

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 March 24, 2026, Oregon Water Resources Department Water Conditions Report states that Douglas County stream flows were 58% of average for the month of March 2026, soil moisture levels are very low, and the snow water equivalent for the Rogue-Umpqua Basin is 14% of the historical median. The most recent three-month outlook prepared by NOAA Climate Prediction Center indicates "conditions are likely to persist, as probabilities favor above normal temperatures and below average precipitation. 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 March 17, 2026, 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

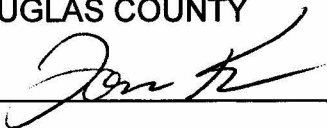
WHEREAS, the Douglas County Board of Commissioners determines that extraordinary measures must be taken to alleviate the suffering of citizens and livestock and to protect or mitigate economic loss, and to be responsive to the threat of wildfires.

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

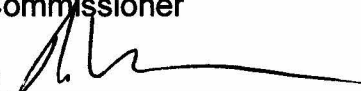
1. The Board finds that an emergency exists in Douglas County, Oregon due to the severe and continuing drought conditions, and that such emergency threatens the availability of essential services and jeopardizes the peace, health and welfare of the people of Douglas County, Oregon.
2. The Board finds 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: April 29, 2026


**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF DOUGLAS COUNTY**

By 
Chair

By Absent-Boice
Commissioner

By 
Commissioner

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT

By 
Department Head
Date: 4/27/26

APPROVED AS TO FORM

By _____
County Counsel
Date: _____



**DOUGLAS COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

TOM KRESS

CHRIS BOICE

TIM FREEMAN

1036 SE Douglas Ave., Room 217 → Roseburg, Oregon 97470

Cameron Greenwood, Hydrologist
Oregon Water Resources Department
Co-Chair, Oregon Drought Readiness Council
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Curtis Peetz, Response Planner
Oregon Office of Emergency Management
Co-Chair, Oregon Drought Readiness Council
curtis.peetz@oem.oregon.gov

RE: Douglas County Drought
Date: April 29, 2026

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 depend 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 damage 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.

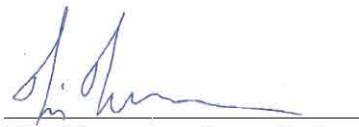
The Douglas County Board of Commissioners therefore requests an executive order from the Governor, declaring drought in Douglas County. We extend in advance our appreciation for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Tom Kress, Chair

Absent
Chris Boice, Commissioner


Tim Freeman, Commissioner