

AGENDA REPORT

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA CATEGORY: Other County Business

ITEM NO: N.1

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

DATE ACTION REQUESTED: 17 MARCH 2015 **DATE ACTION TAKEN:**

ISSUE: State of Emergency due to Drought conditions and Request to the Governor

BACKGROUND & CONCLUSIONS: From the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Oregon Basin Outlook Report of February 1, 2015: "As of February 1, the basin snowpack was 19% of normal. This is significantly lower than last month when the basin snowpack was 37% of normal. Twelve of 15 snow measurement sites were at or near record low snowpack levels. January precipitation was 34% of average. Reservoir storage conditions vary widely across the basin. As of February 1, reservoir storage ranged from 15% of average at Clear Lake Reservoir to 104% of average at Upper Klamath Lake. Summer streamflow forecasts in the basin range from 28% to 57% of average. Water users in the basin should prepare for limited water supplies this summer." Water supplies for irrigators and wildlife refuges are in serious jeopardy.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: 1) Pursuant to ORS 401.015 (2), we find that appropriate response is beyond the capability of Klamath County. We are declaring a State of Emergency for the purpose of assessment, evaluation and acquiring the ability to provide appropriate available resources.
2) Request that the Governor declare a Drought Emergency for all of Klamath County under the provisions of ORS 401.055 as a result of Severe and Continuing Drought Conditions beginning at this time and continuing for an unknown time period. No fiscal impact.

DEPARTMENT HEAD APPROVAL: _____

BUDGET OFFICER APPROVAL: _____

CONTRACT SPECIALIST APPROVAL: _____

COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW: _____

COMMISSIONER LIAISON APPROVAL:  _____

APPROVED THIS _____ **DAY OF** _____

by the Klamath County Board
of Commissioners

CERTIFIED by _____
Recording Secretary

DISTRIBUTION:

1 - ORIGINAL – CLERK

- ORIGINAL – _____

1 - PROCEEDINGS

1 - FILE

1 - Department / Agency

1 -

1 -

1 -

Total: _____

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR KLAMATH COUNTY

In the matter Designating
A State of Emergency
Within Klamath County

DETERMINATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN
KLAMATH COUNTY

There now exists a condition:

Whereas, annual water supplies available for irrigators and wildlife refuges within Klamath County are a function of both available storage in Upper Klamath Lake and various reservoirs and the estimated seasonal inflow from winter snow pack. The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Oregon Basin Outlook Report of February 1, 2015 states:

- “As of February 1, the basin snowpack was 19% of normal. This is significantly lower than last month when the basin snowpack was 37% of normal. Twelve of 15 snow measurement sites were at or near record low snowpack levels.”
- “January precipitation was 34% of average.”
- “Reservoir storage conditions vary widely across the basin. As of February 1, reservoir storage ranged from 15% of average at Clear Lake Reservoir to 104% of average at Upper Klamath Lake.”
- “Summer streamflow forecasts in the basin range from 28% to 57% of average. Water users in the basin should prepare for limited water supplies this summer.”

Whereas, the above conditions result in loss of economic stability, pasture shortages, decrease in feed production, shortened growing season, and decreased water supplies for Klamath County agricultural and livestock producers. In addition, this multi-year cumulative drought has resulted in decreased fuel moisture and early onset of fire danger.

Whereas, the resources committed and actions initiated by local governments to alleviate the emergency include:

- Planned consultation with U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- By this Declaration, implemented the Klamath County Emergency Operations Plan
- Initiated a limited activation of the Emergency Operations Center
- Examined County fiscal resources and found them inadequate to provide relief

Whereas, pursuant to ORS 401.015 (2), we find that appropriate response is beyond the capability of Klamath County. We are declaring a State of Emergency for the purpose of assessment, evaluation and acquiring the ability to provide appropriate available resources. Resources required include:

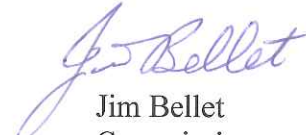
- State Drought Declaration

- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agriculture Disaster Declaration
- Various Federal assistance programs

Now, therefore, be it proclaimed that pursuant to ORS 401.005, the Board of Commissioners for Klamath County declare a Drought Emergency on the 17th day of March, 2015, in Klamath County, Oregon.


Tom Mallams
Chair


Kelley Minty Morris
Vice Chair


Jim Bellet
Commissioner



Klamath County Commissioners

Tom Mallams, Commissioner
Position One

Kelley Minty Morris, Commissioner
Position Two

Jim Bellet, Commissioner
Position Three

March 17, 2015

To: Governor Kate Brown
160 State Capitol
900 Court Street
Salem, OR 97301-4047

Through: Director Office of Emergency Management
Andrew Phelps
P.O. Box 14370
Salem, Oregon 97309

Dear Governor Brown:

Pursuant to the attached local declaration, we request that you declare a Drought Emergency for all of Klamath County under the provisions of ORS 401.055 as a result of Severe and Continuing Drought Conditions beginning at this time and continuing for an unknown time period.

Annual water supplies available for irrigators and wildlife refuges within Klamath County are a function of both available storage in Upper Klamath Lake and various reservoirs and the estimated seasonal inflow from winter snow pack. The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Oregon Basin Outlook Report of February 1, 2015 states:

- “As of February 1, the basin snowpack was 19% of normal. This is significantly lower than last month when the basin snowpack was 37% of normal. Twelve of 15 snow measurement sites were at or near record low snowpack levels.”
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- “Summer streamflow forecasts in the basin range from 28% to 57% of average. Water users in the basin should prepare for limited water supplies this summer.”



Klamath County Commissioners

Tom Mallams, Commissioner
Position One

Kelley Minty Morris, Commissioner
Position Two

Jim Bellet, Commissioner
Position Three

Pg.2-03-17-15 Drought Emergency Ltr.

In response to this event, we have taken appropriate actions under the laws of Klamath County and directed implementation of the county emergency plan and a limited activation of the Emergency Operations Center on March 17, 2015. A county-wide Declaration of a Drought Emergency was made on March 17, 2015. Our initial assessment of impacts indicates severe losses and damage are imminent to the agricultural economy of the county.

The nature and amount of county and local resources that have been or will be or may be used to alleviate the conditions of this disaster include: Declaration of Drought Emergency, State Drought Declaration, and State coordinating assistance with federal programs that may provide assistance to our citizens, temporary permits under an expedited process, temporary transfers of existing water rights, temporary in-stream leases, special option agreements, temporary option agreements, temporary substitution of supplemental ground water rights for a primary surface water right, temporary exchange of source water rights, preference of use to water rights for human consumption or livestock, and various federal assistance programs. Most of these require both a local and a state Declaration.

With this request Klamath County has determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the County and affected local governments and that supplementary state assistance is required, and further that federal assistance may also be necessary. We are specifically requesting: **a Governor's Drought Declaration.**

Requested this 17th day of March, 2015.

Sincerely,



Tom Mallams
Chair



Kelley Minty Morris
Vice-Chair



Jim Bellet
Commissioner