U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
IN COOPERATION WITH LOWER UMPQUA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CLIMATOGRAPHY OF THE UNITED STATES NO. 20 — 35

CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY

LATITUDE 43° 42' N
LONGITUDE 124° 07' W
ELEV. (GROUND) 60 Feet

STATION REEDSPORT, OREGON

MEANS AND EXTREMES FOR PERIOD Means: 1941 - 1970 Extremes: 1937 - 1970

Month	Temperature (°F) Means: Daily maximum	Daily minimum	Monthly	Extremes: Record highest	Year	Record lowest	Year	** Mean degree days	Precipitation Totals (Inches): Mean	Greatest daily	Year	Snow, Sleet: Mean	Maximum monthly	Year	Greatest daily	Year	Mean number of days: Precip. .10 inch or more	Temperatures: Max. 90° and above	Max. 32° and below	Min. 32° and below	Min. 0° and below	Month
(a)	30	30	30	33		33		30	30	34		30	34		34		30	30	30	30	30	
Jan	50.5	37.1	43.8	67	1960	13	1962	657	13.51	4.11	1953	1.5	32.0	1969	12.5	1969	18	0	*	8	0	Jan
Feb	53.9	38.5	46.2	75	1968	17	1962	526	9.33	4.09	1961	0.2	2.5	1952	2.0	1959+	14	0	0	5	0	Feb
Mar	55.2	38.1	46.7	77	1939	25	1960+	567	9.41	4.03	1938	0.1	1.7	1954	1.2	1954	16	0	0	4	0	Mar
Apr	58.0	40.4	49.2	90	1947	26	1968	474	5.44	1.85	1948	T	T	1955+	T	1955+	12	*	0	2	0	Apr
May	62.3	44.2	53.3	96	1939	31	1950	363	3.57	1.84	1963	T	T	1953+	T	1953+	8	*	0	*	0	May
Jun	66.3	48.3	57.3	92	1966+	31	1949	231	1.95	3.30	1937	0.0	0.0		0.0		5	*	0	*	0	Jun
Jul	69.5	50.4	60.0	94	1952	39	1962	155	0.61	1.44	1947	0.0	0.0		0.0		2	*	0	0	0	Jul
Aug	70.5	51.2	60.9	97	1944	41	1960+	127	0.98	1.18	1968	0.0	0.0		0.0		2	*	0	0	0	Aug
Sep	70.3	49.1	59.7	96	1958+	31	1970	159	2.30	3.11	1937	0.0	0.0		0.0		5	*	0	*	0	Sep
Oct	64.6	45.7	55.2	88	1958	28	1949	463	6.33	5.24	1956	0.0	0.0		0.0		10	0	0	*	0	Oct
Nov	56.7	41.5	49.1	73	1969+	23	1961	477	11.26	5.02	1960	T	0.8	1955	0.5	1955	15	0	0	3	0	Nov
Dec	51.7	38.7	45.2	69	1938	19	1964	614	12.44	5.15	1954	0.3	4.0	1964	3.0	1964	17	0	*	5	0	Dec
Year	60.8	43.6	52.2	97	Aug 1944	13	Jan 1962	4813	77.13	5.24	Oct 1937	2.1	32.0	Jan 1969	12.5	Jan 1969	124	*	*	27	0	Year

(a) Average length of record, years.

T Trace, an amount too small to measure.

** Base 65°F

+ Also on earlier dates, months, or years.

* Less than one half.

CLIMATE OF REEDSPORT, OREGON

Reedsport is a coastal city situated near the central part of Oregon's coastline. The city is 4 miles inland and located on the south bank of the Umpqua River. The river channel varies from 1/4 to 1/2 mile in width along its westward meandering 10-mile course across fairly level delta lands before emptying into the Pacific Ocean near Winchester Bay at a point 5 miles southwest of Reedsport. The open beach and delta areas give way immediately to heavily timbered hills that rise 200-300 feet above mean sea level nearby. These coastal hills blend into the remnants of the Coast Range and reach heights of 1,000-3,000 feet just 15 miles to the east. The main body of the Coast Range merges with the Cascade Mountains another 50 miles east. This rugged forest terrain makes up most of the intervening distance cut only by the Umpqua and a few other river valleys large enough for some farming and an occasional small community or town.

