



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 15 - 04

**DETERMINATION OF A STATE OF DROUGHT EMERGENCY IN
BAKER AND WHEELER COUNTIES DUE TO DROUGHT, LOW SNOW
PACK LEVELS, AND LOW WATER CONDITIONS**

At the request of Baker County (by Declaration 2015-01 dated March 18, 2015) and Wheeler County (by Resolution 2015-13 dated March 18, 2015), and based on the recommendations of the Drought Council and the Water Availability Committee, and pursuant to ORS 401.165 and ORS 536.740, I find that continuing dry conditions, low snowpack, and lack of precipitation have caused natural and economic disaster conditions in Baker and Wheeler Counties.

Projected forecasts are not expected to alleviate the severe drought conditions, and the drought is having significant economic impacts on agriculture, livestock, and natural resources in Baker and Wheeler Counties.

The dry conditions present hardships for these communities: crops, agricultural and recreational investments are at risk; animals and plants that rely on Oregon's surface water supplies are threatened; and the risk of wildfires across the state is greatly increased. Current conditions are being monitored and analyzed by state agencies including the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Water Resources, and the Oregon Office of Emergency Management.

A timely response to the severe drought conditions is vital to the safety of persons, the protection of property and the economic security of the citizens and businesses of Baker and Wheeler Counties. I am therefore declaring that a severe, continuing drought emergency exists in Baker County and Wheeler County, and directing the following actions.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND DIRECTED:

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 and Wheeler Counties.

II. The Department of Water Resources and the Water Resources Commission are directed to coordinate and provide assistance to water users in Baker and Wheeler Counties as they determine is necessary and appropriate in accordance with ORS 536.700 to 536.780.



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III. The Office of Emergency Management is directed to coordinate and assist as needed with assessment and mitigation activities to address current and projected conditions in Baker and Wheeler Counties.

IV. All other state agencies are directed to coordinate with the above agencies and to provide appropriate state resources as determined necessary to assist affected political subdivisions and water users in Baker and Wheeler Counties.

V. This Executive Order expires on December 31, 2015.

Done at Salem, Oregon this 20th day of April, 2015.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kate Brown".

KATE BROWN
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeanne P. Atkins".

Jeanne P. Atkins
SECRETARY OF STATE

