

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 23-11

DETERMINATION OF A STATE OF DROUGHT EMERGENCY IN HARNEY COUNTY.

At the request of Harney County (by Commission Resolution and Order 2023-10, dated April 13, 2023), and based on the recommendations of the Drought Readiness Council and input from the Water Supply Availability Committee dated April 13, 2023, and pursuant to ORS 536.740, I find that low streamflow, low precipitation, and low soil moisture have caused or will cause natural and economic disaster conditions in Harney County.

Forecasted water supply conditions and precipitation levels are not expected to improve. Drought is likely to have a significant economic impact on the farm, ranch, vineyard, recreation, tourism and natural resources sectors, as well as an impact on drinking water, fish and wildlife, and important minimum flows for public instream uses and other natural resources dependent on adequate precipitation, stored water, and streamflow in these areas. Extreme conditions are expected to affect local growers and livestock, increase the potential for fire, shorten the 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 Harney County.

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 assist in agricultural recovery in Harney County.
- II. The Oregon Water Resources Department and the Water Resources Commission are directed to coordinate and provide assistance to water users in Harney County as the Department and Commission determine 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 Harney County.
- V. All other state agencies are directed to coordinate with the above agencies and provide appropriate state resources as needed to assist affected political subdivisions and water users in Harney County.
- VI. This Executive Order expires on December 31, 2023.

Done at Salem, Oregon, this 18th day of April, 2023.

Tina Kotek
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Shemia Fagan
SECRETARY OF STATE