The mild marine climate typical of Oregon's Pacific coastal area provides Reedsport with prevailing airflow from the west. The arriving air masses moving onshore, after several days' travel over the ocean, have temperatures near that of the water and their moisture content is high or near the saturation point. During the late fall, winter and early spring months when land temperatures are considerably lower than those of the ocean, the cooling of this air begins as soon as it crosses the coastline due to both contact with this cooler surface and its forced lifting over the higher land elevations. This results in much cloudiness and frequent rains at this time of the year. Nearly 78% of the annual 77-inch total occurs during the five months of November through March. Snowfall occurs in 2 winters out of 5 and amounts are usually very light, melting within a matter of hours. Winter storms are most intense in January with strongest average winds recorded out of the northwest. Rainy winters are eased by some sunshine 25-30% of the time. Spring rains decrease sharply by late May when prevailing winds switch to north-northwesterly after prevailing out of the southeast from October through April.

In the warmer months, as the land temperature increases, a monsoon type circulation is initiated. The air over land is heated and forced upward being replaced by the cooler air moving in from the ocean, often bringing with it some fog and low stratus clouds. Sunshine reaches a maximum of 50% during summer but fog persists only a short distance inland about 25% of the time during the peak months of August through November. Days of precipitation increase sharply with the first week of October and wet weather is well established by November when sunshine is reduced to 1 day out of 3.

Annual precipitation in this western part of Douglas County varies from 66 inches along the beach to 77 inches in the Reedsport area and increases up to 90-100 inches along the crest of the Coast Range about 20 miles east of the coastline. Reedsport rainfall for individual years has ranged from 56.22 inches in 1944 to 99.67 inches in 1953. The city receives 46% of its annual moisture in winter, 24% in spring, 4% in summer and 26% in fall. Light summer moisture results from very few storms moving across this part of the Pacific Ocean at this season and thunderstorms seldom form locally. Daily rainfall of 0.50 inch or more will occur on 55 days a year while totals of 1.00 or more number only 15 days. For a 50-year return period, one could expect a maximum 6-hour total of 3.2 inches or a 24-hour total of 7.0 inches. Monthly snowfall of 3-5 inches will only occur in 1 winter out of 6 with maximum depths of 1-3 inches. The rare occurrence of 32.0 inches of snow during January 1969 provided a record 19 inches on the ground.

The natural air conditioning effect of the Pacific Ocean produces a very mild year-around climate for Reedsport. The fairly uniform cycle of temperatures produces only a 17 degree difference between the mean temperature of January, the coldest month, and August, the warmest. Comfortable days and nights are also aided by a 24-hour range of temperature which averages 13 degrees in January and varies up to a 19-degree range in July and August. Annual temperature extremes (graphed on the reverse side) show that only 1 year out of 5 will be cooler than 19° or warmer than 97°. The 231-day growing season for Reedsport is based on the average date of last 32° or lower temperature in the spring and that of the first occurrence in fall. Latest spring freezes have varied from January 1 in 1941 to May 28 in 1966 while earliest in fall have varied from September 13 in 1970 to none in the fall of 1950 when 33° was the coldest recorded minimum.

Statistical Likelihood (In Percent) That Various Temperatures Will Occur In Spring After Dates Indicated

Tempt.	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%	20%	10%
24°	#	#	#	#	#	1/10	1/23	2/2	2/14
28°	#	1/9	1/28	2/7	2/17	2/25	3/6	3/14	3/28
32°	2/15	3/3	3/14	3/24	4/2	4/12	4/21	5/3	5/19

Statistical Likelihood (In Percent) That Various Temperatures Will Occur In Fall Before Dates Indicated

Tempt.	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%
32°	10/19	10/29	11/6	11/13	11/19	11/25	12/1	12/10	12/22
28°	11/12	11/22	12/1	12/11	12/25	#	#	#	#
24°	12/6	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#

#A temperature this low does not occur with this great a frequency.

Climatological interpolations provide these additional details for the Reedsport area. The annual average daily cloudiness of 6.7 tenths of sky cover provides about 65 clear days a year with 87 days partly cloudy. Of the remaining cloudy days, only 12-14 such days are recorded for summer months. Early morning readings of relative humidity average 90-96% year-around while mid-afternoon values vary from 82% in December to 73% from April through July. Hourly wind speed averages from 6.8 mph in October to 11.7 mph in July. Annual lake evaporation averages 24 inches with 73% of this loss occurring from May through October.

