

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 26-03

**THIRD EXTENSION OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 25-08 DECLARING A
STATE OF EMERGENCY IN WASCO COUNTY DUE TO THE ROWENA
WILDFIRE**

WHEREAS, On June 18, 2025, pursuant to ORS 401.165 *et seq.*, I found that a threat to life, safety, and property exists due to the wildfire that has caused a natural disaster in Wasco County and declared a state of emergency in Wasco County.

WHEREAS, 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.

WHEREAS, 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 Wild fire 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.

WHEREAS, On July 16, 2025, the Wasco County Board of Commissioners extended the county declaration of a state of emergency due to the Rowena Wildfire. The order declared that the hazardous conditions resulting from the Rowena Fire, including but not limited to threats to life, property, and natural resources, continue to pose a significant risk to the health and safety of Wasco County residents. State and local agencies continue to respond to requests for mass care and hazardous debris removal in support of this emergency. Damage assessment reports from this jurisdiction include major damage to homes and critical infrastructure resulting in significant hazardous debris posing a threat to life and safety.

WHEREAS, On November 5, 2025 the Wasco County Board of Commissioners extended the county declaration of a state of emergency as hazardous conditions resulting from the Rowena Fire remain and continues to pose a significant risk to health and safety of Wasco County residents. State and local resources are still required to provide human services and hazardous debris removal assistance in support of this emergency.



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WHEREAS, Hazardous conditions resulting from the Rowena Fire remain and continues to pose a significant risk to the health of Wasco County residents and the need for continued local and state human services and debris removal technical assistance is still required.

WHEREAS, Due to continuing need, it is anticipated that the Wasco County Board of Commissioners will vote to extend the county declaration of a state of emergency, and I find an extension is necessary.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS DIRECTED AND ORDERED:

1. The Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM) shall continue coordination under the State's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan for the use of personnel, equipment, technical expertise contracting authority of all state agencies necessary to alleviate, respond to, mitigate, and recover from conditions caused by this emergency.
2. In conformance with the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and ORS 401, state agencies are directed to provide resources and support requested by OEM to assist in the response to this 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. The Oregon 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 provide all necessary support to Wasco County response, recovery, and mitigation efforts.
3. 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.
4. This extension is limited to Wasco County at this time.
5. Executive Order 25-08 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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6. This Executive Order supersedes and replaces 25-28 and the state of emergency is continued and shall exist and remain in effect until 11:59 p.m., June 30, 2026, unless extended or terminated sooner by the Governor.

Done at Salem, Oregon, this 29th day of January, 2026.

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