



2026-011

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 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS 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 2026-10**

**WHEREAS**, on this 4 day of March, 2026, the Crook County Board of Commissioners 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**, as reported by the Ochoco Irrigation District and the Deschutes Basin Board of Control, the US Drought Monitor places most of Crook County in the D0 – “Abnormally Dry” category, with no water stored in the form of snow, and this designation is expected to worsen significantly as the year progresses; and

**WHEREAS**, current conditions show record low snowpack in the basin – the lowest in more than 88 years of monitoring – with Water Year precipitation at only 65% of average; Ochoco Reservoir is at approximately 26,000 acre feet (59% full) and Prineville Reservoir is at approximately 86,000 acre feet (58% full); US Bureau of Reclamation runoff projections for both reservoirs are trending downward at between 32% and 36% of average with little expectation for change; 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 Ochoco Irrigation District and the Deschutes Basin Board of Control have formally requested that the Crook County Commission declare a severe drought and request that the Governor of Oregon issue an executive order for all of Crook County under the provisions of ORS 536; and

**WHEREAS**, the Crook County Board of Commissioners 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.

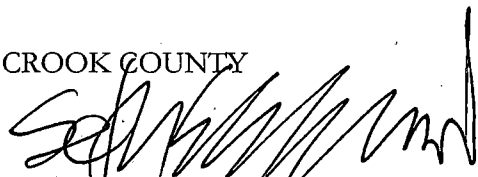
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** by the Crook County Board of Commissioners that:

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 Tina Kotek, 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.

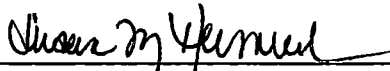
**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED** that this Order be filed in the Crook County Clerk's Office and that it be effective when so filed.

Adopted this \_\_\_ day of March, 2026.

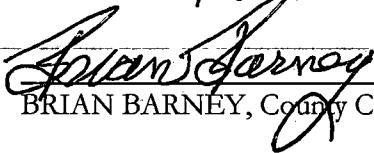
CROOK COUNTY



\_\_\_\_\_  
SETH CRAWFORD, County Commissioner



\_\_\_\_\_  
SUSAN HERMRECK, County Commissioner



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BRIAN BARNEY, County Commissioner