



State of  
**North Dakota**  
*Office of the Governor*

Doug Burgum  
*Governor*

**Executive Order 2017-03**

**WHEREAS**, I, Doug Burgum, Governor of the State of North Dakota, by the authority vested in me, do hereby declare a flood disaster for Benson, Bottineau, Cavalier, McHenry, Pembina, Pierce, Renville, Rolette, Towner and Walsh Counties and the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indian Reservation, inclusive of their incorporated cities; and

**WHEREAS**, underlying soil conditions in these jurisdictions were wet at the onset of the 2016-2017 snow season after an excess of six to 14 inches of rain fell during the summer and into fall; and

**WHEREAS**, the state, and in particular the north central and northeastern regions, experienced heavy and wet snowfalls in late November 2016 and early January 2017, ranging from 350 to 550 percent of normal; and

**WHEREAS**, a protracted spring snowmelt season contributed to overland and riverine flooding across these jurisdictions; and

**WHEREAS**, a warming trend in late March resulted in rapid snowmelt and rises in small rivers and streams, with very significant overland flooding occurring as the melt water overflowed ditches, coulees and ponds, and flowed across rural roadways; and

**WHEREAS**, major flooding developed along the Red River of the North and persisted into mid-April; and

**WHEREAS**, major flooding began along the Souris River Basin during the last week of March and continued until the end of April; and

**WHEREAS**, preparation and response to riverine and overland flooding required a coordinated flood fight effort by state, tribal and local communities to mitigate threats to public health and safety; and

**WHEREAS**, floodwaters have substantially damaged transportation infrastructure, isolated residents, inundated farm and ranch lands, disrupted commerce, and impeded agricultural operations; and

**WHEREAS**, significant production, infrastructure and financial losses constitute economic hardship on a local, tribal and state level; and

**WHEREAS**, North Dakota's repetitive floods and the expense of extensive flood response and recovery efforts have strained local, tribal and state reserves; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost of mitigation projects required to reduce or eliminate future flood damage will place heavy financial burdens on local, tribal and state governments; and

**WHEREAS**, I reserve the right to expand this declaration to other counties or tribal nations, if required; and

**NOW THEREFORE**, this order is issued pursuant to the following authority and for the following reasons:

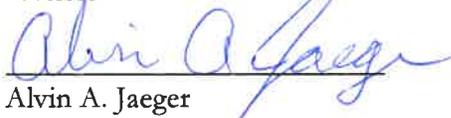
1. The Governor is vested with the executive authority pursuant to Article V, Section 1, of the North Dakota Constitution; and
2. The Governor is vested with statutory authority to issue executive orders to minimize or avert the effects of a disaster or emergency pursuant to Chapter 37-17.1 of the North 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.

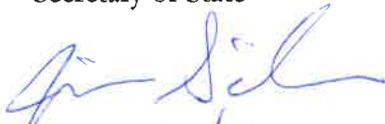
This order is in effect immediately, and shall remain in effect until it is rescinded.

Executed at Bismarck, North Dakota, this 19 day of May, 2017.

  
Doug Burgum  
Governor

Attest:

  
Alvin A. Jaeger  
Secretary of State

  
Deputy