

COUNTY OF BAKER
BOARD of COMMISSIONERS

DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER

WHEREAS, the County of Baker on this 18th day of March, 2015 has determined that the Baker County agricultural industry, and related economy is suffering widespread and severe economic damage, potential injuries and loss of property resulting from extreme cyclical weather conditions within the county.

and

Baker County's snowpack is just over 50% of normal and the snow water equivalent is less than last year with some sites being less than half of what was there in 2014 in which a drought was declared .

and

Phillips Reservoir, the largest water reservoir in the county, is only 31% full at this time which is 69% of average.

and

The extended weather forecast for Baker County projects "higher than normal temperatures, and below average precipitation".

And

The county has a third of it in moderate drought, a third in severe drought, and a third in extreme drought as represented from the U.S. Drought Monitor information released March 12, 2015.

And

These disaster conditions have resulted in loss of economic stability, pasture shortages, shortened growing season, and decreased water supplies for Baker County agricultural producers. In addition, this multi year cumulative drought has resulted in decreased forest fuel moisture and resulted in early onset fire danger.

WHEREAS, the Baker County Board of Commissioners, has determined that extraordinary measures must be taken to alleviate the suffering of people and livestock and to protect or mitigate economic loss, and to be responsive to the threat of wildfires;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Baker County Board of Commissioners:

Section 1. That a local disaster is declared within Baker County.

- Section 2. That the Baker County EOP, Drought Annex plan has been implemented.
- Section 3. That Chapter 401, section 305 of the Oregon State Revised Statutes regarding Powers of Local Governments in Emergency Service procedures, provided the basis for invoking this emergency declaration.
- Section 4. That this proclamation shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.
- Section 5. The Board of Commissioners, request that the Honorable Kate Brown, Governor, of the State of Oregon declare: "A Local Disaster and State of Emergency" exists in Baker County.

-and-

request the Honorable, Tom Vilsack, Secretary, of the United States Department of Agriculture, to expedite assistance to local agricultural industries/producers who have suffered extensive and ongoing loss from the drought and associated wildfires

-and-


direct the Oregon Department of Water Resources to make available in Baker County: Temporary Transfers of Water Rights, and Emergency Water Use Permits, and Use of Existing Right Option/Agreement.

ORDERED this 18th day of March, 2015


Baker County Board of Commissioners



William Harvey
Chairman



Tim Kerns
Commissioner



Mark Bennett
Commissioner