The year around mild climate of the Reedsport area favors its varied economic activities. Major industries (Continued on reverse side)

Stanley G. Holbrook, Climatologist for Oregon
M-10 Multnomah Building, Portland, Oregon

October 1971

Average Temperature (°F)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1941	45.4	46.4	48.2	48.0	53.8	56.2	61.8	-	60.5	56.9	51.2	45.7	-
1942	44.1	46.2	47.6	51.6	54.2	58.2	63.7	63.2	60.0	57.8	49.2	47.4	53.6
1943	41.6	49.4	47.9	51.4	52.2	56.4	58.8	60.2	61.0	54.8	50.0	43.2	52.2
1944	44.1	44.0	46.4	48.6	53.2	56.4	59.4	61.2	60.1	57.4	47.6	43.7	51.8
1945	45.5	46.2	45.2	47.8	53.8	56.6	58.5	58.5	57.6	53.0	48.2	45.1	51.3
1946	43.4	44.3	45.8	48.4	53.9	56.4	59.8	59.0	57.8	50.9	45.7	44.0	50.8
1947	41.0	47.3	49.1	52.2	54.2	56.8	60.6	59.4	58.6	55.4	48.8	45.3	52.4
1948	43.8	42.4	44.1	46.1	53.4	59.5	60.2	62.1	59.5	53.2	-	-	-
1949	-	-	-	-	-	57.3	58.0	60.5	59.5	50.6	52.8	43.7	-
1950	40.3	48.4	47.8	49.1	50.0	57.1	-	-	-	-	52.5	52.6	-
1951	46.2	47.1	45.3	50.9	55.4	59.2	62.0	61.5	59.0	56.4	50.3	42.7	53.0
1952	42.0	45.3	45.2	50.1	53.8	55.0	59.7	60.7	59.8	57.1	45.3	45.4	51.6
1953	49.4	45.6	46.4	48.9	52.8	54.8	59.9	61.7	62.0	56.5	51.6	46.5	53.0
1954	44.5	48.2	45.3	48.6	53.7	55.4	58.1	59.8	59.5	54.7	52.3	44.6	52.1
1955	43.0	42.7	44.4	45.7	50.1	55.5	57.9	58.4	59.1	55.3	48.4	45.5	50.5
1956	44.2	41.0	45.6	49.7	54.9	55.7	60.7	60.8	59.4	53.6	46.7	44.6	51.4
1957	38.6	47.1	48.3	50.6	55.3	59.0	59.9	60.8	62.2	55.0	47.6	46.9	52.6
1958	47.4	50.8	45.2	50.6	55.7	60.7	62.2	61.7	60.4	56.0	49.3	49.0	54.1
1959	46.8	45.0	47.2	50.3	53.3	58.1	59.3	59.5	56.9	55.7	49.4	45.1	52.2
1960	43.0	45.1	48.4	51.0	52.5	56.9	57.7	58.1	58.3	55.2	48.6	45.2	51.7
1961	47.6	47.6	47.7	49.0	52.1	59.3	61.0	61.8	57.1	53.9	45.4	44.3	52.2
1962	40.9	45.8	46.1	51.1	51.2	55.9	58.5	61.7	60.4	55.3	50.2	45.8	51.9
1963	39.7	52.1	46.6	48.0	53.2	57.1	59.7	60.8	62.2	56.4	49.7	45.4	52.6
1964	44.1	44.8	45.6	47.5	51.1	56.9	60.1	60.7	58.2	56.5	46.3	44.4	51.4
1965	44.3	45.2	47.2	50.6	50.8	54.7	59.1	63.3	58.8	57.8	50.7	42.0	52.0
1966	44.6	43.5	45.5	50.6	52.4	58.8	59.9	61.0	62.0	55.0	49.5	46.2	52.4
1967	45.2	46.3	45.2	46.4	53.9	59.1	61.2	63.4	63.6	56.4	50.6	43.3	52.9
1968	43.8	51.6	49.7	48.0	53.6	58.9	61.3	62.4	60.7	54.8	49.4	43.7	53.2
1969	39.7	42.2	47.6	49.3	56.2	59.7	59.9	60.7	60.2	54.8	49.5	46.1	52.2
1970	46.5	48.7	49.2	47.4	54.1	58.0	60.1	59.8	57.3	53.5	48.6	43.7	52.2

Total Precipitation (Inches)

