

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 21-12

DETERMINATION OF A STATE OF DROUGHT EMERGENCY IN DESCHUTES AND JEFFERSON COUNTIES DUE TO LACK OF PRECIPITATION AND UNUSUALLY LOW SNOWPACK AND STREAMFLOW.

At the request of Deschutes County (by Resolution 2021-036 dated May 26, 2021) and Jefferson County (by Resolution R-006-21 dated April 28, 2021), and based on the recommendations of the Drought Readiness Council and the Water Supply Availability Committee, and pursuant to ORS 536.740, I find the lack of precipitation, low snowpack, low reservoir levels, and low streamflow have caused or will cause natural and economic disaster conditions in these two counties.

Forecasted water supply conditions and precipitation levels are not expected to improve. Drought is likely to have a significant economic impact on the farm, ranch, vineyard, recreation, and natural resources sectors, as well as an impact on drinking water, fish and wildlife, and other natural resources dependent on adequate precipitation, stored water, and streamflow in these areas. Extreme conditions are expected to affect local growers, increase the potential for fire, shorten the growing season, and decrease water supplies.

Conditions continue to be monitored by the State's natural resource and public safety agencies, including the Oregon Water Resources Department, the Oregon Office of Emergency Management, the Oregon Office of the State Fire Marshal, and the Oregon Department of Forestry's Fire Protection Division.

I am encouraged to hear that local irrigators in these two counties are working together to seek creative solutions around sharing available water. Drought issues are basin-wide issues, and require all water users and agencies working together to meet our collective challenges.

Preparation and resiliency to drought are vital to the health and safety of persons, property, and the economic security of the citizens and businesses of these counties. I, therefore, declare that a severe, continuing drought emergency exists and is likely to continue to exist in Deschutes and Jefferson Counties.

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 assist in agricultural recovery in Deschutes and Jefferson Counties.
- II. The Oregon Water Resources Department and the Water Resources Commission are directed to coordinate and provide assistance to water users in Deschutes and Jefferson Counties as the Department and Commission determine necessary and appropriate in accordance with ORS 536.700 to 536.780.



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 21-12
PAGE TWO

- III. The Oregon Water Resources Department is directed to seek information from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to help understand the impacts of water availability on Oregon's fish and wildlife, as necessary and appropriate in accordance with ORS 536.700 to 536.780.
- IV. 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 Deschutes and Jefferson Counties.
- V. All other state agencies are directed to coordinate with the above agencies and provide appropriate state resources as needed to assist affected political subdivisions and water users in Deschutes and Jefferson Counties.
- VI. This Executive Order expires on December 31, 2021.

Done at Salem, Oregon, this 8th day of June, 2021.



Kate Brown

Kate Brown
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Shemia Fagan

Shemia Fagan
SECRETARY OF STATE