

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 26-08

DETERMINATION OF A STATE OF DROUGHT EMERGENCY IN COOS, KLAMATH AND WHEELER COUNTIES

At the request of Coos County (through Coos County Board of Commissioners Resolution 26-04-029L, dated April 7, 2026), Klamath County (through Klamath County Board of Commissioners Resolution RE2026-025, dated April 14, 2026), and Wheeler County (through Wheeler County Court Resolution 2026-008, dated April 15, 2026), and based on the recommendations of the Drought Readiness Council and input from the Water Supply Availability Committee dated May 5, 2026, and pursuant to ORS 536.740, I find that moderate and severe drought conditions in Coos, Klamath and Wheeler Counties (Counties) and extreme drought conditions in Wheeler County as well as the conditions described below will cause natural and economic disaster conditions in the Counties.

1. Well above normal temperature conditions, just below normal precipitation conditions and long-term precipitation deficits, below normal streamflow conditions, and drier-than-normal soil moisture conditions in Coos County.
2. Well above normal temperature conditions, just below normal precipitation conditions and long-term precipitation deficits, well below normal snowpack conditions and drier-than-normal soil moisture conditions in Klamath County.
3. Well above normal temperature conditions, below normal precipitation conditions and long-term precipitation deficits, below normal streamflow conditions, well below normal snowpack conditions and drier-than-normal soil moisture conditions in Wheeler County.

Forecasted snowpack, temperature, precipitation and water supply conditions suggest that drought conditions in the Counties are unlikely to improve in the near-term. Drought is likely to have a significant economic impact on the agricultural, livestock, natural resource and recreational tourism sectors 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 Coos, Klamath and Wheeler 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, Klamath and Wheeler.
- II. The Oregon Water Resources Department and the Water Resources Commission are directed to coordinate and provide assistance to water users in Coos, Klamath 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, Klamath 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, Klamath and Wheeler Counties.
- VI. This Executive Order expires on December 31, 2026.

Done at Salem, Oregon, this 11th day of May, 2026.



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