

Drought Conditions, Declarations ORS 401 & 536, and 2026 Response

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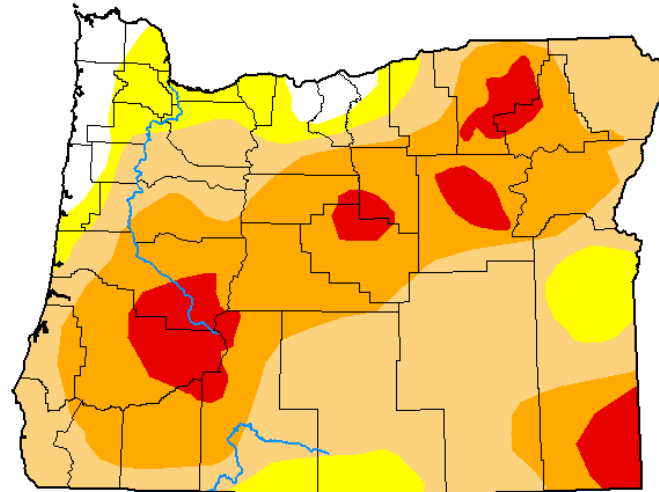
June 11, 2026



Drought Conditions

U.S. Drought Monitor Oregon

June 9, 2026
(Released Thursday, Jun. 11, 2026)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	4.21	95.79	84.10	44.16	9.24	0.00
Last Week 06-02-2026	4.21	95.79	82.79	41.67	6.64	0.00
3 Months Ago 03-10-2026	22.41	77.59	34.00	5.75	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-06-2026	65.06	34.94	15.76	4.65	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	32.92	67.08	47.65	24.35	1.39	0.00
One Year Ago 06-10-2025	48.45	51.55	17.87	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

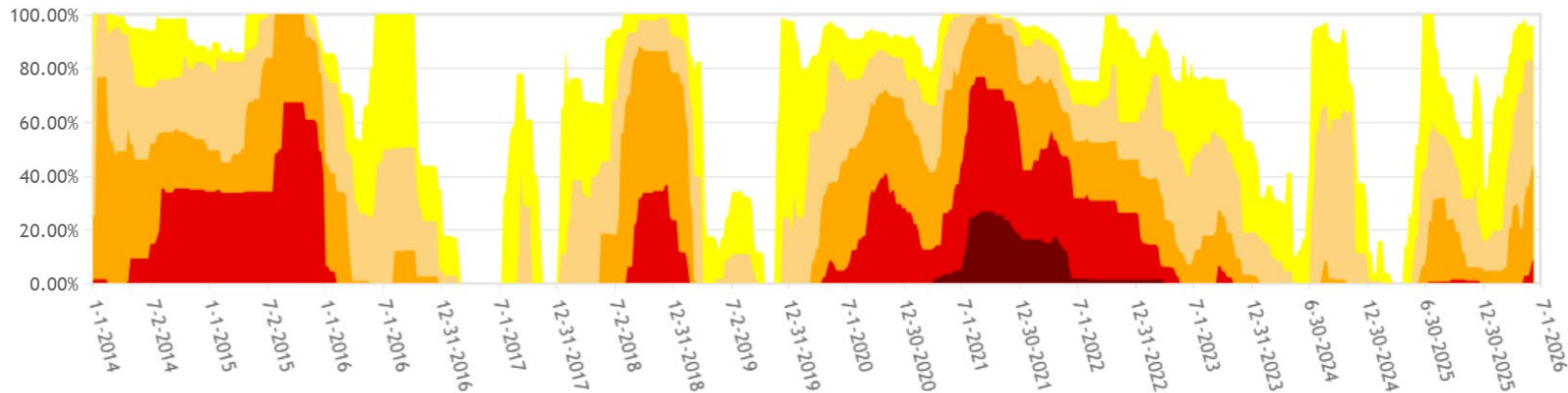
- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

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National Drought Mitigation Center