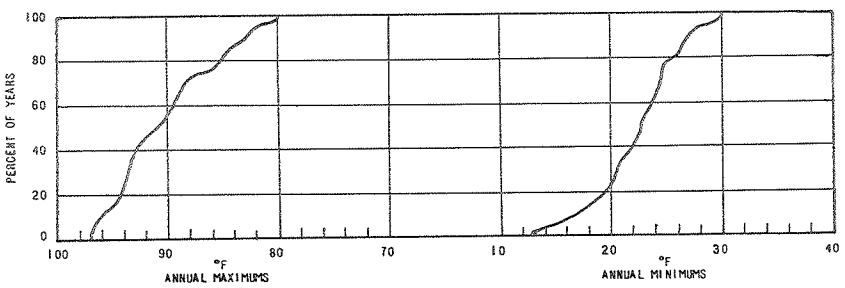
Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1941	12.61	3.53	3.83	4.06	5.63	2.66	.09	1.67	4.18	3.48	11.75	19.60	73.09
1942	9.12	8.24	4.97	5.02	6.28	3.09	1.11	T	.62	2.90	18.91	20.47	80.73
1943	9.96	6.20	11.29	5.44	3.34	4.00	.81	1.95	.38	12.34	6.61	4.52	66.84
1944	7.07	8.35	6.58	7.40	2.88	1.35	.10	.08	2.18	3.92	11.27	5.04	56.22
1945	9.61	12.14	14.62	8.15	5.43	.40	1.17	.43	3.04	1.74	21.15	14.36	92.24
1946	11.83	9.44	9.46	3.27	1.42	2.93	.57	.46	2.76	8.10	17.27	10.90	78.41
1947	7.50	4.48	7.88	5.06	.29	6.40	2.53	1.08	2.30	16.72	7.44	8.37	70.05
1948	10.44	13.63	8.68	10.26	6.10	.77	1.39	1.26	4.72	4.05	-	-	-
1949	-	-	-	-	-	.25	.30	.29	2.77	3.93	9.00	-	-
1950	21.21	10.00	9.45	4.21	1.96	1.74	-	-	-	-	14.73	10.67	-
1951	16.43	10.49	10.99	2.42	4.57	T	.31	.25	2.02	11.51	10.04	12.07	81.10
1952	16.30	9.39	10.69	1.95	.97	3.30	.11	.19	.75	1.41	3.19	14.33	62.58
1953	20.17	10.32	11.49	5.57	6.89	2.29	.17	3.28	2.74	5.32	17.31	14.12	99.67
1954	17.82	8.38	7.56	5.65	1.24	3.30	.92	2.80	3.21	7.46	7.97	16.22	82.53
1955	7.82	8.20	10.76	11.63	1.55	.89	2.08	.00	2.41	11.06	12.19	23.25	91.84
1956	22.07	11.83	7.17	.97	3.28	2.40	.02	.18	2.18	11.92	2.19	8.51	72.72
1957	6.36	9.09	15.64	3.74	2.85	1.27	.44	1.20	1.41	5.86	3.95	14.72	66.53
1958	13.12	16.90	8.39	8.24	1.57	.98	.47	.17	1.95	3.38	14.44	10.27	79.88
1959	21.08	10.98	8.13	1.94	3.15	1.76	.50	.45	5.66	4.90	2.81	4.99	66.35
1960	12.00	10.70	11.16	6.51	10.27	.31	.02	1.35	.68	5.23	17.88	4.94	81.05
1961	8.60	20.34	14.79	6.20	6.63	1.07	.28	1.05	.88	8.14	12.00	8.96	88.94
1962	3.33	9.99	13.63	4.68	3.73	1.08	.15	1.69	2.19	7.23	11.43	5.35	64.48
1963	4.13	9.28	10.34	11.24	5.61	2.42	1.19	.16	2.07	6.44	14.93	7.85	75.66
1964	18.58	3.96	8.76	3.61	2.48	3.48	1.48	1.17	.93	2.04	13.39	22.01	81.89
1965	19.40	4.07	2.46	6.18	2.64	.91	.37	.47	.10	2.29	13.41	15.04	67.34
1966	14.95	6.96	16.52	2.24	1.17	.57	.59	.43	3.10	3.93	15.04	12.63	78.13
1967	16.78	7.00	11.38	7.26	1.87	.73	.02	T	1.88	8.47	7.63	11.35	74.37
1968	14.25	10.64	8.07	2.94	3.58	3.11	.40	6.06	1.91	9.27	14.36	19.94	94.53
1969	18.11	7.57	4.07	4.41	2.42	4.07	.15	.08	4.95	6.33	5.02	15.46	72.64
1970	21.04	8.47	4.06	7.38	3.68	1.07	.08	.11	2.81	4.15	9.30	13.94	76.09

CLIMATE OF REEDSPORT, OREGON (Continued)

include logging, lumber and plywood mills, commercial and charter fishing, and sea food processing. Some dairy and beef stock are raised and lilly and daffodil bulbs grown. Extensive recreational opportunities in this well-known coastal area include sandy beaches, picturesque shoreline, extensive sand dunes, trout streams, lake and deep sea fishing, deer and other wildlife hunting and numerous State park camping facilities. The natural beauty of the nearby wooded hills and Coast Range also affords many pleasures for the hiker, photographer and naturalist.

