



Oregon's Drought Readiness Council

To: County Emergency Managers

From: Ryan Andrews, Drought Readiness Council Co-Chair
Oregon Water Resources Department

and

Traci Naile, Drought Readiness Council Co-Chair
Oregon Office of Emergency Management

Date: January, 2021

Re: Templates for Drought Requests

Counties that are considering requesting drought declarations from the Governor now have additional tools to help during the process. Before requesting a drought declaration under Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 536, counties should declare a drought at the local level and provide a copy of the resulting declaration. To make a request, counties should include the type of information provided in the attached sample. The sample asks for a narrative that describes specific observed or anticipated impacts to agricultural and livestock, natural resources, recreational, tourism, or other related economies and systems. The request should also include the actions the county has taken or plans to take to anticipate or mitigate effects of the drought.

A drought declaration under ORS 536 unlocks a number of water-related tools at the Water Resources Department. These tools, including an expedited process to request temporary drought permits to use groundwater, are available for the term the Governor's drought declaration is still in effect, typically through the end of the year in which the Executive Order is issued.

Letters should be sent to the addresses displayed in the sample template. Please contact us with any questions or concerns you may have about this process.

Should conditions worsen to the point where the situation is life-threatening or no longer manageable at the local level (i.e., water needs to be hauled or other tangible assistance is needed from the Oregon Office of Emergency Management), counties should send a separate letter invoking ORS 401.

Oregon County Letterhead – Customize highlighted areas with county-specific information

Ryan Andrews
Hydrologist
Oregon Water Resources Department
Co-Chair, Oregon Drought Readiness Council
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A
Salem, OR 97301
Via Email: ryan.m.andrews@state.or.us

Traci Naile
Operations and Preparedness Manager
Oregon Office of Emergency Management
Co-Chair, Oregon Drought Readiness Council
P.O. Box 14370 Salem, OR 97301
Via Email: traci.naile@state.or.us

RE: Oregon County Drought

Date: Date

Mr. Andrews and Ms. Naile:

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

There is the potential for the Oregon County agricultural and livestock, natural resources, recreational, tourism, and related economies to experience widespread and severe damage resulting from extreme weather conditions within the county. Add narrative about specific observed or future impacts here.

The county has already formally declared a drought, and has attached a copy of the adopted resolution for your files. In addition, the county has taken the following actions to anticipate or mitigate effects of the drought: fill in public and private sector actions.

The Oregon County Board of Commissioners/Judge 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.

Oregon County Board of Commissioners/Judge therefore requests an executive order from the Governor, declaring drought in Oregon County.

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

Sincerely,

Signature Block