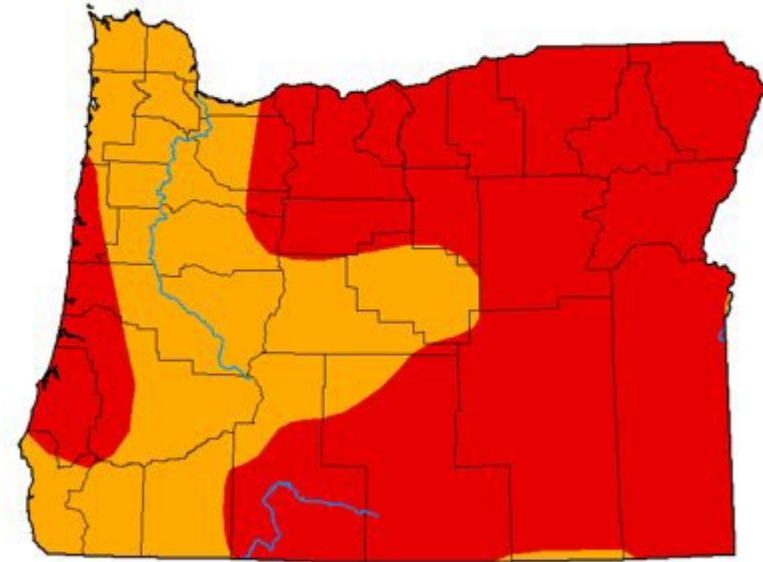
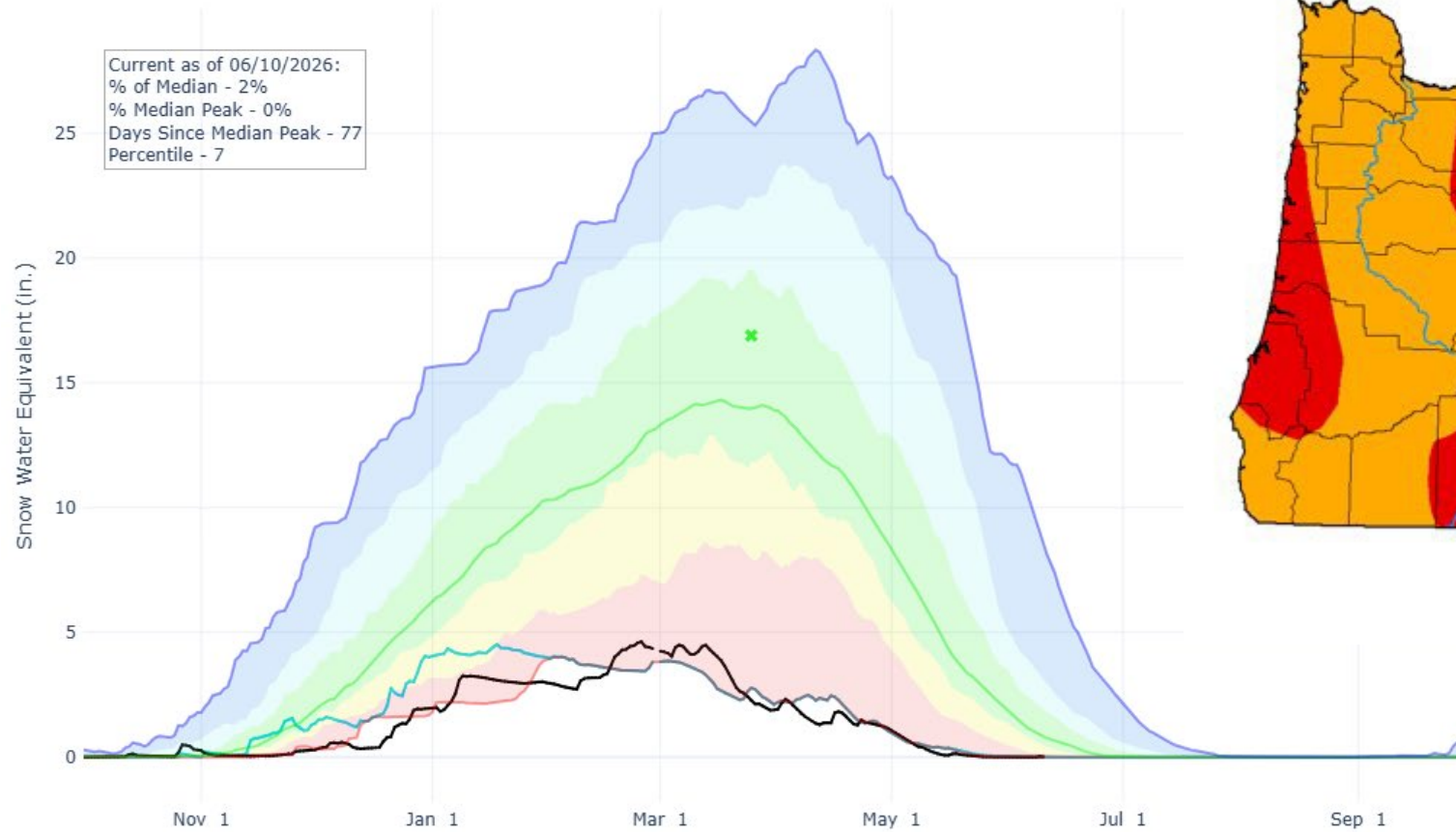
Oregon Percent Area in U.S. Drought Monitor Categories



