



PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

17-05

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2017, I issued Proclamation 17-04, proclaiming a State of Emergency to exist in Eastern Washington; and

WHEREAS, from March 10 through March 30, 2017, a series of severe storms struck Washington, producing extreme rainfall throughout the region and additional storms are expected through April 3, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the expanding weather pattern impacted additional counties in Washington, including both Cowlitz and Mason counties, and is expected to continue impacting these counties; and

WHEREAS, the heavy rainfall from these storms compounded by existing soil saturation levels and early snowmelt, resulted in flooding, slope and streambank erosion, and landslides causing injuries, power outages, evacuations, road damage, temporary road closures and detours, and damage to homes, businesses, public utilities, public facilities, electrical power systems, infrastructure, and property, in addition to creating sheltering needs for impacted individuals, threatening fragile and at-risk populations, and jeopardizing the health and safety of people with special medical needs; and

WHEREAS, damage to roadways, caused by the storms resulted in temporary road closures limiting access to and complicating the provision of response and recovery efforts by emergency responders, businesses, and utilities to address the aftermath of these storms, requiring Washington's Secretary of Transportation to commence work immediately to repair affected roadways through the implementation of emergency procurement procedures to alleviate impacts to public safety; and

WHEREAS, state agencies and local jurisdictions are coordinating resources to address damaged and blocked roadways, assess damage caused by the storms, and implement damage repairs; and

WHEREAS, the storm damage and its effects continue to impact the life and health of the people as well as the property and infrastructure of Washington State, all of which is a public disaster that affects life, health, property, or the public peace; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Military Department has activated the State Emergency Operations Center, implemented emergency response procedures, is

coordinating resources to support local officials in alleviating the immediate social and economic impacts to people, property, and infrastructure, and is continuing to assess the magnitude of the event.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay R. Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, as a result of the above-noted situation and under Chapters 38.08, 38.52, and 43.06 RCW, do hereby proclaim that a State of Emergency exists in Adams, Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Columbia, Cowlitz, Douglas, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lincoln, Mason, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Whitman, Walla Walla, and Yakima counties in the state of Washington, and direct the plans and procedures in the *Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan* be implemented. 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 in an effort to respond to and recover from the event.

As a result of this event, I also hereby order into active state service the organized militia of Washington State to include the National Guard and the State Guard, or such part thereof as may be necessary in the opinion of the Adjutant General, to perform such duties as directed by competent authority of the Washington Military Department in addressing this event. In addition, the Washington Military Department, Emergency Management Division, is instructed to coordinate all incident related assistance to the affected areas.

Signed and sealed with the official seal of the state of Washington on this 31st day of March A.D., Two Thousand and Seventeen at Olympia, Washington.

By:

/s/
Jay Inslee, Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

/s/
Secretary of State