

# Sage Reference

## Encyclopedia of Global Warming & Climate Change

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## Oregon Climate Service

The Oregon Climate Service (OCS) provides monthly climate statistics for multiple climate stations throughout the state of Oregon. The OCS is located on the main campus of Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon, and serves as the official repository for state weather and climate information in Oregon. It is affiliated with Oregon State University's College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences (COAS) and the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute (OCCRI). The OCS is an American Association of State Climatologists (AASC) Recognized State Climate Office. The OCS, along with its sister institute the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute, has played a key role in researching issues related to global warming, such as El Niño/Southern Oscillation and its influence on western climate, climate change, drought and flood studies, precipitation mapping (the PRISM project), and wind modeling.

The stated mission of the OCS is to collect, manage, and maintain Oregon weather and climate data, provide weather and climate information to those within and outside the state of Oregon, educate the people of Oregon on current and emerging climate issues, and perform independent research related to weather and climate issues. The OCS acts in a liaison capacity with the following climate centers and offices: National Climatic Data Center, Western Regional Climate Center, National Weather Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Climate Prediction Center, American Association of State Climatologists, and other state climate offices.

The OCS provides a variety of services. On average, the OCS handles many telephone or electronic data requests per year, which total over 5,000 inquiries annually. The OCS also answers media requests, gives public presentations on Oregon climate, and provides a full range of climate-related services to both the public and private sectors. The OCS publishes an online monthly newsletter highlighting the past month's weather, seasonal outlooks, climate-related impacts, and other interesting weather and climate news pertaining to Oregon. The organization electronically publishes the *Oregon Weather Summary*, a monthly report on current climatic conditions in Oregon. The data summaries and reports published by the OCS include climate-zone summaries, an agricultural regions summary, local climatological data, and precipitation maps of Oregon, Oregon counties, other U.S. states, and the United States in general.

Data compiled by the Oregon Climate Service may be accessed via the Internet and includes monthly means and extremes reported from stations throughout Oregon, dating back to 1961. Parameters contained in this dataset are mean temperature, extreme mean, precipitation, and degree days. Precipitation evaluations are measured in hundredths of an inch.

The OCS is partially funded by the Oregon state government. Philip Mote serves as director of the Oregon Climate Service as well as the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute. Mote replaced the previous director, George H. Taylor, who retired in May 2008. Taylor was deemed a “climate change skeptic” by many in Oregon and had a long-running tense relationship with the Oregon state government, including Oregon legislators. Governor Ted Kulongoski asked the president of Oregon State University to stop Taylor from calling himself the state climatologist because of Taylor's skeptical stance on global warming. Taylor was widely known as Oregon's state climatologist since 1991. However, the position was discontinued, along with federal funding in the late 1980s. Currently, Oregon has no state climatologist position.

### See Also

- [Oregon](#)
- [Oregon State University](#)

## Further Readings

Oregon Climate Change Research Institute. <http://occri.net> (Accessed July 2011).

Oregon Climate Service. <http://www.ocs.orst.edu> (Accessed July 2011).

Tomlinson, Stuart. “Controversial Head of Oregon Climate Service Steps Aside.” *Oregonian* (February 21, 2008).

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