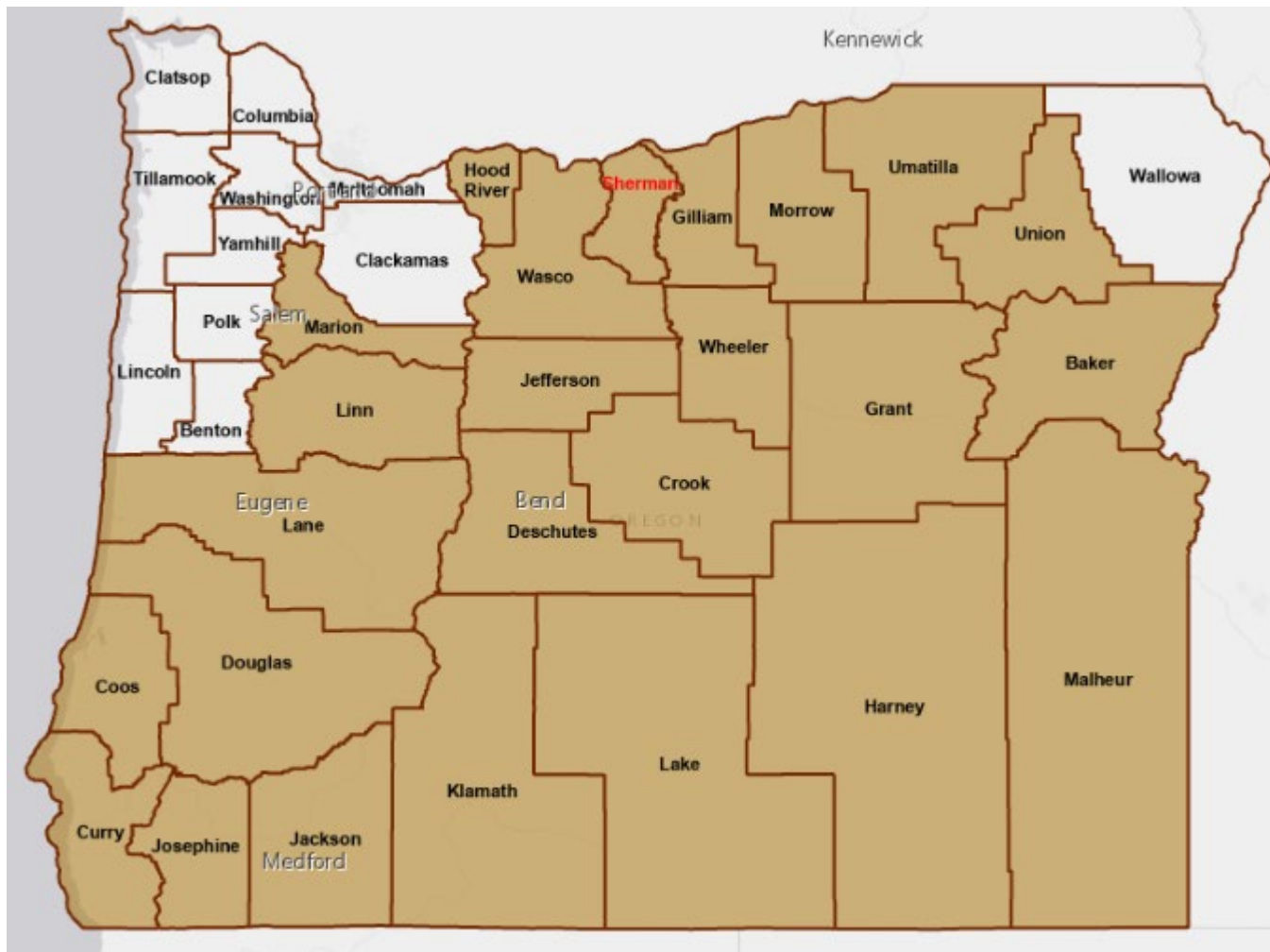
Snowpack Conditions

September 29, 2015

SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN STATE OF OREGON

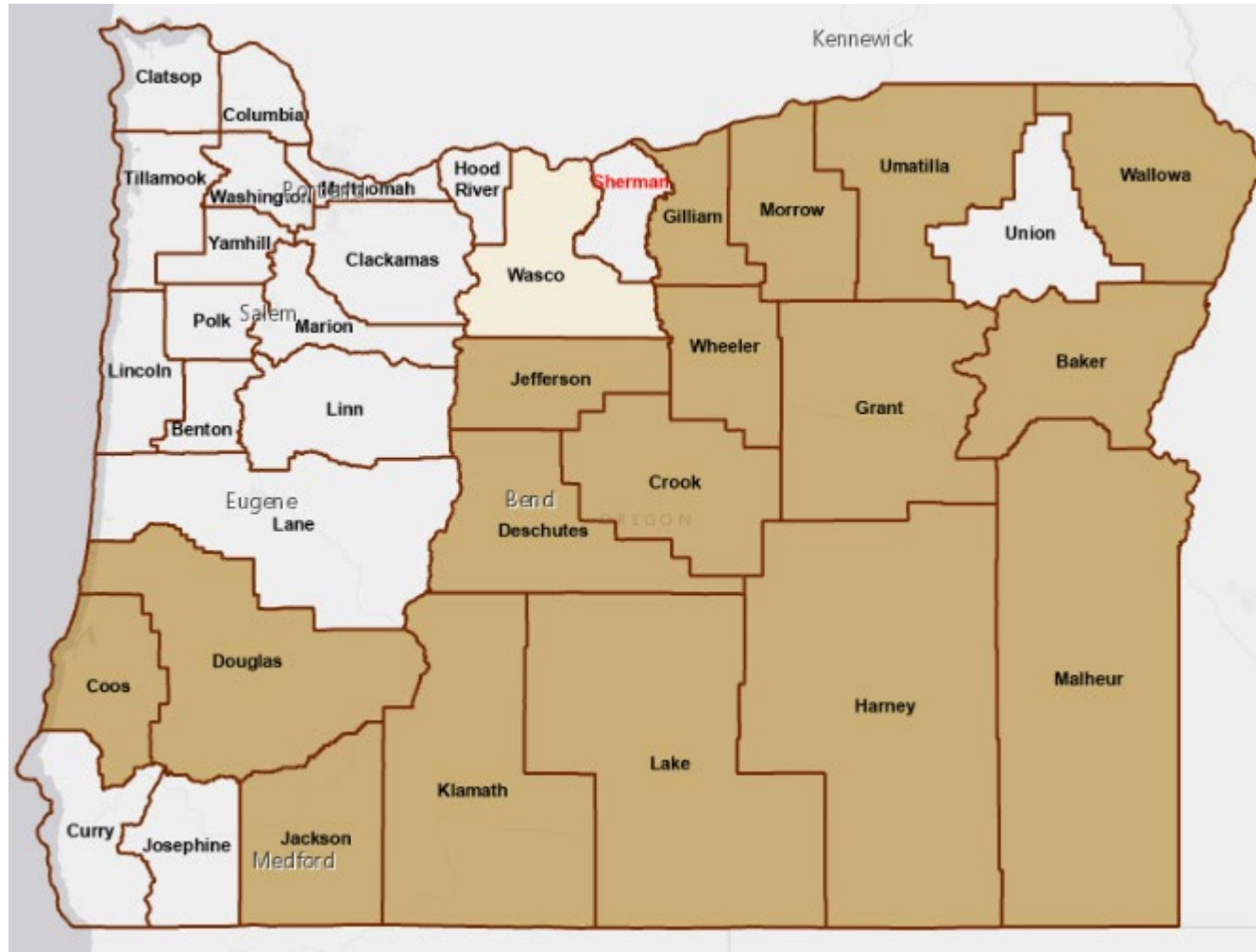


Drought emergencies declared during 2015



- *State-issued emergency drought declarations in 25 of 36 counties*
