



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 18-12

**DETERMINATION OF A STATE OF DROUGHT EMERGENCY IN
WHEELER COUNTY DUE TO LOW STREAMFLOW AND HOT, DRY
CONDITIONS**

Pursuant to ORS 536.740, I find that extremely low streamflows and hot, dry conditions are likely to cause natural and economic disaster conditions in Wheeler County, resulting in a severe, continuing drought emergency in that county during 2018.

Forecasted water conditions are not expected to improve, and drought is likely to have significant economic impacts on the agriculture and livestock sectors, which are dependent on adequate precipitation and streamflow in Wheeler County. Hot, dry conditions will place agricultural and livestock investments at risk; affect irrigators, industrial and domestic users; and increase the potential for fire danger.

Conditions are being monitored by the state's natural resource and public safety agencies, including the Oregon Water Resources Department and the Oregon Office of Emergency Management.

Preparation and timely response to drought are vital to the health and safety of persons, property, and the economic security of the citizens and businesses of Wheeler County. I therefore declare that a severe, continuing drought emergency exists in Wheeler County.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DIRECTED AND ORDERED:

- I. The Oregon Department of Agriculture is directed to coordinate and provide assistance in seeking federal resources to mitigate drought conditions and to assist in agricultural recovery in Wheeler County.
- II. The Oregon Water Resources Department and the Water Resources Commission are directed to coordinate and provide assistance to water users in Wheeler County as the Department and Commission determine is 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 Wheeler County.
- IV. All other state agencies are directed to coordinate with the above agencies and to provide appropriate state resources as needed to assist affected political subdivisions and water users in Wheeler County.
- V. This Executive Order expires on December 31, 2018.

Done at Salem, Oregon, this 18th day of July, 2018.



Kate Brown

Kate Brown
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Dennis Richardson

Dennis Richardson
SECRETARY OF STATE