



**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 15 - 02**

**DETERMINATION OF A STATE OF DROUGHT EMERGENCY IN LAKE AND MALHEUR COUNTIES DUE TO DROUGHT AND LOW WATER CONDITIONS**

At the request of Lake County (by Resolution 15-03-10 dated March 10, 2015) and Malheur County (by Resolution 2015-0648 dated March 4, 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 the continuing dry conditions, low snowpack, and lack of precipitation have caused natural and economic disaster conditions in Lake and Malheur Counties.

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

The dry conditions present hardships for these communities: crops and agricultural and recreation 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 and property and economic security of the citizens and businesses of Lake and Malheur Counties. I am therefore declaring that a severe, continuing drought emergency exists in Lake and Malheur Counties, 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 Lake and Malheur Counties.

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

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 Lake and Malheur Counties.



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

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

Done at Salem, Oregon this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 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 Atkins  
SECRETARY OF STATE

