



## Executive Order 25-26 FAQ

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### **What does this Order aim to solve?**

Oregon faces a critical moment as changing climate and ocean conditions impact its landscapes, waters, communities, and economies through rising temperatures, warming surface waters, shifting precipitation, reduced snowpack, hotter and drier summers, diminishing water supplies, habitat loss for iconic species, and more frequent severe wildfires and extreme weather.

Our historical approach to natural resource management has not been adequate in accounting for the modern climate reality reshaping our landscapes, waters and ecosystems. It is imperative that we focus our limited existing resources toward actions that are most effective. The state needs to implement programs with a climate adaptation lens that help our waters, forests, wildlife habitats, wetlands, and farmlands adapt and survive these changes.

This Order shifts our work on behalf of natural and working landscapes from "how do we preserve what was?" to "how do we build resilience for what's coming?"

### **What does this Order direct state agencies to do?**

Executive Order 25-26 directs state agencies to coordinate efforts to minimize climate impacts and help Oregon's lands and waters adapt to a changing climate, so they continue to support the health, environment, and economy of Oregonians.

Most importantly, this Order directs natural resource state agencies to consider the long-term durability and effectiveness of conservation actions as they plan and implement programs, initiatives, and partnerships to conserve, protect, restore, or connect lands and waters.

### **What is the implementation timeline for the Order?**

Implementation will begin immediately with the convening of the Governor's Natural Resources Cabinet and the establishment of an inter-agency, technical team led by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). Relevant state agencies are expected to produce work plans on a schedule to inform the development of the Governor's Request Budget (GRB) to better target resources and programs for the increasing management challenges from changing conditions across our lands and waters.

## **What materials and processes are the agencies using to develop and define the resilience attributes?**

The Directors of OWEB and ODFW will work together to lead an inter-agency team of natural resource agencies in the development of resiliency attributes for agencies to use as a key source of information when prioritizing and targeting programs and initiatives. These two lead agencies will work closely with the head of the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE), who is responsible for Oregon's Natural and Working Lands (NWL) Program.

The framing of these resilience attributes will rely on science-based relevant information from existing sources and reports, including the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Roadmap, Forest Climate and Carbon Plan, Connectivity Action Plan, Integrated Water Resources Strategy, Climate Adaptation Framework, and Natural Climate Solutions, and prior work of other states, and national non-governmental organizations.

## **How is the 10 by 10 directive calculated and tracked?**

The Order sets a goal for state agencies to protect, conserve, connect, or restore 10% of Oregon's lands and waters within ten years, compared to 2025 baseline conditions. As a first step to implement the Order, an inter-agency team will work together to establish a baseline to serve as the starting point for measuring progress toward the 10% goal over the next ten years.

Establishing baseline conditions will involve looking at ongoing management or conservation of lands and waters as well as identifying the criteria that will guide what types of actions will qualify toward the ten percent goal.

Once the baseline is established, agencies can accurately track progress and ensure that efforts are moving Oregon toward the 10% target by 2035.

## **Does this Order address state structures, facilities or offices?**

No, this Order is specific to State-owned or managed lands and waters that are not principally owned, operated and/or managed to support structures, offices or facilities serving state agency programs. Therefore, the Department of Corrections (DOC), Oregon State Police (OSP), and Department of Administrative Services (DAS), who are some of the largest property owners in the state, are not included in the scope of this Order.

## **Will this Order cost additional resources – outside of agency budgets – to implement?**

No. In a time of limited budgets and fiscal constraints, Executive Order 25-26 challenges state agencies to be creative and strategic. Agencies are challenged to prioritize actions that deliver the greatest climate resilience for every dollar spent, and to seek partnerships that multiply impact by identifying and implementing innovative land and water management strategies that will achieve multiple benefits at once. It is also seeking to enhance cross-agency collaborations to leverage existing programs to accomplish more than any single effort can on its own.

When considering whether proposed actions advance this directive, agencies must evaluate not just immediate effects, but the long-term durability and effectiveness of their efforts to conserve, protect, restore, or connect lands and waters, ensuring investments produce lasting results rather than short-term fixes.

**How do the directives in this Order affect issues like ODOT's constitutional dedication, and other conflicting laws in Oregon?**

The Order directs state agencies, to the extent that those agencies have legal discretion, to coordinate efforts to minimize climate impacts and help Oregon's lands and waters adapt to a changing climate, so they continue to support the health, environment, and economy of Oregonians.

**How does this impact existing priorities or efforts by state agencies, including the goal of siting more housing across the state?**

This Order is intended to be complimentary to the existing work of the state – including economic development efforts at the state level and the Governor's three initiative areas – including housing production.

The long-term health and success of the State of Oregon requires us to make progress toward a number of key goals including but not limited to: increasing the supply and improving the affordability of housing, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting a safe and reliable transportation system and building a resilient energy future. Governor Kotek believes firmly that we can further these goals and maximize the many benefits provided by resilient natural and working lands and waters by facilitating an informed and thoughtful approach to development decisions.

**How will agencies collaborate with interested parties and the public on this work?**

Natural resource state agencies are expected to work with sovereign tribal nations, landowners, communities, nongovernmental organizations, business, and government, in partnership to support our lands, waters, and communities. The development of biennial plans, outlined in the Accountability, Coordination, and Implementation section of the Order are expected to be presented at their respective board or commission meetings for discussion, review, and comment at a public meeting where public testimony can be received.