



## Lake County Board of Commissioners

513 Center Street  
Lakeview, Oregon 97630  
(541) 947-6003  
Fax: (541) 947-5775

Bradley J. Winters, Chairman  
Ken Kestner, Vice-Chairman  
Dan Shoun, Commissioner

March 10, 2015

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

Through: Director Office of Emergency Management  
Andrew Phelps  
PO Box 14370  
Salem, OR 97309


Dear Governor Brown:

The Lake County Board of Commissioners requests approval of the attached Emergency Drought Declaration for all of Lake County under the provisions of ORS 401.055 as a direct result of "Severe and Continuing Drought Conditions" to begin immediately and continue for an unspecified period of time.

As you are aware, annual water supplies, snow pack and rain fall that are typically available for irrigation and domestic use within Lake County are stored in various lakes and reservoirs throughout our county. These reserves are currently significantly below average at just 22% of capacity. Estimated projections for precipitation do not provide much relief at just 34% to 45% of average.

As a result of the severity and magnitude associated with multiple years of reduced precipitation and snow fall, the Lake County Board of Commissioners have determined that proper and effective response is beyond the capabilities of the County and other affected local governments. Supplementary State and Federal assistance is needed. We extend in advance our appreciation for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Bradley J. Winters  
Chair

  
Ken Kestner  
Vice-Chair

  
Dan Shoun  
Commissioner

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
FOR LAKE COUNTY, OREGON

In the matter of: )  
Declaration of Local Disaster and Request to )  
Declare a State Drought Emergency ) Resolution# 15-03-10  
For Lake County, Oregon )

**WHEREAS**, on this 10th day of March, 2015, the Lake County Board of Commissioners finds that Lake 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 Lake County are a function of both available water storage in the Chewaucan River, Deep Creek, Thomas Creek, Drews Creek, Honey Creek, Silver Creek and Twentymile Creek and in various reservoirs (including Thompson, Cottonwood and Drews), and the estimated seasonal inflow from winter snow pack. For the main tributaries in Lake County the run off forecast is 40% of average. As of January 1, 2015 storage for the reservoirs was below average and only 16% of capacity. Water supplies are in serious jeopardy; and

**WHEREAS**, Lake County has approximately 45,000 acres of irrigated ground from stored water and 45,000 acres will be out of water between April 1 and May 1 and about 147,000 acres in other outlying areas will be out of water between April 1 and May 1 and about 84,000 acres of land irrigated from well may also be affected; and

**WHEREAS**, many long-time Lake County farmers and ranchers have commented that they have not seen water conditions this severe since 1970 and basin snowpack is 22% of normal with sites below 7000 feet mostly snow-free; and

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

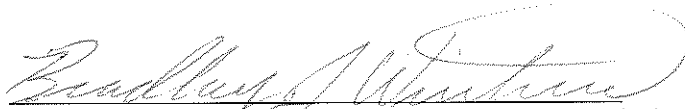
**WHEREAS**, the above conditions result in loss of economic stability, pasture shortages, decrease in feed production, shortened growing season, and decreased water supplies for Lake County agricultural and livestock producers. In addition, this multi-year cumulative drought has resulted in decreased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

**WHEREAS**, in 2012, Lake County experienced a devastating and large wildfire for which Lake County still suffers from its effects; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lake County Board of Commissioners 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 Lake County Board of Commissioners that:

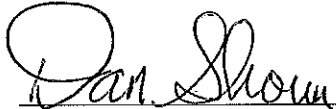
1. A local disaster is declared within Lake County.
2. The Lake County drought Emergency Management Plan has been implemented.
3. Pursuant to ORS 401.015 (2), we find that appropriate response is beyond the capability of Lake County. We are declaring a state of emergency for the purpose of assessment, 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 Lake 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 Lake 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 proclamation shall take effect upon its issuance.



Bradley J. Winters, Lake County Board of Commissioners Chair



Ken Kestner, Lake County Board of Commissioners Vice-Chair



Dan Shoun, Lake County Commissioner