



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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**PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR
AMENDING PROCLAMATIONS 12-12, 12-13 AND 12-14**

12-15

WHEREAS, on September 13, 2012, I issued Proclamation 12-12, proclaiming a state of emergency in all counties East of the crest of the Cascade Mountains of Washington State due to current and projected weather conditions, existing fire fuel conditions that present a continuing high risk of severe wildfires, and ongoing multiple wildfires requiring significant levels of limited state and local fire fighting resources; and

On September 14, 2012, I issued Proclamation 12-13, amending Proclamation 12-12, imposing a temporary outdoor burn ban in all counties East of the crest of the Cascade Mountains of Washington State by prohibiting all outdoor and agricultural burning as specified until midnight on Tuesday, September 18, 2012; and

On September 18, 2012, I issued Proclamation 12-14, amending Proclamations 12-12 and 12-13, proclaiming that Proclamation 12-12 remains in effect and extending the outdoor burn ban in all counties East of the crest of the Cascade Mountains of Washington State until midnight on Monday, September 24, 2012; and

The threat to life and property from wildfires throughout all counties East of the crest of the Cascade Mountains remains very high, which continue to threaten extensive additional damage to homes, public facilities, businesses, public utilities, and infrastructure impacting the life and health of our citizens throughout Eastern Washington, all of which affect the life, health, property, or the public peace, and was declared in Proclamation 12-12 to be a public disaster demanding immediate action; and

As the Washington State Emergency Operations Center has continued to monitor current weather forecasts and assess the wildfire danger from these conditions, it has become evident that the existing high risk fuel conditions continue to present an active burning environment with a very high potential for producing new and multiple wildfires on public and private lands in all counties in Eastern Washington, forecasted to continue until early next week; and

The continuing high danger of new and multiple wildfires in all counties in Eastern Washington and elevated risks of new fires have also created a severe deterioration of air quality throughout the affected area with air quality values ranging from unhealthy to hazardous, which continues to exacerbate the risk to life, health, and property; and

Based on the continuing elevated risks of new and multiple wildfires, threats to air quality, and limited availability of fire fighting resources, this amendment extends the time period during which outdoor burning activities should remain prohibited to help preserve and maintain life, health, property or the public peace.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christine O. Gregoire, 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 Proclamation 12-12 remains in effect in all counties East of the crest of the Cascade Mountains in the state of Washington, and I again direct the plans and procedures of the *Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan* be implemented. State agencies and departments are again directed to utilize state resources and to do everything reasonably possible to assist affected political subdivisions in an effort to respond to and recover from the event and the Washington State Emergency Operations Center is again instructed to coordinate all event-related assistance to the affected areas.

Under the provisions of RCW 43.06.220(1)(i), to preserve and maintain life, health, property or the public peace, I also hereby extend the temporary outdoor burn ban imposed by Proclamation 12-13 and extended in Proclamation 12-14 by continuing the prohibition on all outdoor and agricultural burning in the area affected by this proclamation until midnight on Sunday, September 30, 2012. Outdoor burning includes but is not limited to campfires, bonfires, residential yard debris clean-up, trash disposal, land clearing, weed abatement, agricultural burning activity and ignition of fireworks. Liquid fueled or gas-fueled stoves are permitted provided the use is over a non-flammable surface and at least five feet from flammable vegetation. Charcoal grills are permitted at private residences provided the use is over a non-flammable surface and at least five feet from flammable vegetation. Nothing in this order supersedes more restrictive provisions of the counties, municipalities, fire districts, other political subdivisions, or public or private landowners. Nothing in this order supersedes fire permits issued by a local authority after the effective date of this proclamation that provide specific written approval for the prescribed burning activity. This order does not apply to firefighting activities by authorized firefighters acting in accordance with the fire fighting plan.

All persons are advised of potential criminal penalties for violation of this order pursuant to RCW 43.06.220.

Signed and sealed with the official seal of the state of Washington this 24th day of September, A.D, Two Thousand and Twelve at Olympia, Washington.

By:

_____/s/
Christine O. Gregoire
Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

_____/s/
Secretary of State