



# Crook County Legal Counsel

Mailing Address: 300 NE Third St., Prineville, OR 97754 • Phone: 541-416-3919  
Physical Address: 267 NE 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Ste 200, Prineville, OR 97754 • Fax: 541-447-6705

March 3, 2022

**VIA EMAIL TO: [ryan.m.andrews@oregon.gov](mailto:ryan.m.andrews@oregon.gov) AND [traci.naile@state.or.us](mailto:traci.naile@state.or.us)**

Ryan Andrews  
Hydrologist  
Oregon Water Resources Department  
Oregon Drought Readiness Council Co-Chair  
725 Summer Street NE Ste A  
Salem OR 97301

Traci Naile, Manager  
Operations and Preparedness  
Office of Emergency Mgmt  
Oregon Drought Readiness Council Co-Chair  
PO Box 14370  
Salem OR 97301

RE: Crook County, Oregon – Drought Declaration  
Our File No. Ct Orders 83

Mr. Andrews and Ms. Naile:

Crook County, Oregon, by and through its County Court, requests that the Governor of Oregon issue an executive order for all of Crook County under the provisions of ORS Chapter 536 as a direct result of severe and continuing drought conditions.

There is the potential for the Crook County agricultural and livestock, natural resources, recreation, tourism, and related economies to experience widespread and severe damage resulting from extreme weather conditions within the county. All of Crook County remains in the D4-Exceptional Drought category. Our two reservoirs are at historic lows and streamflow conditions are a third of the average.

The County formally declared a drought yesterday and I have attached a copy of the adopted Resolution and Order for your files. The Crook County Court (Board of Commissioners) has determined that additional action by and support from the State is needed. This may include assistance from the Oregon Water Resources Department and other Oregon executive branch agencies, operating within their statutory authorities.

The Crook County Court therefore requests an executive order from the Governor declaring a state of drought emergency in Crook County. We extend in advance our appreciation for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

John Eisler, Assistant County Counsel

Cc: County Court



I, Cheryl Seely, County Clerk for Crook County,  
Oregon, certify that the instrument identified  
herein was recorded in the Clerk records.

Cheryl Seely - County Clerk



**IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON  
FOR THE COUNTY OF CROOK**

**IN THE MATTER OF:  
DECLARATION OF LOCAL DROUGHT  
AND REQUEST TO DECLARE A STATE  
OF DROUGHT EMERGENCY FOR  
CROOK COUNTY, OREGON**

**RESOLUTION  
AND ORDER 2022-10**

**WHEREAS**, on this 2nd day of March 2022, the Crook County Court finds that the Crook County agricultural and livestock industries, recreation, and related economies are suffering widespread and severe economic damage, potential injuries, and loss of property resulting from extreme weather conditions within the County; and

**WHEREAS**, annual water supplies available for irrigators and ranchers within Crook County are a function of winter snowpack for water storage in Ochoco and Prineville Reservoirs and natural flows in the Crooked River and its tributaries; and

**WHEREAS**, Crook County is the only county in the State still fully in the D4 – Exception Drought category since last summer; and

**WHEREAS**, Prineville Reservoir storage is at 29,000 acre feet and Ochoco Reservoir is at 4,100 acre feet—both measurements are the lowest levels on record and roughly half of what they were at this time last year—leaving the County with a deficit of 33,400 acre feet compared to last year; and

**WHEREAS**, snowpack in the Upper Deschutes and Crooked Basins, as of February 1, is at 92% of the median; precipitation for the crop water year (Oct. 1 – Feb. 1) is at 93% of the median; and streamflow forecasts are between 70%-91% of the median; and

**WHEREAS**, current streamflow conditions in the County are less than 30% of the average and reservoir storage is only 17% full; and

**WHEREAS**, the above conditions result in loss of economic stability, pasture shortages, decrease in feed production, shortened growing season, reduction in recreational opportunities, and decreased water supplies for Crook County agricultural and livestock producers; and

**WHEREAS**, the Crook County Court determines that extraordinary measures must be taken to alleviate suffering of people and livestock and to protect or mitigate economic loss, and to be responsive to the threat of wildfires.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** by the Crook County Court that:

1. A severe, continuing drought is declared within Crook County.
2. Crook County drought Emergency Management Plan has been implemented.
3. Pursuant to ORS 536.720, we find that appropriate response is beyond the capability of Crook County. We are declaring a state of emergency for the purpose of assessment, evaluation and acquiring the ability to provide appropriate available resources.
4. **Request:** The Honorable Kate Brown, Governor of Oregon, declare a Drought Emergency for all of Crook County under the provisions of ORS 536.740 due to severe and continuing drought conditions beginning at this time and continuing for an unknown period of time; and direct the Oregon Department of Water Resources to make available in Crook County: Temporary Transfers of Water Rights, and Emergency Water Use Permits, and Use of Existing Right Option/Agreement; and other federal and state drought assistance and programs as needed.
5. This proclamation shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED** that this Order be filed in the Crook County Clerk's Office and that it be effective when so filed.

Adopted this 2nd day of March 2022.

CROOK COUNTY COURT



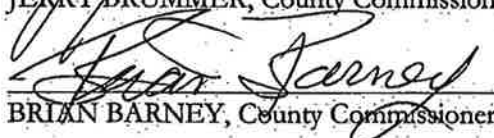
---

SETH CRAWFORD, County Judge



---

JERRY BRUMMER, County Commissioner



---

BRIAN BARNEY, County Commissioner