

BEFORE THE MORROW COUNTY COURT
OF MORROW COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF DECLARING A STATE
OF DROUGHT EMERGENCY IN MORROW
COUNTY

RESOLUTION

NO. R-2015-4

THIS MATTER COMING BEFORE THE Morrow County Court sitting as the County governing body on May 6, 2015, at a regularly schedule meeting;

WHEREAS, information has been provided to the Morrow County Court, that beginning with the 2013 crop year and ongoing, a drought is occurring in Morrow County and that protective actions may be or are required to protect the citizens of Morrow County;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture has designated Morrow County as a contiguous disaster county due to drought, enabling producers in the County eligible for emergency aid, with a moderate drought monitor condition;

WHEREAS, the Governor has made the determination that a state of drought emergency exists in Baker, Wheeler, Crook, Harney, Klamath, Lake and Malheur Counties;

WHEREAS, the Oregon Water Resources Department has placed Morrow County in drought likely status for water supply assessment due to reservoirs being at roughly 50%, with a dry forecast;

WHEREAS, the Oregon Surface Water Index for the Umatilla/John Day region as of April 1, 2015 is -0.8;

WHEREAS, the basin water status for the Umatilla Basin is Drought Likely with reservoirs at 50% and the John Day Basin is Drought Unavoidable with no snowpack or storage;

WHEREAS, various livestock growers, agriculture producers, and other community members have reported to the Court vastly depleted water supplies for pastures and livestock which if not remedied poses a significant threat to the loss of the pastures and livestock;

WHEREAS; unless weather conditions improve substantially to above normal conditions, water users who rely on stored water will have a shortened water use season, and depending upon the priority date of their water right, water users who rely on stream flows will have substantially less water available and a shortened water use season;


NOW THEREFORE, the County Court resolves that:

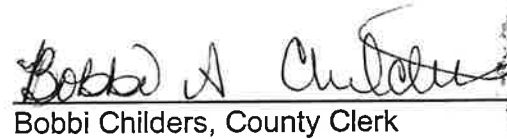
1. A state of emergency exists in Morrow County due to drought conditions.
2. Due to the state of emergency, the Morrow County Court does hereby request and entreat the Honorable Kate Brown, Governor of the State of Oregon, to:
 - A. Declare a "State of Emergency", a drought, to exist in Morrow County, Oregon;
 - B. Direct the Oregon Water Resources Department to provide all available means of assistance to Morrow County agricultural producers.
 - C. Direct Office of Emergency Management to coordinate and assist as needed to address current and projected conditions in Morrow County.

D. Direct all other state agencies to coordinate with the above agencies and to provide appropriate state resources as determined necessary to assist those affected in Morrow County.

RESOLVED BY THE MORROW COUNTY COURT THIS 6th DAY OF May 2015.

Attest:


Terry K. Tallman, Judge


Bobbi Childers, County Clerk




Leann Rea, Commissioner


Don Russell, Commissioner


Steve Myren, Emergency Management