- *Lack of snow primary contributor*

County drought emergencies declared to date 2026

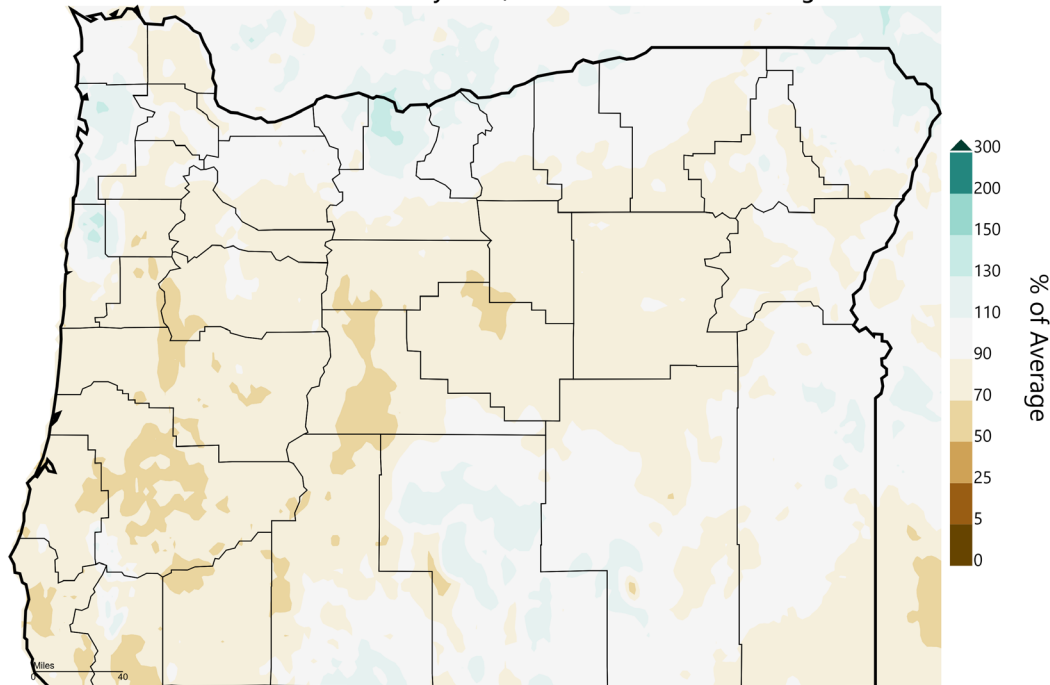


- *State declaration in 17 counties*
- *Burns Paiute Tribe received a declaration for: Lake, Harney, Malheur and Grant counties*
- *Wasco County is under evaluation*

