



**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 12-11**

**DETERMINATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN HARNEY AND MALHEUR COUNTIES DUE TO EXTREME FIRES**

Pursuant to ORS 401.165, I find that extreme fires have caused and immediately threaten to cause local adverse natural and economic disaster conditions in Harney and Malheur Counties. These conditions have resulted in evacuations of homes, road closures, power outages, as well as broad impacts to cattle, ranching operations, wildlife and habitat.

Beginning on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012 lightning strikes ignited two large fires: the Miller Homestead Fire in Harney County and the Long Draw Fire in Malheur County. With existing drought conditions, high temperatures, and erratic winds, these two fires grew quickly. Combined, the fires have burned over 750,000 acres in the two counties, making them among the largest fires in state history. Professional and volunteer firefighters and everyday citizens are to be commended for their fire defense efforts and success in limiting damages and protecting both life and property under extremely challenging conditions.

The conditions resulting from these wildfires threaten significant economic loss to Harney and Malheur Counties, as well as to the counties' agricultural, livestock, and natural resource land bases. Current conditions are being addressed by state agencies including the Department of Agriculture, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Oregon Emergency Management.

A timely response to this situation is vital to the well being and economic security of the citizens and businesses in the region. I am therefore declaring a state of emergency in Harney and Malheur Counties and directing the following activities:

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND DIRECTED:**

1. The Oregon Department of Agriculture is directed to coordinate and provide assistance in seeking federal resources available to mitigate adverse conditions and affect agricultural recovery in Harney and Malheur Counties.
2. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is directed to coordinate and provide assistance in seeking federal resources available for rangeland species and habitat restoration and monitoring in Harney and Malheur Counties.

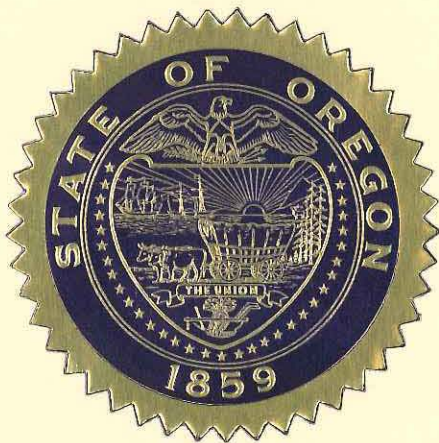


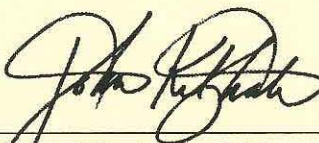
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3. The Office of Emergency Management is directed to coordinate and assist as needed with assessment and mitigation activities to address current and projected conditions in Harney and Malheur Counties.
4. All other departments are directed to coordinate with the above agencies and to provide appropriate state resources as determined essential to assist affected political subdivisions in Harney and Malheur Counties.

This emergency is declared only for **Harney and Malheur Counties** and expires on December 31, 2012.

These findings were made verbally on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 3:30 p.m.



  
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John A. Kitzhaber, MD  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



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Kate Brown  
SECRETARY OF STATE