



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 15-03

DETERMINATION OF A STATE OF DROUGHT EMERGENCY IN CROOK, HARNEY, AND KLAMATH COUNTIES DUE TO DROUGHT, LOW SNOW PACK LEVELS, AND LOW WATER CONDITIONS

At the request of Crook County (by Order 2015-15 dated March 18, 2015), Harney County (by Resolution 2015-03 dated March 18, 2015), and Klamath County (by Resolution 2015-0317 dated March 17, 2015), and based on the recommendations of the Drought Council and the Water Availability Committee, and pursuant to ORS 401.165 and ORS 536.740, I find the continuing dry conditions, low snowpack, and lack of precipitation have caused natural and economic disaster conditions in Crook, Harney, and Klamath Counties.

Projected forecasts are not expected to alleviate the severe drought conditions, and the drought is having significant economic impacts on agriculture, livestock, and natural resources in Crook, Harney, and Klamath Counties.

The dry conditions present hardships for these communities: crops, agricultural and recreational investments are at risk; animals and plants that rely on Oregon's surface water supplies are threatened; and the risk of wildfires across the state is greatly increased. Current conditions are being monitored and analyzed by state agencies including the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Water Resources, and the Oregon Office of Emergency Management.

A timely response to the severe drought conditions is vital to the safety of persons, property and economic security of the citizens and businesses of Crook, Harney, and Klamath Counties. I am therefore declaring that a severe, continuing drought emergency exists in Crook, Harney, and Klamath Counties, and directing the following actions.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND DIRECTED:

I. The Oregon Department of Agriculture is directed to coordinate and provide assistance in seeking federal resources to mitigate drought conditions and assist in agricultural recovery in Crook, Harney, and Klamath Counties.

II. The Department of Water Resources and the Water Resources Commission are directed to coordinate and provide assistance to water users in Crook, Harney, and Klamath Counties as the Department and Commission determine deem necessary and appropriate in accordance with ORS 536.700 to 536.780.



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III. The Office of Emergency Management is directed to coordinate and assist as needed with assessment and mitigation activities to address current and projected conditions in Crook, Harney, and Klamath Counties.

IV. All other state agencies are directed to coordinate with the above agencies and to provide appropriate state resources as determined essential to assist affected political subdivisions and water users in Crook, Harney, and Klamath Counties.

V. This executive Order expires on December 31, 2015.

Done at Salem, Oregon, this 6th day of April, 2015.



Handwritten signature of Kate Brown in blue ink.

KATE BROWN
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Handwritten signature of Jeanne Atkins in blue ink.

Jeanne Atkins
SECRETARY OF STATE