



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

**To:** County Emergency Managers

**From:** Oregon's Drought Readiness Council

Cameron Greenwood, Drought Readiness Council Co-Chair  
Oregon Water Resources Department

Curtis Peetz, Drought Readiness Council Co-Chair  
Oregon Department of Emergency Management

**Date:** January 2025

**RE:** State Drought Declaration Requests Under ORS 536

After declaring a local drought emergency, Oregon Tribes and counties can petition the governor to declare a state drought emergency under ORS 536. Oregon Water Resources Department offers certain tools to water right holders in counties with Executive Orders declaring a state drought emergency under ORS 536. Tribal or county emergency managers must coordinate with Oregon Department of Emergency Management when seeking state drought declarations.

Prior to making a formal request with the Drought Readiness Council (DRC), counties must first declare a drought at the local level. Afterwards, a copy of the resolution should be provided to the DRC along with a formal letter signed by the Board of Commissioners or County Court that requests an executive order under ORS 536 issuing a drought declaration in the effected county. The content of the letter should include:

1. Information about the observed and anticipated impacts of continued drought conditions, such as impacts to critical facilities, public utilities, agriculture, the local economy, recreation, tourism, etc.
2. Description of any actions the county has taken to mitigate the effects of drought.
3. Benefits the county is seeking through a state drought declaration under ORS 536.
4. Any supporting documentation (e.g., letters of support, etc.)

It is important to include narrative as outlined above as it assists the DRC in evaluating the severity of the drought and provides valuable information regarding drought-related impacts. Letters should be written on county letterhead and emailed to the addresses displayed in the attached template. Please contact us with any questions regarding this process.

Attachment: letter template for requesting a state drought declaration under ORS 536 with Oregon's Drought Readiness Council.



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RE: [County/Tribe Name] Drought

[Date]

Mr. Greenwood and Mr. Peetz,

[County/Tribe Name], by and through its County Elected Officials, requests that the Governor of Oregon issue an executive order for all of [County/Tribe Name] under the provisions of ORS 536 as a direct result of severe and continuing drought conditions.

There is the potential for widespread and severe damage to the following sectors from extreme drought conditions in [County/Tribe Name].

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Domestic Wells |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fisheries   | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Water Systems   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry    | <input type="checkbox"/> Tourism/recreation     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Livestock   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____           |

[PROVIDE DETAILS OF THE TYPES OF IMPACTS THE COUNTY HAS ALREADY OBSERVED OR ANTICIPATES OCCURRING FOR THE ABOVE IDENTIFIED SECTORS].

The [County/Tribe] has already formally declared a drought and has attached a copy of the adopted resolution for your files. In addition, the [County/Tribe] has taken the following actions to mitigate current effects and/or in anticipation of continued or worsening drought conditions: [PROVIDE EXAMPLES OF MITIGATING ACTIONS].

The [County/Tribe Name] [Board of Commissioners/Court/Council/etc.] therefore requests an executive order from the Governor, declaring drought in [County/Tribe Name].