

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 02 - 23

**DETERMINATION OF A STATE OF DROUGHT EMERGENCY IN MALHEUR COUNTY
DUE TO CONDITIONS CAUSED BY DROUGHT AND LOW WATER CONDITIONS.**

Pursuant to ORS 401.055, I find that the weather pattern, ongoing drought and low water conditions have the imminent potential for causing a natural and economic disaster of catastrophic proportions. It is anticipated that the projected outlook will not significantly alleviate the current conditions, and that they will continue to worsen. This will have profound consequences on the county's agricultural and natural resources, as well the likelihood for stark energy and economic impacts.

Current conditions are being addressed by state agencies including the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Water Resources, and Oregon Emergency Management.

A timely response to this situation being vital to the well being and economic security of the citizens and businesses of Malheur County I am therefore declaring a "state of drought emergency" and directing the following activities;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND DIRECTED:

I. The Oregon Department of Agriculture is directed to coordinate and provide assistance in seeking federal resources available to mitigate conditions and effect agricultural recovery.

II. The Department of Water Resources is directed to coordinate and provide assistance and regulation it determines necessary 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.

IV. All other departments are directed to coordinate with the above agencies and to provide appropriate state resources as determined essential to assist affected political subdivisions.

Done at Salem, Oregon this 31st day of October, 2002

/s/

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D.
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

/s/

Bill Bradbury
SECRETARY OF STATE