

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 25-08

DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY IN WASCO COUNTY DUE TO THE ROWENA WILDFIRE

Pursuant to ORS 401.165 *et seq.*, I find that a threat to life, safety, and property exists due to the wildfire that has caused a natural disaster in Wasco County.

Beginning June 11, 2025, and continuing, severe wildfire rolled through Wasco County causing extensive damage to homes and critical infrastructure; threatening life, safety, and property resulting in displacement of personnel; and a loss of power and communications within the region. State and local agencies continue to respond to requests for mass care and medical services. Early damage assessment reports from this jurisdiction include major damage to homes and businesses resulting in significant debris and infrastructure damage.

On June 11, 2025 the fire resulted in a state conflagration and federal Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) declarations, community evacuations, and threatened and damaged critical infrastructure, destroying homes and other structures. On June 18, 2025, the Wasco County Board of Commissioners declared a state of emergency due to the Rowena Wildfire and the threat to life, safety, and property that exists in Wasco County. Commission Order 25-048 further declared local resources were exhausted and immediate state and federal assistance was requested.

The Oregon Department of Forestry is engaged in initial and extended wildfire attack and Incident Management Teams are currently deployed in Oregon.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS 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 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 collaboration with the Oregon Department of Forestry and Oregon Department of State Fire Marshal 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.



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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.

The Oregon Department of Human Services, Oregon Health Authority, Department of Environmental Quality and other state agencies are directed to work expeditiously to provide any assistance as directed by OEM that is deemed necessary to assist in the response to and recovery from this emergency, remove barriers to recovery, and to provide all necessary support to Wasco County response, recovery, and mitigation efforts.

Persons who believe they have been subjected to unconscionably excessive prices for essential consumer goods due to this emergency are requested to report violations to the Oregon Department of Justice Consumer Protection Services, which has the authority to investigate unlawful trade practices.

3. This determination of a wildfire emergency is limited to Wasco County at this time. 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 provision of any order or rule of the agency if compliance with the provision of the order or rule would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay mitigating the effects of the wildfire emergency. Any local government requests for state resources must be submitted through county governing bodies to the Oregon Department of Emergency Management pursuant to ORS chapter 401.
4. This order was made by verbal proclamation at 7:10 p.m. on June 18, 2025, and signed on June 20, 2025, in Salem, Oregon.



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5. This state of emergency shall exist until 11:59 p.m., July 30, 2025, unless extended or terminated sooner by the Governor.

Done at Salem, Oregon, this 20th of June, 2025.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tina Kotek".

Tina Kotek
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tobias J. Read".

Tobias Read
SECRETARY OF STATE