

IN THE COUNTY COURT FOR THE STATE OF OREGON
FOR THE COUNTY OF HARNEY

In the Matter of
Declaration of Local Disaster and
Request to Declare a State Drought
Emergency for Harney County, Oregon

RESOLUTION # 2015-03

WHEREAS, on the 18th day of March, 2015 the Harney County Court finds that the Harney County agricultural and livestock industries, and related economy are suffering widespread and severe economic damage, potential injuries and loss of property resulting from extreme weather conditions within the county; and,

WHEREAS, annual water supplies available for irrigators and ranchers within Harney County are a function of both available water storage in the rivers flowing into the Harney Malheur Lake Basin and in various reservoirs, stock ponds, etc., and the estimated season inflow from winter snow pack; and

WHEREAS, the State Water Availability Committee and the State Drought Council summarized as follows: 1) As of March 10, 2015 "Record Historic Low" of snowpack, 2) As of March 11, 2015 "Less than 50% of Normal" SNOTEL Snow Water Equivalent and 3) As of March 1, 2015 "Significantly Below Normal" spring and summer forecasted streamflows.

WHEREAS, the extended weather forecast for Harney County projects higher than normal temperatures and below average precipitation; and,

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

WHEREAS, in 2013 and 2014 southern Harney County experienced devastating and large wildfires, and still suffers from its effects; and


WHEREAS, the Harney County Court determines that extraordinary measures must be taken to alleviate 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 RESOLVED by the Harney County Court that:

1. A local disaster is declared within Harney County.
2. The Harney County drought Emergency Management Plan has been implemented.
3. Pursuant to ORS 401.015(2), we find that appropriate response is beyond the capability of Harney County. We are declaring a state of emergency for the purpose of assessment, evaluation and acquiring the ability to provide appropriate available resources.
4. **REQUEST:** The Honorable Kate Brown, Governor of Oregon, declare a Drought Emergency for all of Harney County under the provisions of ORS 401.055 due to severe and continuing drought conditions beginning at this time and continuing for an unknown period of time; **and** direct the Oregon Department of Water Resources to make available in Harney County: Temporary Transfers of Water Rights, and Emergency Water Use Permits, and Use of Existing Right Option/Agreement; **and** other federal and state drought assistance and programs as needed.
5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

HARNEY COUNTY COURT




Steven E. Grasty, Judge



Dan Nichols, Commissioner


Pete Runnels, Commissioner

State of Oregon }
County of Harney } ss

I, Derrin E. Robinson, Harney County Clerk,
Certify this to be a True and Correct Copy
of the Original Document on file and in my
custody, consisting of 2 pages.

Dated: May 19, 2015

By: 
Deputy Co. Clerk