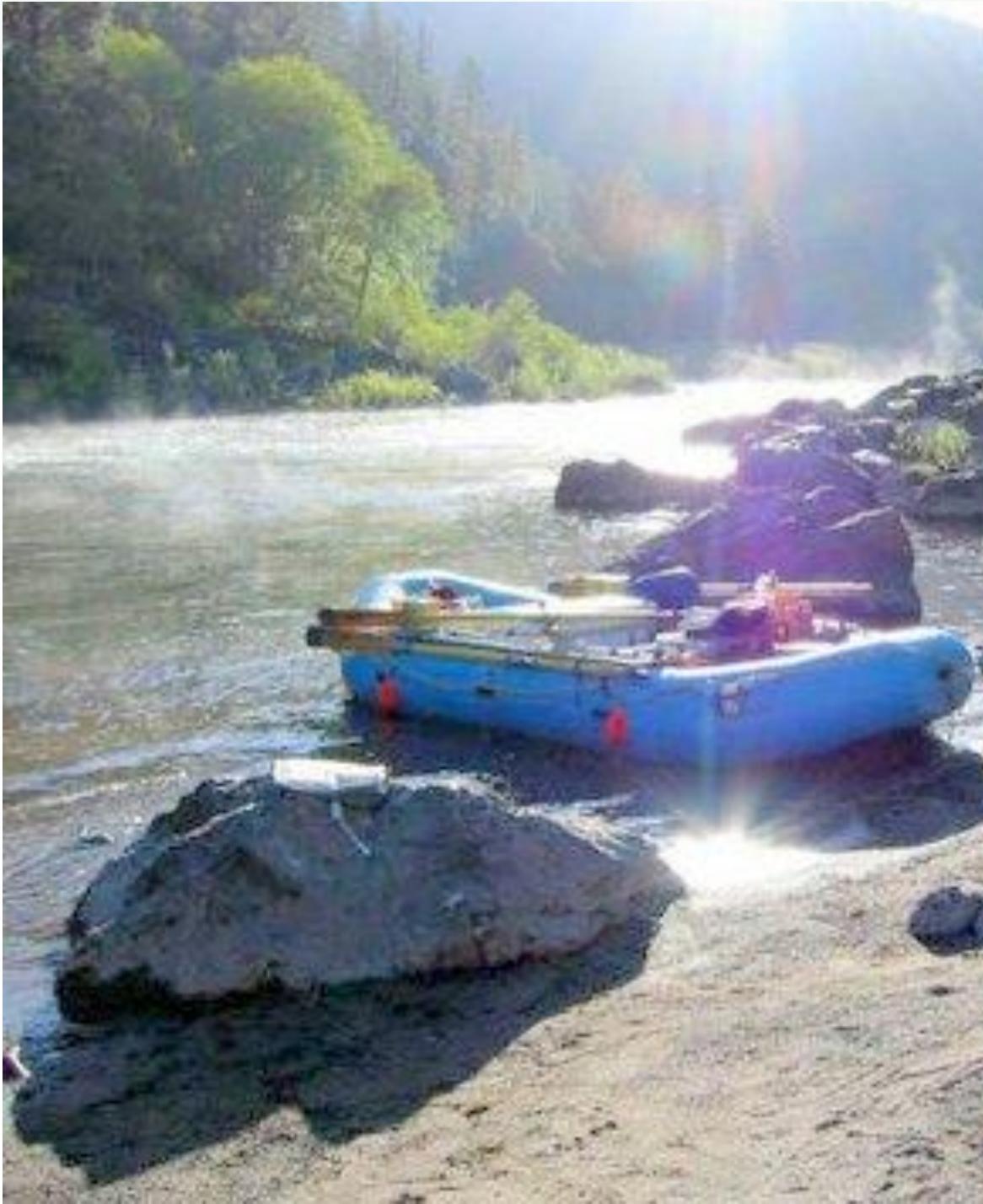
Armida Ramirez  
Oregon Child Development Coalition



Decreases in the quantity and quality of drinking water in areas where water resources are already burdened will likely result in people re-locating on a large scale.