Precipitation and Temperature Conditions: October 2025 - May 2026

Oregon - Precipitation

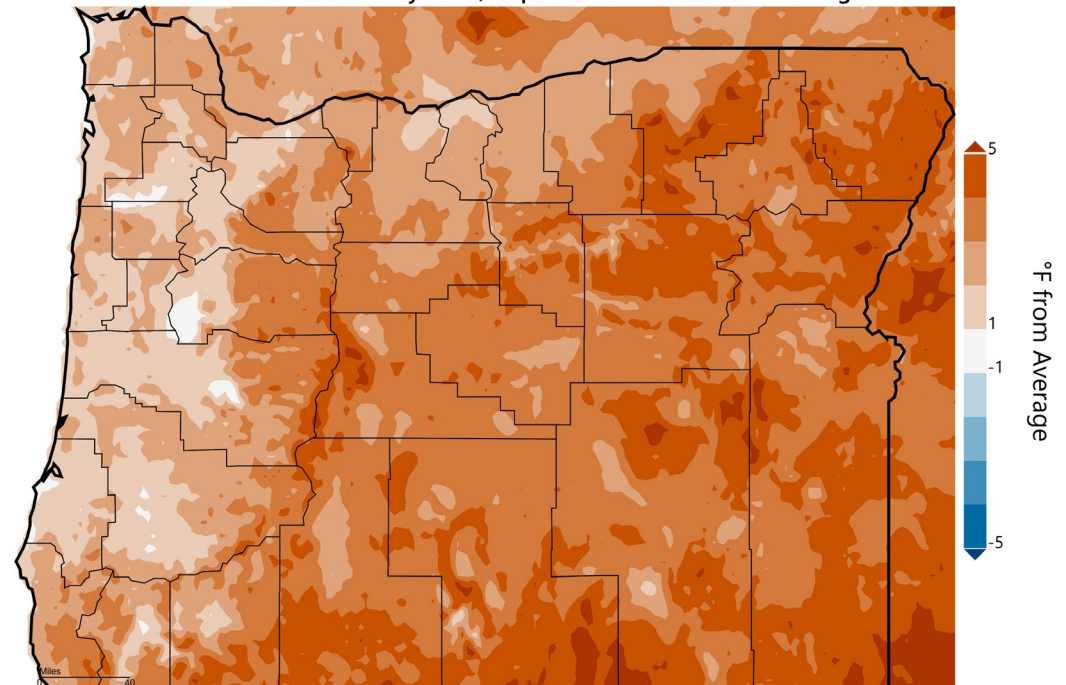
October 2025 - May 2026, Percent of 1991-2020 Average



WestWide Drought Tracker, WRCC, Climate Engine, Data Source: PRISM Prelim, created 05 Jun 2026

