



To: Tribal and County Emergency Managers

From: Oregon's Drought Readiness Council

Cameron Greenwood, Drought Readiness Council Co-Chair Oregon Water Resources Department

Curtis Peetz, Drought Readiness Council Co-Chair Oregon Department of Emergency Management

Date: May 2026

RE: **State Drought Declaration Requests Under ORS 536**

After declaring a local drought emergency, Oregon Tribes and counties can petition the governor to declare a state drought emergency under ORS 536. Oregon Water Resources Department offers certain tools to water right holders in areas with Executive Orders declaring a state drought emergency under ORS 536. Tribal or county emergency managers should submit declaration requests to the Drought Readiness Council (DRC), co-chaired by the Oregon Department of Emergency Management and the Oregon Water Resources Department when seeking state drought declarations under ORS 536.

Prior to making a formal request with the DRC, Tribes or counties must first declare a drought at the jurisdictional level. Afterwards, a copy of the resolution should be provided to the DRC along with a formal letter signed by the Board of County Commissioners/County Court/County Emergency Managers/Tribal Council/Tribal Board of Directors/Tribal Chair/Tribal Emergency Managers that requests an executive order under ORS 536 issuing a drought declaration. Due to the potential jurisdictional overlap, counties and Tribes are encouraged to coordinate. The content of the letter should include:

1. Information about the observed and anticipated impacts of continued drought conditions, such as impacts to critical facilities, public utilities, agriculture, the local economy, recreation, tourism, cultural resources, etc.
2. Description of any actions taken to mitigate the effects of drought.
3. Benefits the county or Tribe(s) is/are seeking through a state drought declaration under ORS 536.
4. Any supporting documentation (e.g., letters of support, etc.)

It is important to include narrative as outlined above as it assists the DRC in evaluating the severity of the drought and provides valuable information regarding drought-related impacts. Letters should be written on county or Tribal letterhead and emailed to the addresses displayed in the attached template.

County emergency managers – Prior to submitting a drought request (see attached letter template) to the DRC for the Governor's consideration, county emergency managers should notify Tribal emergency managers, relying on the information in the attached Tribal Nation Emergency Manager contact list and counties of interest. County emergency managers are strongly encouraged to coordinate with Tribes prior to submitting a request.

Tribal emergency managers – Tribes seeking an ORS 536 drought declaration are encouraged to use the letter template attached and to coordinate with emergency managers prior to submitting a request.

Please contact cameron.a.greenwood@water.oregon.gov or curtis.peetz@oem.oregon.gov **with any questions regarding this process.**

Attachments:

- Tribal Nation Emergency Manager contact list and counties of interest for Tribes
- Letter template for requesting a state drought declaration under ORS 536 with Oregon's Drought Readiness Council.

Tribal Counties of Interest (Updates pending)

Tribe(s)	County Service Area
Burns Paiute Tribe	Grant, Harney, Lake, Malheur
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians	Coos, Curry, Douglas, Lane, Lincoln
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	Clackamas, Lincoln, Linn, Benton, Lane, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Tillamook, Washington, Yamhill
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians	Clackamas, Lincoln, Linn, Benton, Lane, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Tillamook, Washington, Yamhill
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation	Umatilla
Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs	Jefferson, Wasco
Coquille Indian Tribe	Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson, Lane
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians	Coos, Deschutes, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, Lane,
Klamath Tribes	Deschutes, Douglas, Klamath, Jackson, Lake

Tribal Emergency Manager Contact List

Tribe(s)	Tribal Emergency Manager Contact Information
Burns Paiute Tribe	Suzanne Settle, suzanne.settle@burnspaiute-nsn.gov
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians	Armando Martinez, amartinez@ctclusi.org
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	Brandy Bishop, brandy.bishop@grandronde.org
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians	Ian Keene, iank@ctsi.nsn.us
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation	Kim Hughes, kimberlyhughes@ctuir.org
Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs	Danny Martinez, danny.martinez@wstribes.org
Coquille Indian Tribe	Lon Matheny, lonmatheny@coquilletribe.org
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians	Paul Crase, paul.crase@cowcreek-nsn.gov
Klamath Tribes	Lacey Jarrell, lacey.jarrell@klamathtribes.com



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RE: [County/Tribe(s)] Drought

[Date]

Mr. Greenwood and Mr. Peetz,

[County/Tribe(s)], by and through its Elected Officials or Authorized Spokesperson, requests that the Governor of Oregon issue an executive order for all of [County/Tribe(s)] under the provisions of ORS 536 as a direct result of severe and continuing drought conditions.

There is the potential for widespread and severe damage to the following sectors from extreme drought conditions in [County/Tribe(s)].

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| ☐ Agriculture | ☐ Livestock |
| ☐ Cultural | ☐ Private Domestic Wells |
| ☐ Fisheries | ☐ Public Water Systems |
| ☐ Forestry | ☐ Tourism/Recreation |
| ☐ Other _____ | |

[PROVIDE DETAILS OF THE TYPES OF IMPACTS THE COUNTY/TRIBE(S) HAS/HAVE ALREADY OBSERVED OR ANTICIPATES OCCURRING FOR THE ABOVE IDENTIFIED SECTORS].

The [County/Tribe(s)] has already formally declared a drought and has attached a copy of the adopted resolution for your files. In addition, the [County/Tribe(s)] has taken the following actions to mitigate current effects and/or in anticipation of continued or worsening drought conditions: [PROVIDE EXAMPLES OF MITIGATING ACTIONS].

The [County/Tribe(s)] [Board of Commissioners/Court/Council/Board of Directors/Chair] therefore requests an executive order from the Governor, declaring drought in [County/Tribal Area of Designation].

For counties: The above-named county has notified the Tribal Emergency Manager for [insert Tribe(s)] that the county is seeking drought declaration under ORS 536.