

Hammersley
Futures

HANYS

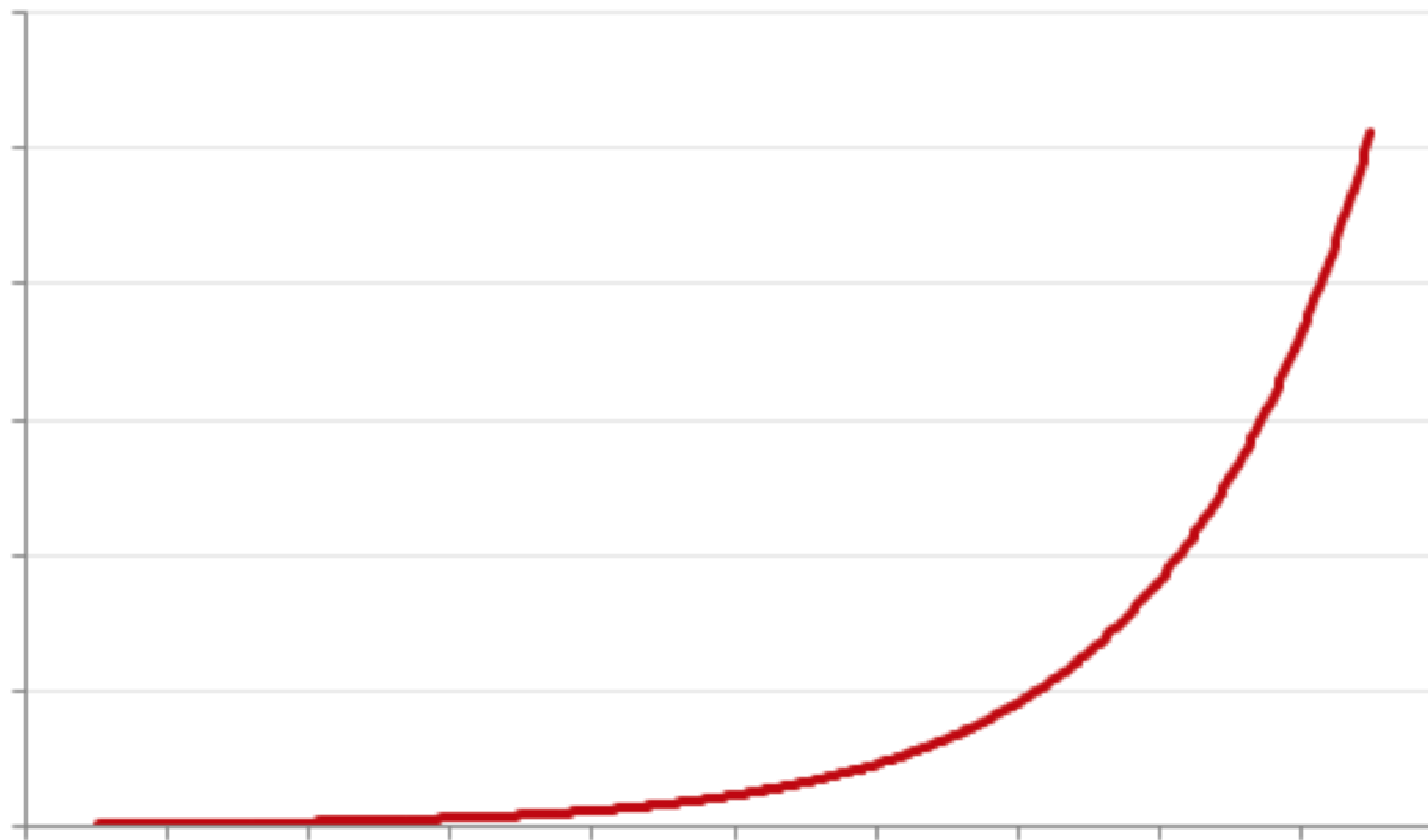
Ben Hammersley, June 2023

www.hammersleyfutures.com

Good Morning, Let's Talk about Tomorrow

Situated Within a Context

The Obligatory Slide



Bell's Law

“Roughly every decade a new, lower priced computer class forms based on a new programming platform, network, and interface resulting in new usage and the establishment of a new industry.”

Therefore: AI

But: *AI* is lots of things.

Chat, Images Generation, Recommendation Systems, Self-Driving Cars, Fuzzy Heuristics, Link Prediction, Vectors of Every Form, All Sorts of Other BS

If it is written in Python, it is Machine Learning
If it is written in PowerPoint, it is AI

But: we need to actually understand what this is. And what it isn't.

Large Language Models

They're Large Models of Language.

Therefore: they are very good at predicting
the next few “words”

This can be unbelievably cool.

But: they can only do so based on their
training data.

Image Generation Works the Same Way

“Film Stars Working Regular Jobs”



But there's no "knowing" there



We confuse
“doing something only an *intelligent* person can do”
with
“this machine is the same as an *intelligent person*”

They are not the same thing.