Richard Lemman, MD  
Epidemiologist





“ Warmer, drier climate conditions will impact the Rogue Valley immensely since much of our domestic water comes from precipitation (mainly snowpack) and **if we continue to experience major fires every summer, our health and economic livelihood are in jeopardy**”

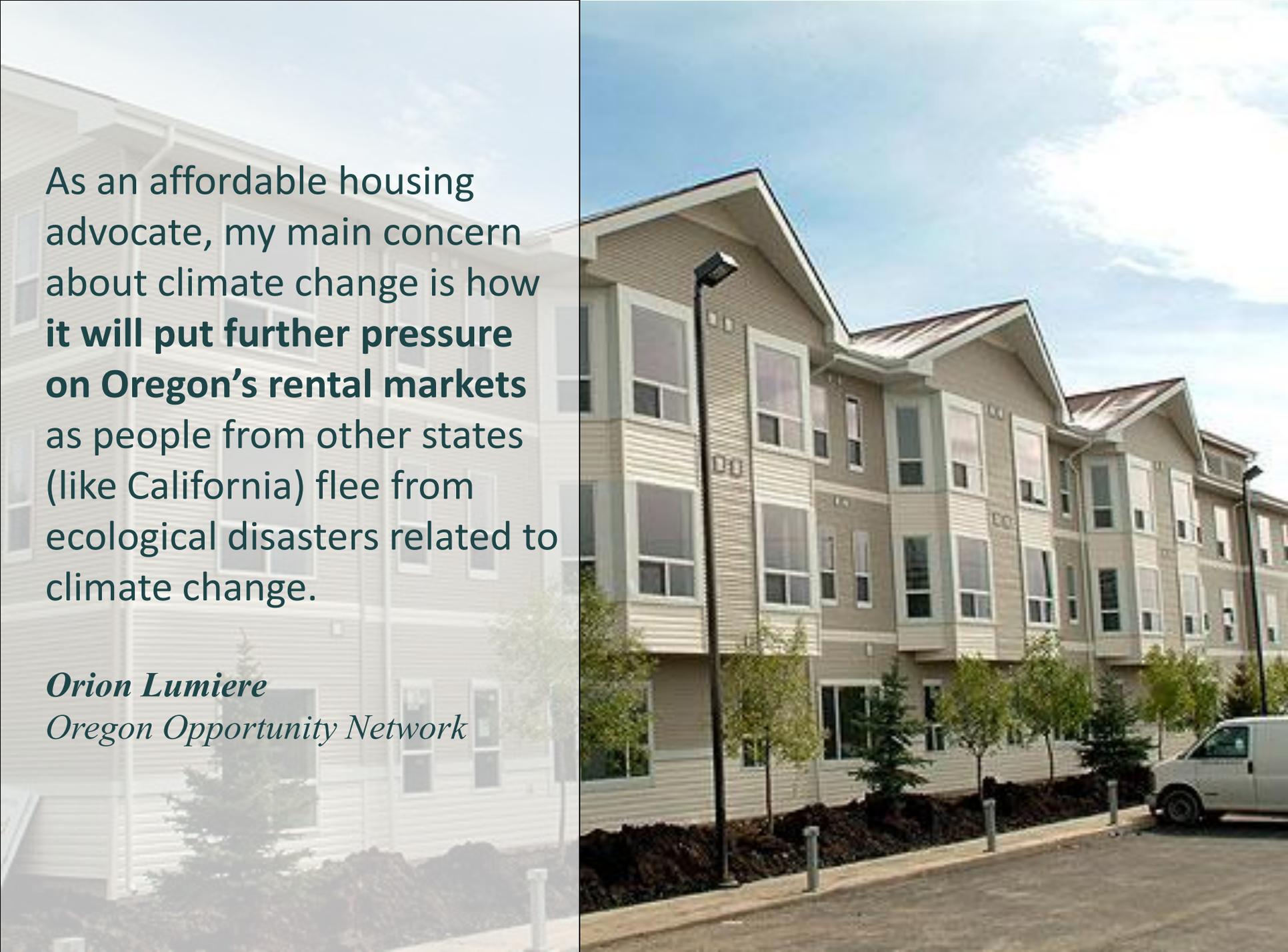
*Larry Koster,*

*Outdoor Recreation Business Owner*



**Building resilience is vital for all stakeholders** including medical providers, patients, health care leaders, organizations and communities, since a true health system transformation cannot simply occur within an exam room.

Safina Koreishi, MD MPH  
Neighborhood Medical Center



As an affordable housing advocate, my main concern about climate change is how **it will put further pressure on Oregon's rental markets** as people from other states (like California) flee from ecological disasters related to climate change.

