



**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 20-32**

**DETERMINATION OF A STATE OF DROUGHT EMERGENCY IN  
MORROW AND WHEELER COUNTIES DUE TO UNUSUALLY LOW  
WATER SUPPLIES AND HOT, DRY CONDITIONS**

At the request of Morrow County (by Resolution 2020-20 dated July 1, 2020) and Wheeler County (by Resolution 2020-23, dated July 1, 2020), and based on the recommendations of the Drought Readiness Council and the Water Supply Availability Committee, and pursuant to ORS 536.740, I find the continuing dry conditions and lack of precipitation have caused natural and economic disaster conditions in these two counties.

Forecasted water supply conditions are not expected to improve, and drought is likely to have significant economic impacts on the farm, forest, recreation, tourism, drinking water, and natural resources sectors, as well as impacts on fish and wildlife and other natural resources which are dependent on adequate precipitation and streamflow in these areas. Extreme conditions have already affected local growers, and increased the potential for fire, a loss of economic stability, shortened growing season, and decreased water supplies.

Conditions continue to be monitored by the state's natural resource and public safety agencies, including the Oregon Water Resources Department and the Oregon Office of Emergency Management.

Preparation and resiliency to drought are vital to the health and safety of persons, property, and the economic security of the citizens and businesses. I therefore declare that a severe, continuing drought emergency exists in Morrow and Wheeler counties.

**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 to assist in agricultural recovery in Morrow and Wheeler counties.



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- II. The Oregon Water Resources Department and the Water Resources Commission are directed to coordinate and provide assistance to water users in Morrow and Wheeler counties as the Department and Commission determine is 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 Office of Emergency Management is directed to coordinate and assist as needed with assessment and mitigation activities to address current and projected conditions in Morrow and Wheeler counties.
- V. All other state agencies are directed to coordinate with the above agencies and to provide appropriate state resources as needed to assist affected political subdivisions and water users in Morrow and Wheeler counties.
- VI. This Executive Order expires on December 31, 2020.

Done at Salem, Oregon, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of July 2020.

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

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Kate Brown  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bev Clarno".

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Bev Clarno  
SECRETARY OF STATE

