

**IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON
FOR THE COUNTY OF CROOK**

**IN THE MATTER OF:
DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER
AND REQUEST TO DECLARE A STATE
DROUGHT EMERGENCY FOR CROOK
COUNTY, OREGON**

ORDER 2015-15

WHEREAS, on this 18th day of March 2015, the Crook County Court finds that the Crook 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 Crook County are a function of both available water storage in the Crooked River and in the Ochoco and Prineville Reservoirs, and the estimated seasonal inflow from winter snow pack. The United States Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) reports as of March 1, 2015

- 45% of long-term snow monitoring sites in Oregon were at the lowest level on record;
- of the 32 new record lows, 8 sites were snow free for the first time on record;
- 42% of all NRCS snow monitoring sites in Oregon were snow free as of March 1, 2015;
- typically, by March 1, 80% to 95% of the annual peak snowpack has accumulated at most sites; and

WHEREAS, Crook County has approximately 40,000 acres of irrigated ground from stored water. One hundred percent (100%) of those irrigated acres will receive reduced allocations beginning the first day of the irrigation season; and

WHEREAS, many long-time Crook County farmers and ranchers have commented that they have not seen water conditions this severe since 1992; and

WHEREAS, the extended weather forecast for Crook 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

Crook 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 2014, Crook County experienced a devastating and large Ochoco Complex wildfire. Crook County still suffers from its effects; and

WHEREAS, the Crook 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 PROCLAIMED by the Crook County Court that:

I. A local disaster is declared within Crook County.

1 Crook County drought Emergency Management Plan has been implemented.

2 Pursuant to ORS 401.015 (2), we find that appropriate response is beyond the capability of Crook County. We are declaring a state of emergency for the purpose of assessment, evaluation and acquiring the ability to provide appropriate available resources.

3 **Request:** The Honorable Kate Brown, Governor of Oregon, declare a Drought Emergency for all of Crook 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 Crook 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.

4 This proclamation shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that this Order be filed in the Crook County Clerk's Office and that it be effective when so filed.

Adopted this 18th day of March 2015.

NOT PRESENT

Mike McCabe, County Judge

[Signature]

Ken Fahlgren, County Commissioner

[Signature]

Seth Crawford, County Commissioner