



TINA KOTEK
GOVERNOR

August 6, 2024

The Honorable Deb Haaland
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Haaland:

I write today as Oregon battles major wildfires across our state, impacting our communities, working lands, and ecological systems. On July 12, I declared a statewide State of Emergency due to the imminent and ongoing threat of wildfires and have invoked nine conflagration act emergency orders to maximize state resources. As of this letter, Oregon is battling over 140 active fires, including five mega fires, with over 1,200,000 acres burned, impacting Oregon's communities and working agricultural lands.

In accordance with 43 CFR Part 4100 Subpart 4130, I request, in coordination with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Director Tracy Stone-Manning, emergency use authorizations for temporary, alternative grazing areas and flexibility in grazing schedules on BLM-administered lands. This includes utilizing Outcome-Based Grazing Authorizations to allow for adaptive management practices that respond to the dynamic conditions caused by wildfires.

In addition to these requests, I urge the Department of the Interior to support our holistic landscape recovery through interagency coordination around the Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Program and Fish and Wildlife Habitat Restoration. These efforts are crucial for stabilizing and rehabilitating fire-affected landscapes.

On July 31, 2024, I sent a request to USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack to issue Secretarial Disaster Designations in 23 counties in Oregon, and to provide flexibility for livestock grazing permits and the usage of weed-free forage on United States Forest Service (USFS) lands. Coordination between federal agencies and the State of Oregon will be critical to wildfire recovery efforts.

254 STATE CAPITOL, SALEM OR 97301-4047 (503) 378-3111 FAX (503) 378-8970

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Our communities look to us for leadership and action in times of need. Thank you for your prompt attention to this urgent matter. I look forward to continuing our partnership with the Department of the Interior to assist Oregon's rural communities during these difficult times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tina Kotek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tina" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Kotek".

Governor Tina Kotek

cc: The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici, Congresswoman, Oregon's 1st District
The Honorable Cliff Bentz, Congressman, Oregon's 2nd District
The Honorable Earl Blumenauer, Congressman, Oregon's 3rd District
The Honorable Valerie Hoyle, Congresswoman, Oregon's 4th District
The Honorable Lori Chavez-DeRemer, Congresswoman, Oregon's 5th District
The Honorable Andrea Salinas, Congresswoman, Oregon's 6th District
The Honorable Ron Wyden, Senator, Oregon
The Honorable Jeff Merkley, Senator, Oregon