



EXECUTIVE ORDER 2026-07

WHEREAS, Kelly Armstrong, Governor of the State of North Dakota, by the authority granted under Article V, Section 1 of the North Dakota Constitution, hereby declares a drought disaster for counties and tribal nations experiencing extreme and long-term drought conditions resulting in a D2 or higher rating by the United States Drought Monitor, as well as all adjacent counties and tribal nations; and,

WHEREAS, it was the sixth-warmest July on record in North Dakota, with an average high temperature of 86.9 degrees, and the 12th-driest July on record, with total average precipitation of 1.25 inches, according to the State Climate Office. Many areas of the state received less than an inch of rain in July; and,

WHEREAS, the weekly U.S. Drought Monitor map by the National Drought Mitigation Center shows 33.6% of North Dakota in moderate drought, 28.1% in severe drought and 2.3% in extreme drought, the first report this summer to include extreme status. The rest of the state is rated abnormally dry except for part of Dickey County; and,

WHEREAS, lack of precipitation and higher than average seasonal temperatures during the spring and summer months of 2026 are expected to continue through the fall; and,

WHEREAS, drought conditions have the potential to adversely impact our agricultural industry, the mainstay of our economy; farmers and ranchers face continued lack of moisture and long, hot days that may result in poor crop and forage production and jeopardize water sources for livestock; and,

WHEREAS, drought-related financial losses to the agricultural industry and agribusiness constitute a serious economic hardship for the entire state.

NOW, THEREFORE, Kelly Armstrong, as Governor of North Dakota, by virtue of the authority vested under Article V, Section 1, North Dakota Constitution and Chapter 37-17.1, North Dakota Century Code, hereby declares a statewide drought disaster and orders:

1. Activation of the State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP) in order to assist local and tribal officials, to prevent injuries and save lives, alleviate hardships,

implement appropriate response and recovery actions and future mitigation measures, and facilitate restoration of services and infrastructure.

2. The North Dakota State Water Commission to administer the North Dakota Drought Disaster Livestock Water Supply Project Assistance Program within the counties and tribal nations impacted by drought rated D2 or higher, as well as adjacent counties and tribal nations.

All state agencies, including the N.D. Department of Emergency Services, N.D. State Water Commission, N.D. Department of Agriculture and N.D. National Guard, are ordered to maintain high readiness levels of drought-related resources and capabilities in preparation for timely execution of their respective responsibilities pursuant to the SEOP. The Adjutant General is authorized to activate and make available N.D. National Guard resources to support state agencies and local and tribal governments based upon normal cost shares.

This order is issued pursuant to the following authority and for the following reasons:

1. The Governor is vested with the executive authority pursuant to Article V, Section 1 of the North Dakota Constitution; and,
2. The Governor is vested with statutory authority to issue executive orders to minimize or avert the effects of a disaster or emergency pursuant to Chapter 37-17.1 of the North Dakota Century Code; and,
3. A coordinated and effective effort of all State departments is required to minimize the impact of disasters and emergencies in this state.

This order is in effect immediately and shall remain in effect until it is rescinded.

Executed at the State Capitol in Bismarck, North Dakota, this 10th day of August, 2026.


Kelly Armstrong
Governor

Attest:


Michael Howe
Secretary of State