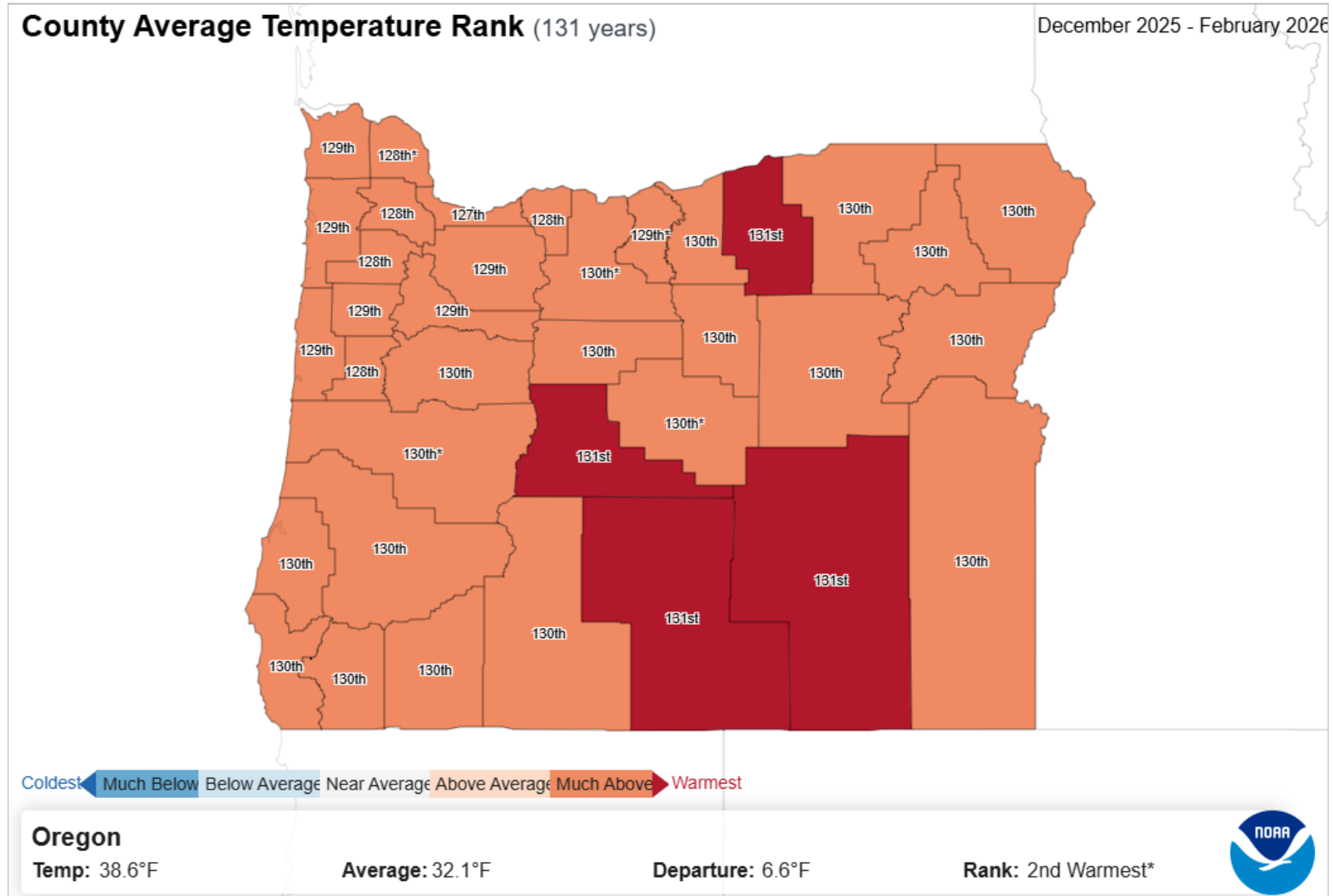
Oregon - Mean Temperature

October 2025 - May 2026, Departure from 1991-2020 Average

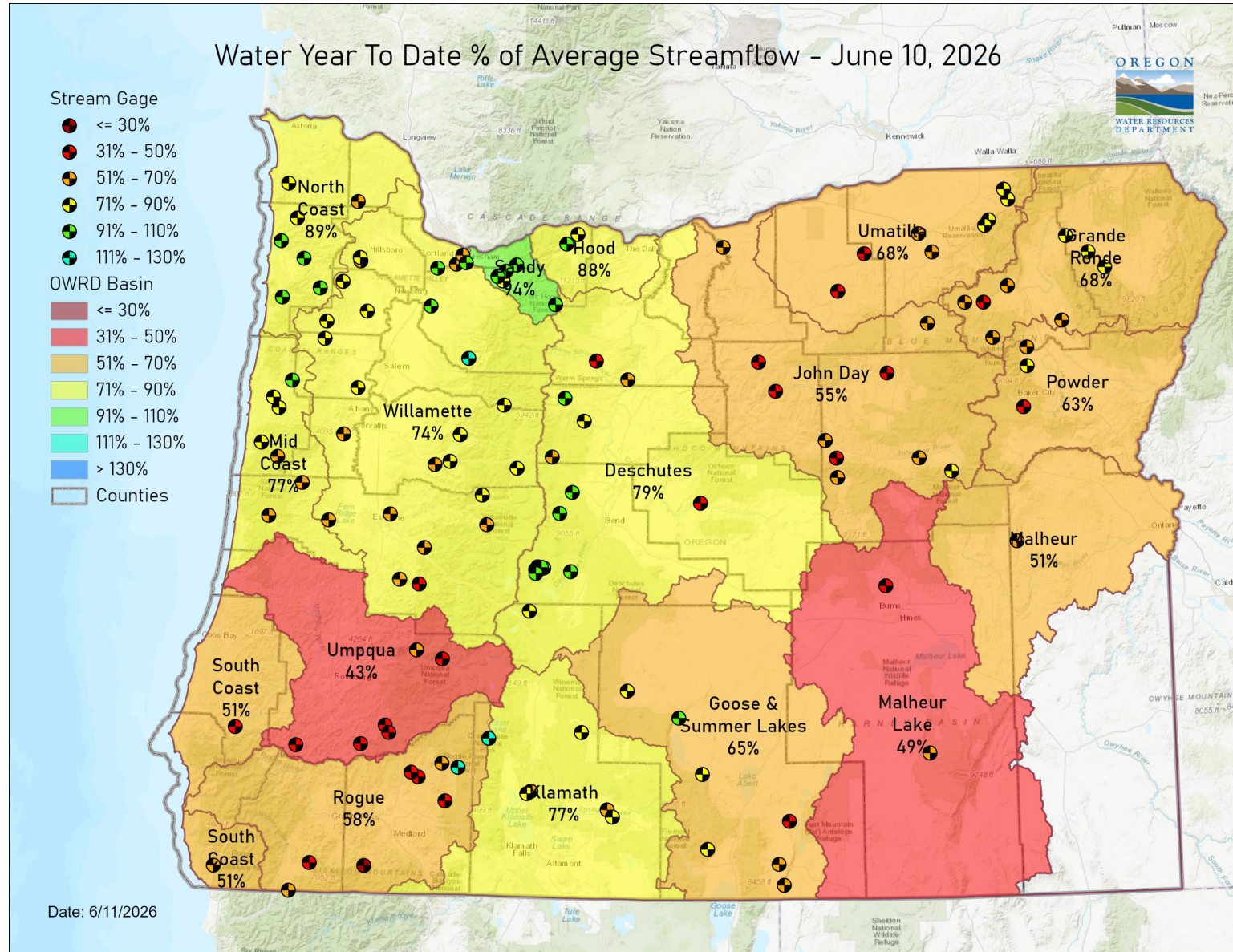


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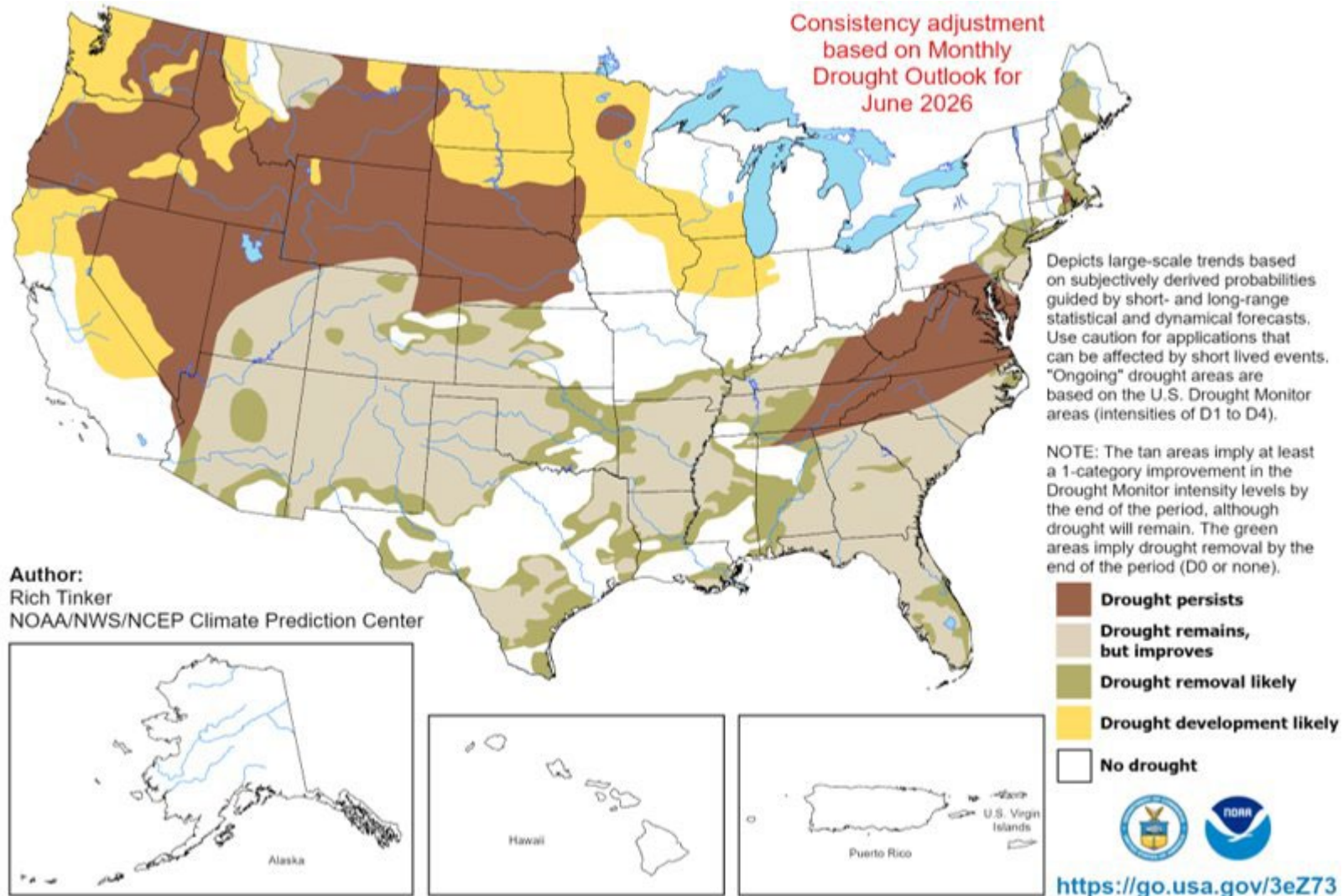
Temperature Rankings: December - February



Streamflow Conditions



Seasonal Drought Outlook: June - August



State Drought Declarations

ORS 536 & ORS 401

Drought Declarations in Oregon: ORS 536 & ORS 401

- ORS 536 – Water Supply Conditions
 - Focused on water shortage
 - Enables temporary water management tools
- ORS 401 – Emergency Management
 - Broader emergency authority
 - Addresses health, safety, and economic impacts
- Different tools. Different purposes.

ORS 536: Severe and Continuing Drought

- **Authority**

- Drought-specific water management authority
- Focused on water supply shortages
- Enables temporary and emergency water rights tools
- Process supported by **Water Supply Availability Committee** and **Drought Readiness Council**

Emergency Water Rights Tools

Temporary drought permits

Temporary transfers or substitutions

Temporary instream leases

Temporary exchanges of water

Special options agreements

Human consumption or stock water preference

Water Supply Availability Committee (WSAC)

- Interagency technical committee chaired by OWRD
- Evaluates current and forecasted water supply conditions
- Provides consistent, objective water supply analysis
- Informs county drought requests and supports DRC deliberations

WSAC Members

- Oregon Water Resources Department (Chair)
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- NOAA / National Weather Service
- Northwest River Forecast Center
- U.S. Geological Survey
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- Oregon Department of Agriculture
- Oregon Department of Emergency Management
- Oregon Department of Forestry

