

2025-0832

07/22/2025

DOUGLAS COUNTY OREGON
FILED

JUL 22 2025

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DOUGLAS COUNTY

DOUGLAS COUNTY CLERK

AN ORDER IN THE MATTER OF)
REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO) ORDER
ISSUE A DECLARATION, PURSUANT)
TO ORS 536.740, THAT A SEVERE,)
CONTINUING DROUGHT EXISTS)
IN DOUGLAS COUNTY, OREGON

WHEREAS, the Douglas County Board of Commissioners finds that the Douglas County agricultural, livestock and forest products industries, and related businesses are experiencing economic hardship and potential serious injury and losses resulting from extreme weather conditions within the county; and

WHEREAS, the July 10, 2025, Oregon Water Resources Department Water Conditions Report states that Douglas County stream flows were 63% of average for the month of June 2025. The report also states that soil moisture levels are very low. The most recent three-month outlook prepared by NOAA Climate Prediction Center indicates "conditions are likely to continue or worsen, as probabilities favor above average temperatures and near average precipitation". The South Umpqua River and multiple smaller tributaries in the Umpqua Basin have already been regulated by the state watermaster in favor of senior rights, and it is anticipated that further reductions will take place in the weeks ahead. Due to dry soils and low stream flows, basin water managers expect to regulate surface water right users much earlier and to older priority dates than normal. This lack of surface water resources will negatively impact consumptive water users including irrigators, industrial and domestic users resulting in economic losses and hardship. Groundwater resources will also be affected by a lack of sufficient recharge resulting in reduced spring and well water supplies for household uses. As of July 10, 2025, the U.S. Drought Monitor for Oregon illustrates the majority of Douglas County is already in Moderate Drought.

WHEREAS, the extended weather forecast for Douglas County projects higher than normal temperatures, and below average precipitation; and

WHEREAS, the above conditions will result in the loss of economic stability, decreased feed and pasture production, shortened growing season and decreased water supplies for Douglas County agricultural, livestock and vineyard producers. In addition this multi-year cumulative drought has resulted in decreased fuel moisture and early onset fire danger; and

WHEREAS, the Douglas County Board of Commissioners determines that extraordinary measures must be taken to alleviate the suffering of citizens and livestock and to protect or mitigate economic loss, and to be responsive to the threat of wildfires.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DOUGLAS COUNTY FINDS AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Board finds that an emergency exists in Douglas County, Oregon due to the severe and continuing drought conditions, and that such emergency threatens the availability of essential services and jeopardizes the peace, health and welfare of the people of Douglas County, Oregon.
2. The Board finds that additional action by and support from the State is necessary to address this emergency, which may include assistance from the Oregon Water Resources Commission and other Oregon executive branch agencies.
3. The Board requests the Honorable Tina Kotek, Governor of Oregon, to find that there is a need for statewide coordination of water resource conservation measures by municipal and other political subdivisions of this state in order to minimize problems caused by a severe shortage of water, and issue a declaration pursuant to ORS 536.740 that a severe, continuing drought exists in Douglas County, Oregon.
4. The Board requests the Governor to address this emergency through the provisions of ORS Chapter 536, including providing the assistance of the Water Resources Commission.

DATED: July 16, 2025

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF DOUGLAS COUNTY

By [Signature]
Chair

By _____
Commissioner

By [Signature]
Commissioner

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT

By *Smith*
Department Head
Date: 7/15/2025

APPROVED AS TO FORM

By _____
County Counsel
Date: _____