



DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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RE: Douglas County Drought

Date: July 21, 2025

Mr. Greenwood and Mr. Peetz:

Douglas County, by and through its County Elected Officials, requests that the Governor of Oregon issue an executive order for all of Douglas County under the provisions of ORS 536 as a direct result of severe and continued drought conditions.

There is the potential for widespread and severe damage to agriculture and livestock, natural resources, recreation, tourism, and related economies resulting from extreme drought conditions in Douglas County. The annual water supplies available for irrigators and ranchers within Douglas County depends upon adequate stream flows, which are significantly lower than normal in the Umpqua basin. Current predictions by NOAA are that drought within our region will persist or intensify and could dramatically increase wildland fire danger due to higher-than-normal temperatures and below average precipitation.

Additionally, a large share of the county's economy is dependent upon the agriculture sector which is adversely affected by low rainfall. Our initial assessment of impacts indicates imminent and significant damages and losses to the agricultural economy of Douglas County.

Douglas County has already formally declared a drought and has attached a copy of the adopted resolution for your files.

The Douglas County Board of Commissioners has determined that additional action by and support from the state is needed. This may include assistance from the Oregon Water Resources Department and other Oregon executive branch agencies, operating within their statutory authorities.

The Douglas County Board of Commissioners therefore requests an executive order from the Governor, declaring drought in Douglas County.

We extend in advance our appreciation for your consideration on this matter

DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tim Freeman, Chair

Tom Kress, Commissioner

Chris Boice, Commissioner