



PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

26-02

Atmospheric River Storm Damage

WHEREAS, beginning on March 10, 2026, a powerful atmospheric river brought severe weather, including straight-line winds, heavy rainfall combined with above-average temperatures leading to snow and ice melt, flooding, downed trees, landslides, and rockslides, all causing widespread damage; and

WHEREAS, the counties of Asotin, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, King, Lewis, Pierce, Walla Walla, Whatcom, Whitman, and Yakima experienced severe impacts that threatened public health, safety, and economic stability; and

WHEREAS, these storms caused extensive disruptions in roadways and transportation networks, creating hazardous conditions and endangering public safety, requiring the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to coordinate resources for debris removal and infrastructure repair; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost of response activities and roadway repairs as of the date of this Proclamation are estimated at \$6,700,000; and

WHEREAS, the storms and resulting damage impacted the life and health of the people, as well as property and transportation infrastructure, all of which constitutes a public disaster that affects life, health, property, or public peace in Washington state; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Military Department has been monitoring and coordinating supporting actions through the State Emergency Operations Center, implementing emergency response and recovery procedures, and coordinating resources to support local officials in alleviating the immediate social and economic impacts to people, property, and infrastructure, and continuing to assess the magnitude of the event; and

WHEREAS, this Proclamation will enable WSDOT to seek Federal Highway Administration Emergency Relief funds for repairing the damage;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Ferguson, Governor of the state of Washington, as a result of the above-noted situation and under chapters 38.52 and 43.06 RCW, do hereby proclaim that a State of Emergency exists in Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, King, Lewis, Pierce, Walla Walla, Whatcom, and Whitman Counties, and direct that the plans and procedures in the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan be implemented in these counties. State agencies

and departments are directed to utilize state resources in accordance with the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and to do everything reasonably possible to assist affected political subdivisions to respond to and recover from the incident.

Signed and sealed with the official seal of the state of Washington this 27th day of April A.D., two thousand and twenty-six, at Olympia, Washington.

By:

/s/

Bob Ferguson
Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR

/s/

Secretary of State