

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 22-10

DETERMINATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY IN MULTIPLE COUNTIES DUE TO THE NEED FOR STATEWIDE COORDINATION TO ADDRESS PERSISTENT EXTREME DROUGHT CONDITIONS.

Pursuant to ORS 401.165, I find a potential threat to life, health, and safety due to persistent extreme drought conditions that have caused and continue to cause a state of emergency in 17 Counties: Klamath, Morrow, Crook, Jefferson, Gilliam, Harney, Jackson, Deschutes, Grant, Lake, Malheur, Baker, Douglas, Wallowa, Wheeler, Union and Wasco. I anticipate that the geographic scope of this emergency will continue to expand during this calendar year, and the geographic scope of this emergency declaration will be expanded as additional counties declare county-level drought emergencies and seek state-level drought declarations pursuant to ORS 536.740.

Beginning on or before March 2, 2022, and continuing, extreme drought conditions have and continue to cause private drinking water sources to run dry and many community and municipal water systems have historically low water supply and will likely require the implementation of curtailment measures. Reservoirs throughout Southern, Central, and Eastern Oregon are less than 25% full, with many stream flows substantially below average. The US Drought Monitor indicates 88% of the state is experiencing drought with more than half of the state under extreme drought conditions. These conditions are likely to persist with a seasonal climate outlook that indicates a high likelihood for above average temperatures and below average precipitation in the Oregon counties covered by this order during the months of June, July, and August.

Prolonged drought with little indication that relief is likely through the summer will continue to impact agriculture and industry and create a threat to health and life safety for communities without a consistent and stable source of clean drinking water or for critical emergency services like firefighting.

Individual severe and continuing drought declarations pursuant to ORS 536.740 have been provided to assist the 17 counties mentioned above. However, due to the geographic scope, duration, and severity of the drought emergency, more is needed, and this emergency declaration is intended to help provide an additional layer of state support. In particular, due to the scope of the emergency, it is imperative that the state provide a coordinated response to support the efforts of local governments and make tools and resources available to address the critical life safety needs of communities that are being impacted by this prolonged period of drought. This emergency declaration will facilitate that coordinated response.



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NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED AND DIRECTED:

1. Pursuant to ORS 401.165, I declare a state of emergency due to extreme drought. The geographic scope of the emergency includes all counties for which a declaration of drought emergency pursuant to ORS 536.740 has issued during calendar year 2022. This geographic scope will expand to include counties covered by any additional ORS 536.740 drought declarations issued by the Governor during calendar year 2022, as of the date of those declarations.
2. The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) shall activate the State's Emergency Operations Plan and shall coordinate access to and use of personnel and equipment of all state agencies necessary to assess, alleviate, respond to, mitigate or recover from threats to health and life safety caused by this emergency. OEM shall coordinate all essential protective measures in support of declared emergency areas to protect lives, property, and the environment.
3. The Oregon Department of Human Service, Oregon Health Authority, Department of Agriculture, Water Resources Department, and other state agencies are directed to provide any assistance as requested by OEM that is deemed necessary to assist in the response to this emergency and to provide all necessary support to statewide response, recovery, and mitigation efforts.
4. This determination of emergency is not to be construed as a comprehensive declaration or proclamation of emergency for other purposes. It is limited to the use of state resources and personnel required by this emergency in accordance with the State Emergency Management Plan, to request assistance through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact if needed, and to allow state agencies to suspend provisions of any order or rule of the agency if strict compliance with the provisions of the order or rule would in any way prevent, hinder or delay mitigating the effects of the drought emergency.
5. Any local government requests for state resources must be submitted through county governing bodies to the Office of Emergency Management pursuant to ORS Chapter 401.



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6. This state of emergency shall exist until December 31, 2022 unless terminated sooner by the governor.

Done at Salem, Oregon, this 7th day of June, 2022.



Kate Brown

Kate Brown
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Shemia Fagan

Shemia Fagan
SECRETARY OF STATE