

# STATE OF COLORADO

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor

## D 2017-003

### EXECUTIVE ORDER

#### **Extending the Availability of Existing Funds and Providing Additional Funding for the Pine Ridge Fire**

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor of the State of Colorado and, in particular, pursuant to relevant portions of the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701, *et seq.*, I, Governor John W. Hickenlooper, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order extending the availability of funds and providing additional funds to pay for costs associated with the disaster emergency due to the June 2012 Pine Ridge Fire.

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

The Governor is responsible for meeting the dangers to the state and people presented by disasters. 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).

In June 2012, a wildfire named the Pine Ridge Fire started in Mesa County on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management. The fire grew rapidly being fueled by extremely dry vegetation, low relative humidity, high temperatures, and extremely windy conditions. On June 28, 2012, the Colorado State Forest Service received a request from the Mesa County Sheriff to assume charge of the Pine Ridge Fire in accord with the Emergency Fire Fund Agreement.

This Office declared a disaster emergency due to the Pine Ridge Fire in Executive Order D 2012-025. With the disaster declaration made in Executive Order D 2012-025, the State accepted the Pine Ridge Fire as a Disaster Emergency Fund-designated fire. In that Executive Order, I transferred \$500,000 to the Disaster Emergency Fund from the General Fund appropriations and encumbered those funds for fire suppression, response, and recovery efforts in connection with the Pine Ridge Fire. Pursuant to Executive Order D 2012-025, the funds were available until July 2013.

As recovery efforts progressed, the Colorado Department of Public Safety determined that it required additional time and resources to address sufficiently the impacts of the Pine Ridge Fire.

Accordingly, the Department of Public Safety requested an additional \$341,286 to assist with the recovery efforts and requested that funds be available through December 31, 2016. Finding good cause, I hereby make the following declarations and directives relating to the funding of the Pine Ridge Fire recovery efforts.

II. Declaration and Directives

- A. I hereby encumber an additional \$341,286 in the Disaster Emergency Fund to pay for fire suppression, response, and recovery efforts related to the Pine Ridge Fire. I also extend the funding in the Disaster Emergency Fund provided in paragraph II(C) of Executive Order D 2012-025 until December 31, 2016 to facilitate final payments of the expenses associated with the Pine Ridge Fire. The Division of Fire Prevention and Control and the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management are authorized and directed to allocate the funding to the appropriate resources as may be appropriate and permitted by law.

III. Duration

This Executive Order shall expire thirty days from its date of signature unless extended further by Executive Order.



GIVEN under my hand and the  
Executive Seal of the State of  
Colorado this seventeenth day of  
February 2017.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John W. Hickenlooper".

John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor