



**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 26-05**

**DETERMINATION OF A STATE OF DROUGHT EMERGENCY IN BAKER, DESCHUTES AND UMATILLA COUNTIES.**

At the request of Baker County (by Baker County Board of Commissioners Declaration, dated February 18th, 2026), Deschutes County (by Deschutes Board of County Commissioners Resolution No. 2026-007, dated February 18th, 2026) and Umatilla County (by Board of Commissioners of Umatilla County Order No. BCC2026-011, dated March 4, 2026) and based on the recommendations of the Drought Readiness Council and input from the Water Supply Availability Committee dated March 13, 2026 and pursuant to ORS 536.740, I find that persistent moderate drought conditions in Baker County, persistent abnormally dry and moderate drought conditions in Deschutes County, and persistent moderate and severe drought conditions in Umatilla County, as well as below normal precipitation, above normal temperature, well below normal snowpack, below normal streamflow forecasts and generally drier-than-normal soil moisture conditions in all Counties have caused or will cause natural and economic disaster conditions in Baker, Deschutes and Umatilla Counties.

Forecasts suggest that below normal precipitation and streamflow conditions are likely to continue through summer in all Counties following an extended period with precipitation and temperature conditions that contributed to well below normal snowpack. Therefore, 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 Baker, Deschutes and Umatilla Counties.
- II. The Oregon Water Resources Department and the Water Resources Commission are directed to coordinate and provide assistance to water users in Baker, Deschutes and Umatilla 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 Baker, Deschutes and Umatilla 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 Baker, Deschutes and Umatilla Counties.
- VI. This Executive Order expires on December 31, 2026.

Done at Salem, Oregon, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2026.



Handwritten signature of Tina Kotek in black ink.

Tina Kotek  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Handwritten signature of Tobias Read in black ink.

Tobias Read  
SECRETARY OF STATE