

For Recording Stamp Only

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON

A Resolution Declaring a Localized State of
Emergency and Requesting State Declaration of
Drought Emergency for the Three Sisters
Irrigation District

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-038

WHEREAS, ORS 401.309 and the Deschutes County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) authorize the county governing body to declare a state of emergency within the county or within a designated portion of the county; and

WHEREAS, drought conditions endanger crops and livestock, endanger the health and safety of the county's population, jeopardize economic vitality within the county, and imperil the quality of the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Three Sisters Irrigation District (TSID) is the governing body for delivery and distribution of water within the boundaries of the TSID; and

WHEREAS, the TSID relies exclusively on water diverted from Whychus Creek, a tributary of the Deschutes River, to provide irrigation to farms and livestock operations; and

WHEREAS, Whychus Creek is fed by snow melt and runoff from the Three Sisters mountains and has averaged 17" to 18" of snow water content as measured at the Three Creek Meadows SNOTEL site for the past 30 years; and

WHEREAS, on April 1, 1977 the snow water content at Three Creeks Meadows measured 8" which triggered a declared emergency by the State of Oregon (EM-3039); and

WHEREAS, presently (2015) the snow water content at Three Creeks Meadow is less than 0.3" creating a significant threat to crops and livestock; and

WHEREAS, the extended weather forecast for Central Oregon projects higher than normal temperatures and below average precipitation, now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON, as follows:

Section 1. Pursuant to ORS 401.309 and the Deschutes County EOP, a State of Emergency is presently declared within the portion of unincorporated Deschutes County which is served by the Three Sisters Irrigation District (TSID).

Section 2. Pursuant to ORS 401.032(2), the governing body for Deschutes County finds that the appropriate response is beyond the capability of Deschutes County.

Section 3. The governing body for Deschutes County respectfully submits the Request contained immediately below in Section 4.

Section 4. Request: The Honorable Kate Brown, Governor of Oregon, declare a Drought Emergency for that portion of unincorporated Deschutes County that is served by the Three Sisters Irrigation District (TSID) under the provisions of ORS 401.165 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 for TSID Temporary Transfers of Water Rights, Emergency Water Use Permits, and Use of Existing Right Option/Agreement; and other federal and state drought assistance and programs as needed.

Section 5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately from and after its adoption.

Dated this 29th of April, 2015

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON



ANTHONY DEBONE, Chair



ALAN UNGER, Vice Chair

ATTEST:

