

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 25-23

DETERMINATION OF A STATE OF DROUGHT EMERGENCY IN JEFFERSON COUNTY.

At the request of Jefferson County (by Jefferson County Board of Commissioners letter dated September 16, 2025 and Order No. 0-114-25 dated August 6, 2025) and based on the recommendations of the Drought Readiness Council and input from the Water Supply Availability Committee dated September 18, 2025 and pursuant to ORS 536.740, I find that long-term moderate and severe drought conditions as well as above normal temperature and below normal precipitation, streamflow, groundwater and soil moisture conditions have caused or will cause natural and economic disaster conditions in Jefferson County.

Forecasts suggest that Jefferson County will experience above normal temperatures and precipitation over the near and long-term, following an extended period during spring and early summer with drier and warmer than normal conditions. Additional precipitation may provide some level of drought relief, however projected precipitation levels are unlikely to significantly improve drought conditions that have developed from precipitation deficits since April. Drought is likely to have a significant economic impact on the agricultural, livestock, natural resource, recreation, and tourism sectors in Jefferson County.

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 people, property, and the economic security of the citizens and businesses of this county. I, therefore, declare that a severe, continuing drought emergency exists and is likely to continue to exist in Jefferson 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 assist in agricultural recovery in Jefferson County.



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- II. The Oregon Water Resources Department and the Water Resources Commission are directed to coordinate and provide assistance to water users in Jefferson County 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 Jefferson County.
- 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 Jefferson County.
- VI. This Executive Order expires on December 31, 2025.

Done at Salem, Oregon, this 29th day of September, 2025.



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

Tina Kotek
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

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

Tobias Read
SECRETARY OF STATE