

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 25-19

DETERMINATION OF A STATE OF DROUGHT EMERGENCY IN COOS AND WHEELER COUNTIES.

At the request of Coos County (by Coos County Board of Commissioners Resolution No. 25-07-145L, dated August 5, 2025), and Wheeler County (by Wheeler County Court Resolution No. 2025-020, dated August 6, 2025) and based on the recommendations of the Drought Readiness Council and input from the Water Supply Availability Committee dated August 13, 2025 (Coos and Wheeler Counties) and pursuant to ORS 536.740, I find that persistent moderate drought conditions as well as below normal precipitation, above normal temperature and below normal streamflow and soil moisture conditions have caused or will cause natural and economic disaster conditions in Coos County, and long-term moderate and severe drought conditions as well as below normal precipitation and above normal temperature have caused or will cause natural and economic disaster conditions in Wheeler County.

Forecasts suggest that below normal precipitation and streamflow conditions are likely to continue in Coos and Wheeler Counties (Counties) following an extended period during spring and early summer with drier and warmer than normal conditions. Without sustained precipitation, drought conditions are likely to persist or intensify in the Counties. Drought is likely to have a significant economic impact on the agricultural, livestock, natural resource and recreational tourism sectors and increase the risk of wildfire in the Counties.

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

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 the Counties.



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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 Coos and Wheeler Counties.
- II. The Oregon Water Resources Department and the Water Resources Commission are directed to coordinate and provide assistance to water users in Coos and Wheeler Counties as the Department and Commission determine necessary and appropriate in accordance with ORS 536.700 to 536.780.
- 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 Oregon Department of Emergency Management is directed to coordinate and assist as needed with assessment and mitigation activities to address current and projected conditions in Coos and Wheeler 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 Coos and Wheeler Counties.
- VI. This Executive Order expires on December 31, 2025.

Done at Salem, Oregon, this 15th day of August, 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