*Orion Lumiere*

*Oregon Opportunity Network*

A portrait of Jes Larson, a woman with long blonde hair, wearing a black jacket and a black and white plaid scarf. She is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

Jes Larson • NW Pilot Project

As climate change brings more severe weather to Oregon, volunteers are called upon to ensure that everyone has a safe place to go. Homelessness is dangerous every night and **this danger is only heightened when severe weather strikes.**

*Jes Larson*  
*NW Pilot Project*



Susannah Morgan • CEO, Oregon Food Banks

When food prices rise, **the effects on Oregonians experiencing hunger can be crippling.** Already forced to make tough choices between paying for food, rent, utilities or medical care, rising food prices make these decisions even tougher.

**Susannah Morgan, CEO**  
Oregon Food Bank



**The worst thing on the horizon for mental health care is climate change and the economic stresses it will cause, falling disproportionately on those already close to poverty, where the vulnerabilities are greatest.**

Jim Phelps, MD  
Director of Mental Health  
Integration, Samaritan Health  
Services

**Information about climate change affects our moods, personal behaviors, our attitudes, and our outlook about the future.** For parents, this includes thoughts about how to best provide for their children. There is a need to provide support for those who are feeling alarm, alienation, or despair.

**Thomas Doherty**  
*Psychologist*



Our community recognizes the devastating impacts of trauma, chronic stress, and adversity. **Together we are building resilience and rescripting our future.**

Trudy Townsend  
North Wasco County School District





I'm interested in understanding the links between climate change and food-borne illness in Oregon. **We need to equip our next generation with the kind of climate and health data that can save lives.**

Lexie Zhang  
OHSU



We are changing and evolving as we learn more. Every year there is more to know and more opportunity to participate in sustainable practices. **The opportunities will lie in the hands of those who figure out how to navigate the changes.**

Lyf Gildersleeve  
Flying Fish Seafood

We are trying to preserve and restore First Foods as they become further threatened by climate change. The salmon provide complete nutrition, they nourish our forests. Salmon is not just a food source, but a part of us and a part of this place... this is spiritual.

***Delia Sanchez***  
*Grand Round Tribe*





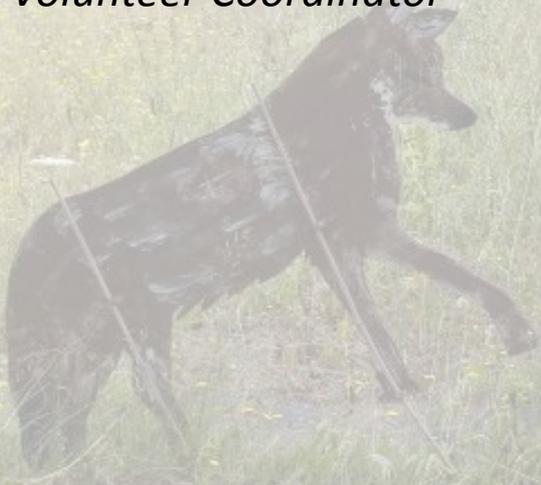
As I think about the declaration of drought for Crook County in 2014 and the storms across the country this year, it's so critical we think about our future and our children's future. The changes are happening as we speak, and it should be a call to action.

***Muriel DeLaVergne-Brown, MPH, RN***  
*Public Health Director, Crooke Co.*

When I think about climate change, it's so easy to think about gloom and doom, but it's so much more motivating to think about it as an opportunity to come together and do things better.

***Bonnie Shoffner***

*Restoration Volunteer Coordinator*



# What did project participants say?

“It was interesting to think on a deeper level about how climate change will impact my overall community.”

“I couldn’t make the connection initially but then I saw how relevant it was.”

“It helped me to learn more about impacts on Oregon and what others are doing to make a change.”

# What did project participants say?

“I learned a lot through the many different perspectives that I would not have thought of myself”

“I learned a lot more than I realized I would through this process.”

“I’m relieved that people are working on this issue - how climate change is affecting human health – and I’m grateful for the opportunity to engage”

Climate change  
is happening in  
Oregon

Our health  
and safety  
are at risk

Some  
communities will  
be affected more  
than others

We can work  
together to protect  
our families and  
communities

[www.healthoregon.org/climatechange](http://www.healthoregon.org/climatechange)

Oregon  
**Health**  
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