



## EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 25-05

### DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY IN HARNEY COUNTY DUE TO FLOODING

Pursuant to ORS 401.165, I find a potential threat to life, safety, property, and significant damage to infrastructure exists due to flooding that has caused and continues to cause a state of emergency in Harney County and on the Burns Paiute Tribe's reservation and properties, a sovereign tribal nation within the County.

In March of this year Oregon experienced significant flooding across the State and continues to receive historical precipitation and snowmelt which exceeds capacity in streams, rivers, stormwater facilities, and wastewater facilities. Beginning March 14, 2025, and continuing, the excessive flooding in Harney County has impacted critical infrastructure. Sewer system damage is occurring, and sewage is mixing with flood water and creating environmental health hazards. Bridges, culverts, and public roadways have become inundated with water, and this is disrupting emergency response, local commerce, and essential services, and impacting human health. Based on historical trends and current, record-setting snowpack, river levels will remain elevated for at least the next few weeks. The community may experience ongoing flooding impacts until flow rates recede.

Pursuant to 401.165 *et seq.*, I find that a state of emergency exists in Harney County due to impacts from flooding and support is needed for the Burns Paiute Tribe, a sovereign tribal nation within the County, due to ongoing threats to life, safety, property, and infrastructure.

#### NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DIRECTED AND ORDERED:

1. The Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM) shall activate the State's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and coordinate necessary access to and use of personnel and equipment of all state agencies necessary to assess, alleviate, respond to, mitigate, and recover from conditions caused by this emergency. OEM shall coordinate all essential protective measures in support of identified disaster areas to protect lives, property, and environment. All Oregonians are to heed the direction of emergency officials with regard to this emergency in order to protect their safety.
2. In conformance with the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and ORS chapter 401, state agencies are directed to provide resources and support requested by OEM to assist in the response to this emergency.

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3. The Oregon Health Authority shall take action and provide any assistance deemed necessary to assist in the response to this emergency and to provide all necessary support to Harney County, whereas a public health emergency may exist and mitigate impacts to the public from hazardous materials in waterways.
4. This determination of an emergency is limited to Harney County and support to the Burns Paiute Tribe, a sovereign tribal nation within the county. It is not to be construed as a comprehensive declaration or proclamation of emergency for other purposes. It is limited to the use of state resources and personnel required by the emergency, to request assistance through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, if needed, and to allow state agencies to suspend any order or rule of the agency if strict compliance with the provisions of the order or rule would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay mitigating the effects of the flooding emergency. Any local government requests for state assistance must be submitted through county governing bodies to OEM pursuant to ORS Chapter 401.
5. This order was made by verbal proclamation at 1:11 pm on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of March 2025, and signed this 1<sup>st</sup> day of April 2025, in Salem, Oregon.
6. This state of emergency shall exist until 11:59 p.m., April 30, 2025, unless extended or terminated sooner by the Governor.

Done at Salem, Oregon, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2025.

Tina Kotek  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Tobias Read  
SECRETARY OF STATE