BELOW IS SHOWN GRAPHICALLY THE PERCENT OF YEARS MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM TEMPERATURES HAVE BEEN REACHED AT REEDSPORT DURING THE PERIOD 1937 - 1970

(FIGURES ACROSS THE BOTTOM OF THE GRAPH INDICATE THE RANGE OF VALUES INTO WHICH THE HIGHEST AND LOWEST ANNUAL TEMPERATURES HAVE BEEN GROUPED. THE VERTICAL VALUES INDICATE THE PERCENT OF YEARS TEMPERATURES AT LEAST THAT HIGH OR THAT LOW HAVE BEEN REACHED.)



STATION HISTORY

AN OFFICIAL COOPERATIVE WEATHER STATION REPORTING BOTH TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION WAS ESTABLISHED AT REEDSPORT ON JUNE 1, 1937, WITH MR. OSCAR WIREN AS OBSERVER. THIS ORIGINAL LOCATION AT HIS HOME WAS THREE-FOURTHS OF A MILE SOUTHWEST OF THE POST OFFICE AT AN ELEVATION OF ABOUT 25 FEET MEAN SEA LEVEL. THE SUCCEEDING OBSERVERS SHOWN BELOW HAVE MAINTAINED THE REEDSPORT WEATHER RECORD WITHIN A 1- BY 2-MILE AREA IN THE SOUTHWEST QUADRANT OF THE CITY AND AT ELEVATIONS VARYING FROM 12 FEET TO ITS PRESENT SITE OF 60 FEET MEAN SEA LEVEL:

KATHRYN STEPHENS ---------- OCTOBER 1, 1939 - OCTOBER 31, 1948
LOUIS A. YOUNG ---------- MAY 12, 1949 - MAY 20, 1950
RICHARD M. MILES ---------- MAY 21, 1950 - OCTOBER 18, 1950
CLYDE NUNNALLY ---------- OCTOBER 19, 1950 - NOVEMBER 16, 1970
BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINI-
STRATION SUBSTATION ---------- NOVEMBER 17, 1970 - PRESENT

MR. CLYDE NUNNALLY SERVED THE LONGEST WITH OVER 20 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE. HIS COMPLETE AND ACCURATE RECORDS REFLECTED HIS KEEN INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT OF WEATHER RECORDS WHICH PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN HIS SUPERVISING DUTIES AT THE REEDSPORT OFFICE OF THE LINCOLN COUNTY P.U.D. UPON THE RETIREMENT OF MR. NUNNALLY AND HIS MOVE FROM REEDSPORT, THE CLIMATOLOGICAL STATION WAS THEN MOVED TO ITS PRESENT LOCATION AT THE BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION SUBSTATION LOCATED 1.5 MILES WEST-SOUTHWEST OF THE POST OFFICE. A HIGH QUALITY RECORD IS BEING MAINTAINED BY MR. JOHN PELTIER, SUBSTATION SUPERVISOR, AND HIS ASSISTANT, MR. LANE TOMPKINS. CHANGE OF OBSERVERS IN THE EARLIER YEARS OF RECORD PROVIDED A TOTAL OF 14 MONTHS OF MISSING RECORD DURING THE YEARS 1939, 1948, 1949 AND 1950.

EARLIEST CLIMATOLOGICAL RECORDS IN THE AREA WERE KEPT AT UMPQUA LIGHTHOUSE STATION DURING THE PERIOD JANUARY 1915 THROUGH MAY 1937. ONLY PRECIPITATION WAS OBSERVED AT THE INITIAL SAND DUNE SITE, BUT TEMPERATURES WERE ADDED IN NOVEMBER 1921 WHEN THE EQUIPMENT WAS MOVED NEARER THE LIGHTHOUSE INTO A CLEARING AMONG SMALL TIMBER ABOUT ONE-HALF MILE EAST OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN AND 2 MILES SOUTHWEST OF WINCHESTER BAY. CAPTAIN OSCAR WIREN SERVED AS LIGHT KEEPER AND OBSERVER AT THE UMPQUA STATION FROM OCTOBER 1921 UNTIL HIS RETIREMENT LATE IN 1924 AND LATER SERVED FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS AS THE FIRST OFFICIAL CLIMATOLOGICAL OBSERVER AT REEDSPORT.