



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 21-11

**DETERMINATION OF A STATE OF DROUGHT EMERGENCY IN
BAKER, DOUGLAS, GILLIAM, MORROW, AND WHEELER COUNTIES
DUE TO LACK OF PRECIPITATION AND UNUSUALLY LOW SNOW
PACK AND STREAMFLOW.**

At the request of Baker County (by Declaration of Disaster dated April 7, 2021), Douglas County (by Order dated April 28, 2021), Gilliam County (by Resolution R-2021-05 dated April 21, 2021), Morrow County (by Resolution R-2021-12 dated April 28, 2021), and Wheeler County (by Resolution 2021-10 dated April 21, 2021), 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 lack of precipitation, low snow pack, low reservoir levels, and low streamflow have caused or will cause natural and economic disaster conditions in these five counties.

Forecasted water supply conditions are not expected to improve, and drought is likely to have significant economic impacts on the farm, ranch, vineyard, recreation, and natural resources sectors, as well as impacts on drinking water and fish and wildlife and other natural resources which are dependent on adequate precipitation, stored water, and streamflow in these areas. Extreme conditions are expected to affect local growers, increase the potential for fire, shorten growing season, and decrease water supplies.

Conditions continue to be monitored by the state's natural resource and public safety agencies, including the Oregon Water Resources Department, the Oregon Office 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 Baker, Douglas, Gilliam, 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 Baker, Douglas, Gilliam, Morrow, and Wheeler Counties.
- II. The Oregon Water Resources Department and the Water Resources Commission are directed to coordinate and provide assistance to water users in Baker, Douglas, Gilliam, Morrow, and Wheeler Counties as the Department and Commission determine is necessary and appropriate in accordance with ORS 536.700 to 536.780.



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- 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 Baker, Douglas, Gilliam, 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 Baker, Douglas, Gilliam, Morrow, and Wheeler Counties.
- VI. This Executive Order expires on December 31, 2021.

Done at Salem, Oregon, this 10th day of May, 2021.

Kate Brown
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Shemia Fagan
SECRETARY OF STATE