

Stressor Definitions

Thurston Regional Planning Council

October 2016

Below is a list eight climate change stressors defined by the project team and the U.S. EPA workbook for developing risk-based adaptation plans, [*Being Prepared for Climate Change*](#).

- **Warmer Summer:** This stressor encompasses the risks of the region's warm months (April-September) being warmer than they have been historically.
- **Warmer Winter:** This stressor encompasses the risks of the region's cool months (October-March) being warmer than they have been historically.
- **Warmer Water:** This stressor encompasses the risks of warming affecting the chemical, biological and/or physical characteristics of the region's freshwater or marine waterbodies during any season.
- **Increasing Drought:** This stressor encompasses the risks of drought — a deficiency in precipitation over an extended period — increasing in frequency and intensity.
- **Increasing Storminess:** This stressor encompasses the risks of "heavy" 24-hour precipitation events (top 1 percent) — increasing in frequency and intensity.
- **Sea-Level Rise:** This stressor encompasses the risks of Puget Sound being higher than it was historically and the effects on the region's shorelines and areas farther inland.
- **Ocean Acidification:** This stressor encompasses the risks of Puget Sound absorbing more atmospheric carbon dioxide.
- **Population Change:** This stressor encompasses the risks of climate change-induced displacement and migration (temporary or permanent) within, to and from our region.