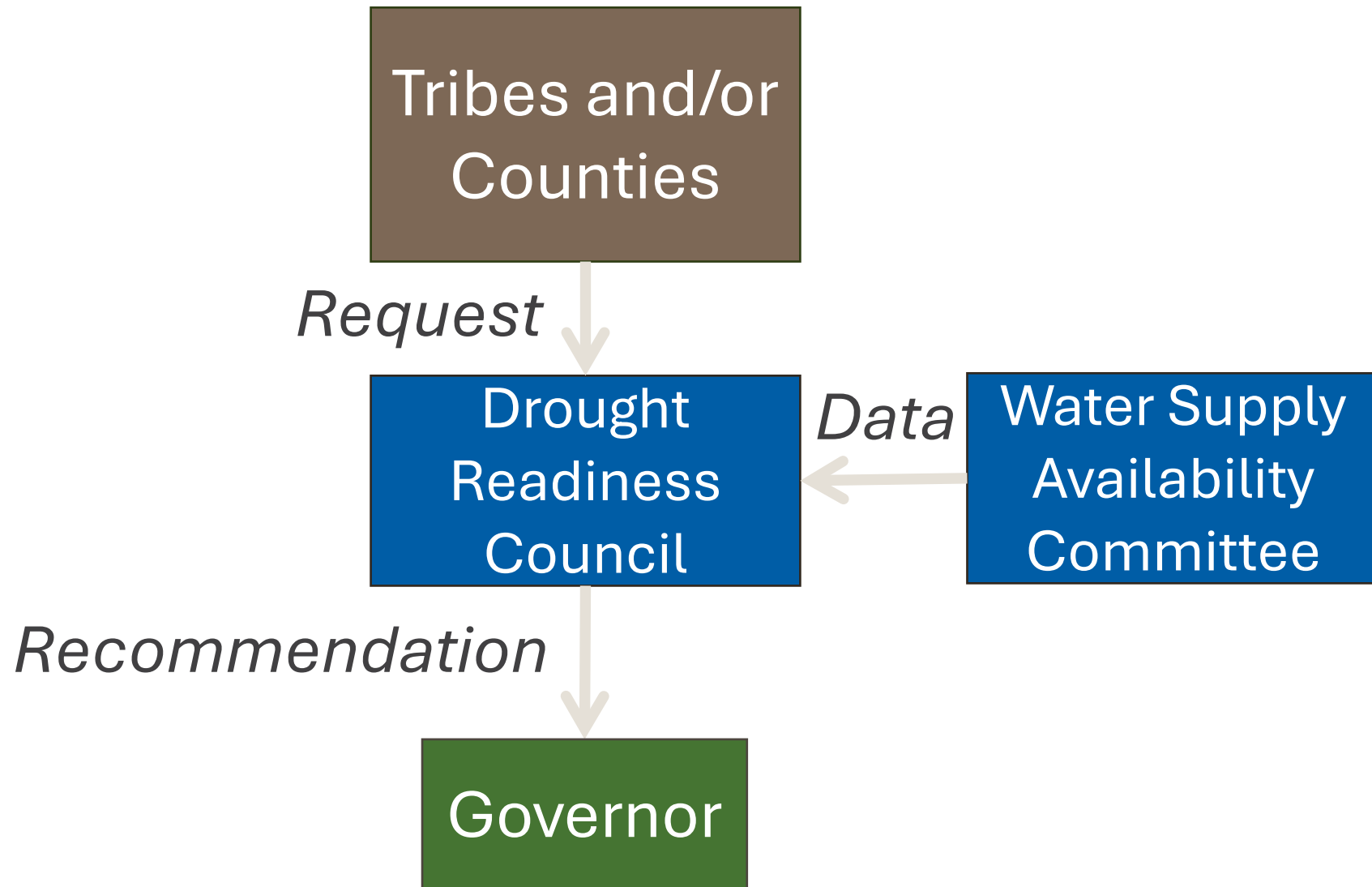
Drought Readiness Council (DRC)

- Interagency advisory and coordination body co-chaired by OWRD and OEM
- Uses WSAC assessments to evaluate impacts
- Reviews and evaluates local requests for drought assistance
- Recommends drought declarations to the Governor

DRC Members

- Oregon Water Resources Department (Co-chair)
- Oregon Department of Emergency Management (Co-chair)
- Oregon Department of Agriculture
- Oregon Department of Energy
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- Oregon Health Authority (Drinking Water Program)
- Oregon Climate Service

How WSAC and DRC Work Together





ORS 401: Declaration of a State of Emergency

Authority

- Provides elected officials with emergency authorities, as outlined in jurisdictional ordinances to meet immediate needs.
- Grants the Governor broad emergency powers to address situations that causes or threatens widespread loss of life, injury to person or property, human suffering or financial loss.
- Not limited to water supply conditions; issued based on emergency impacts.

State Declaration Process

- Initiated by a county request submitted through the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM).
- The request to OEM should include:
 - A description of the area(s) impacted and the severity of the situation and the effect on lives, public health and safety, and property.
 - A description of the efforts local jurisdictions have taken to resolve the situation
 - A description of the specific emergency-related unmet needs.

[See Emergency Declaration Guidelines for Elected and Appointed Officials](#)



Planning for Drought

Coordinate with your jurisdiction's emergency manager to:

1. Identify existing plans.
 - Understand and define drought impacts.
 - Identify resources capabilities and shortfalls
 - Ensure there is a communications plan with messaging available to address possible questions and provide direction to the public.
2. Organize a planning team.
3. Request resources or technical assistance to prepare or respond to a drought emergency.

Technical Assistance Resource:

[OEM's Local Water Supply Emergency Planning Guidance](#)

Drought Declarations and Local Leadership

- Declarations can:
 - Provide water management flexibility
 - Improve interagency coordination
 - Support eligibility for assistance
- Declarations *do not*:
 - Provide funding
 - Replace local preparedness
 - Make federal assistance available

2026 Drought Response

- Early coordination – OEM, WRD, and Emergency Managers
- WRD tracking metrics, reporting to OEM
- Focus on communications
 - Conditions and declaration process presentations
 - Inter-agency coordination meetings
 - Public messaging on Water Conservation
 - Continuous improvement to biweekly Drought and Water Supply conditions report
 - Informational and reporting resources for domestic well owners
 - Improved coordination with Tribes

What's Next

Continue implementation of drought-related actions in the following reports:

- Integrated Water Resources Strategy
- 2016 Drought Task Force Report
- Drought Vulnerability Assessment

OREGON



WATER RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT

Thank you!

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