Human Intelligence Is Super Weird

Facts, Truthiness, Politeness, Hidden
Desires, Politics

- All very “human” things

Please Think of an Apple



1



2



3



4



5

Bedside Manner, Possibly

Overall, it's super early.
But the easiest jobs to replace will always be administrative.

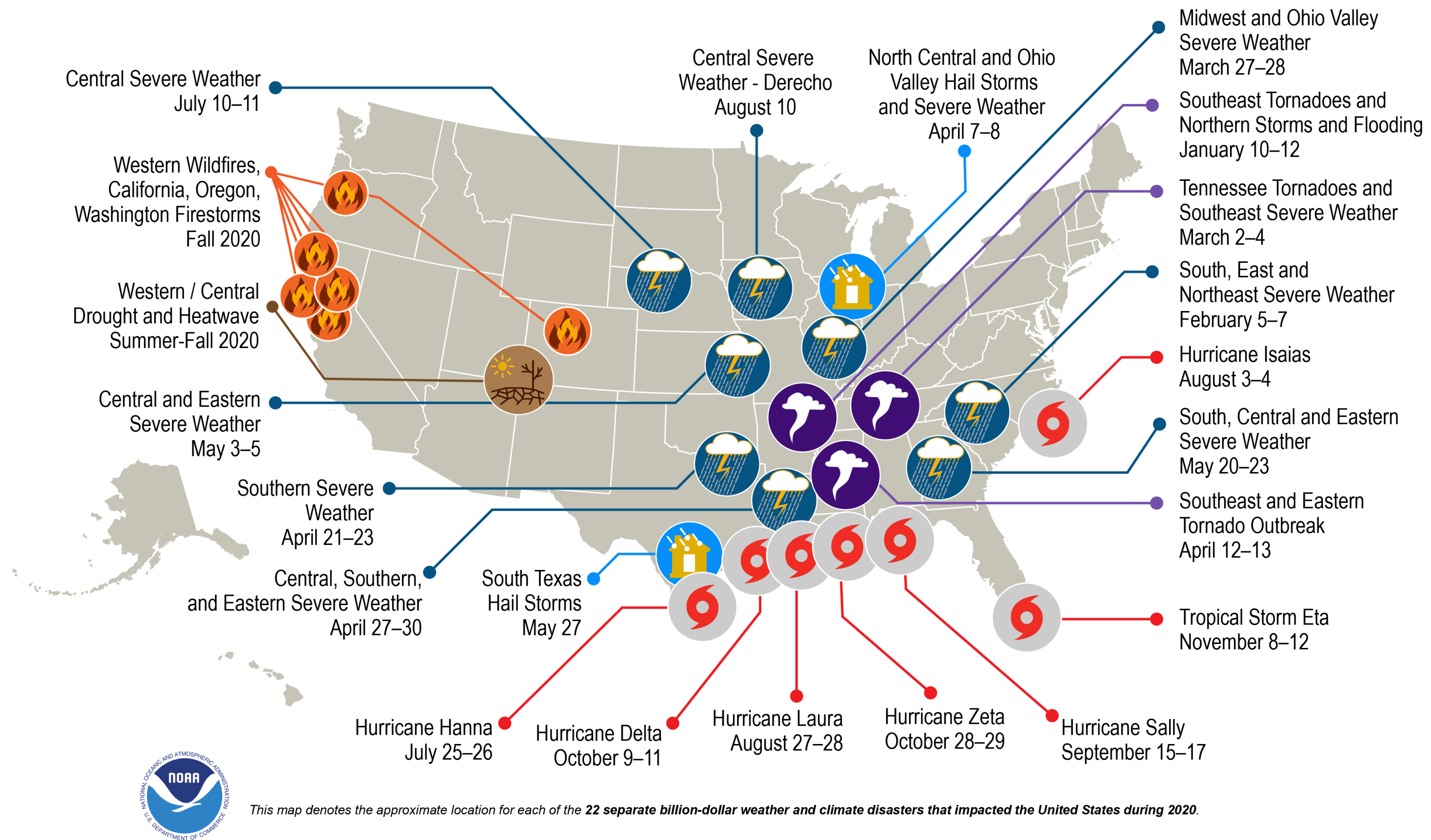
Meanwhile, Bad Things

Medical risks

- Access to healthcare
 - Access to healthcare without bankruptcy
 - Access to nutrition
 - Access to education
 - Access to harm reduction
 - Access to safe sexual health
 - Access to preventatives
-
- All in the context of interconnectedness and contagion

Climate Risk

U.S. 2020 Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters



Infrastructure Overwhelm



Portland Streetcar
@PDXStreetcar



In case you're wondering why we're canceling service for the day, here's what the heat is doing to our power cables.



7:07 PM · Jun 27, 2021 · Hootsuite Inc.

Cognitive Risk



Political Consequence Risk

The Impossibility but Necessity of Prediction

World Building and Capacity Building

Rules for World Building

- Everything will be true somewhere
- Energy to move forward can also be used to stay still
- Things exist in the world they grew up in
- Any believable prediction will be wrong
- Any correct prediction will sound insane
- But magical thinking never works

Galileo and Kodak

Capacity Building and Adaptive Futurism

Constant Legacy-Free Reinvention