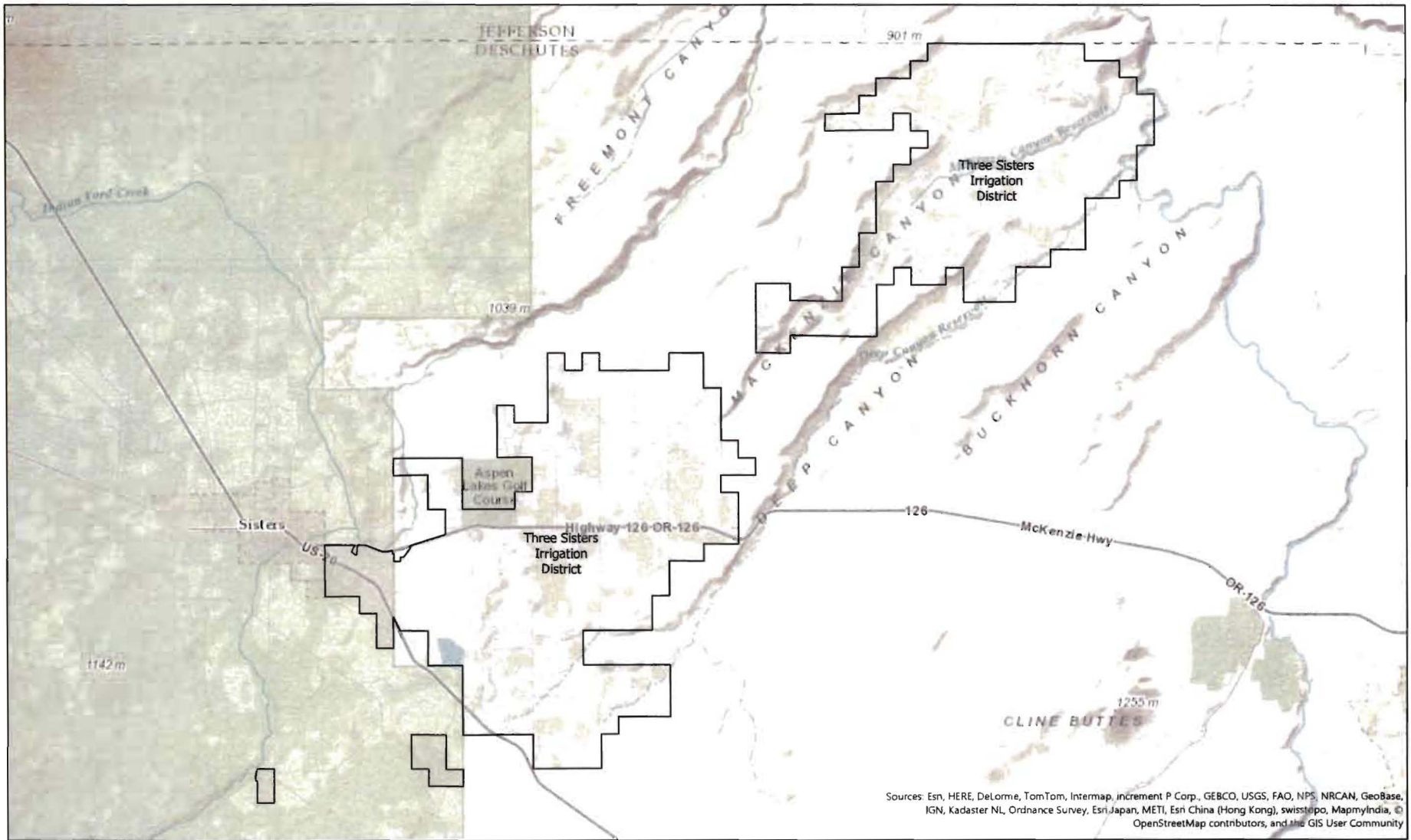


Recording Secretary



TAMMY BANEY, Commissioner

Three Sisters Irrigation District





To: Deschutes County Board of Commissioners
From: Sgt. Nathan Garibay
Date: April 20, 2015
Subject: Request Approval of Drought Resolution for Northwestern Deschutes County

Commissioner/County Administrator Approval: Eric Hopp
Date: 5/1/15

Deschutes County Sheriff's Office Emergency Services is requesting the Board of Commissioners' approval of a resolution declaring a drought emergency for the area served by Three Sisters Irrigation District (Northwest Deschutes County).

Synopsis:

Deschutes County has been affected by low snow pack for two consecutive years. Although much of Deschutes County is expected to endure drought conditions due to the fact that our reservoirs are full and springs feeding the Deschutes River are expected to maintain this year, one area of concern is northwestern Deschutes County. This area of the county located in the Sisters, Cloverdale, and Lower Bridge area is served by the Three Sisters Irrigation District (TSID). Unlike other districts that have water storage in reservoirs, TSID relies exclusively on water diverted from Whychus Creek.

Whychus Creek is fed by snowmelt and runoff from the Three Sisters Mountains. The best indicator of available water is the Three Creek Meadows SNOTEL site located southwest of Sisters.

- Average snow water content on April 1 - 17" to 18"
- Snow water content in April 1, 1977 (Declared Drought Emergency) - 8"
- Snow water content at present - 0.3"

It is highly likely given the forecasted run-off and water supply this summer that irrigators in the TSID will face significantly reduced water availability creating a significant threat to crops and livestock. A localized state of emergency and subsequent state declaration of drought emergency for TSID would ensure the district and water users would be eligible to apply for benefits under a variety of drought programs.

Action Recommended: Approve and sign the *Resolution Declaring a Localized State of Emergency and Requesting State Declaration of Drought Emergency for the Three Sisters Irrigation District.*

Please contact Sgt. Garibay at 541-617-3303 if you have questions concerning this request.