



## D 2020 073

### EXECUTIVE ORDER

#### **Amending Executive Order D 2016 010 to Increase and Extend the Availability of Funds for the Junkins Fire in Custer and Pueblo Counties**

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor of the State of Colorado and, in particular, pursuant to Article IV, Section 2 of the Colorado Constitution and the relevant portions of the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701, *et seq.*, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order amending Executive Order D 2016 010 to increase and extend the availability of funds for the Junkins Fire in Custer and Pueblo Counties (Junkins Fire).

#### **I. Background and Purpose**

The Governor is responsible for meeting the dangers to the State and people presented by disasters. C.R.S. § 24-33.5-704(1). The Colorado Disaster Emergency Act defines a disaster as “the occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from any natural cause or cause of human origin, including but not limited to fire . . . .” C.R.S. § 24-33.5-703(3).

On October 17, 2016, a fire ignited in Custer County. The fire, named the Junkins Fire, grew rapidly, consuming 15,751 acres by the end of the day. As the fire grew in size, 270 homes were threatened or placed on pre-evacuation orders in Custer and Pueblo Counties. The extreme fire conditions put lives and property at risk. The fire exceeded Custer County’s fire suppression capabilities, and Custer County declared a local emergency on October 17, 2016.

Also on October 17, 2016, the State’s Division of Fire Prevention and Control determined that the Junkins Fire was eligible for the Emergency Fire Fund. However, due to previous fires, the Emergency Fire Fund did not have funds available for the Junkins Fire. On the same day, Governor John Hickenlooper issued Executive Order D 2016 010 declaring a disaster emergency for the Junkins Fire, authorizing the use of the Colorado National Guard, transferring seven million dollars (\$7,000,000) into the Disaster Emergency Fund from the Controlled Maintenance Trust Fund, and encumbering seven million dollars (\$7,000,000) in the Disaster Emergency Fund to pay for fire suppression, response, and recovery efforts related to the Junkins Fire.

On October 18, 2016, the Federal Emergency Management Agency approved a federal Fire Management Assistance Grant to support fire suppression activities for the Junkins Fire.

The impacts of the Junkins Fire require additional funds for ongoing response, recovery, and mitigation efforts. Accordingly, this Executive Order amends Executive Order D 2016 010 to increase and extend the availability of funds for the Junkins Fire.

## II. Amendment

Section II.C of Executive Order D 2016 010 is amended to read as follows:

Pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-706(4)(b), funds in the Disaster Emergency Fund are hereby found insufficient to pay for fire suppression efforts related to the Junkins Fire. I therefore transfer seven million dollars (\$7,000,000) into the Disaster Emergency Fund from the Controlled Maintenance Trust Fund. I further encumber eight million five hundred thousand dollars (\$8,500,000) in the Disaster Emergency Fund to pay for the fire suppression, response, and recovery efforts related to the Junkins Fire since the inception of the fire. Pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-705.4(5), I hereby authorize and direct the Emergency Management Director to allocate these funds to the appropriate government agencies and to execute awards, purchase orders, or other mechanisms to effect the allocation of these funds. These funds shall remain available for this purpose for forty-eight (48) months from October 17, 2016, and any unexpended funds shall remain in the Disaster Emergency Fund.

## III. Duration

This Executive Order shall remain in effect unless modified or rescinded by Executive Order. In all other respects, Executive Order D 2016 010 shall remain in full force and effect as originally promulgated.



GIVEN under my hand and the  
Executive Seal of the State of  
Colorado, this twenty-first day  
of May, 2020

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis".

Jared Polis  
Governor