

**STATE OF MONTANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 11-2018**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY TO EXIST ON THE
FORT BELKNAP INDIAN RESERVATION, THE TOWN OF CHESTER, AND
PONDERA, HILL, BLAINE, VALLEY, TOOLE, LIBERTY, AND PETROLEUM
COUNTIES WITHIN THE STATE OF MONTANA**

WHEREAS, beginning on April 12, 2018, rapid snowmelt and flooding have impacted the Milk River Basin, and Marias River Basin with the potential to cause widespread damage to farmland, private residences, and critical infrastructure;

WHEREAS, well below normal temperatures have led to persistent snowpack across lower elevations, which is melting as temperatures warm leading to rapid rises in rivers, streams, and creeks;

WHEREAS, near-record snowpack and snow water equivalent remain in the mid and high elevations in nearly every river basin across Montana, which is soon expected to begin to melt off as temperatures begin to rise;

WHEREAS, the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, the Town of Chester, and Pondera, Hill, Blaine, Valley, Toole, Liberty, and Petroleum Counties have enacted emergency or disaster declarations, and activated applicable portions of jurisdictional emergency plans and programs;

WHEREAS, on April 4, 2018, I authorized the establishment of a flooding Multi-Agency Coordinating Group to review flood preparedness and provide information to local officials which may be useful during a response to flooding;

WHEREAS, the State Emergency Coordination Center continues to receive numerous declarations of emergencies from local and tribal jurisdictions;

WHEREAS, the availability and utilization of all necessary state government services, equipment, and suppliers under this proclamation will further the efforts to protect health and safety and to preserve the lives, property, and resources of the people of the State of Montana; and

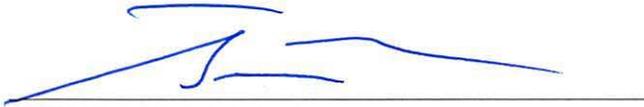
WHEREAS, under these conditions pursuant to §§ 10-3-302, 10-3-311 and 10-3-312, MCA, the Governor may mobilize state resources and the Montana National Guard to protect life, health, and property and may expend funds up to the amount determined by the Office of Budget and Program Planning to meet contingencies and address needs that may arise from the emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, STEVE BULLOCK, Governor of the State of Montana, pursuant to the authority vested in me under the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, Title 10, Chapter 3, MCA, and other applicable statutes, do hereby declare that an emergency exists within the State of Montana, specifically including the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, the Town of Chester, and Pondera, Hill, Blaine, Valley, Toole, Liberty, and Petroleum Counties as defined in §§ 10-3-103 and 10-3-302, MCA.

This Order is effective retroactively to April 12, 2018.



GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT SEAL of the State of Montana this 18th day of April, 2018.



STEVE BULLOCK, Governor

ATTEST:



COREY STAPLETON, Secretary of State *deputy*