

IN THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE STATE OF OREGON

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WASCO

IN THE MATTER OF A DECLARATION AND)
REQUEST TO DECLARE A STATE DROUGHT) RESOLUTION
EMERGENCY FOR WASCO COUNTY, OREGON) #15-003

NOW ON THIS DAY, the above-entitled matter having come on regularly for consideration, said day being one duly set in term of the transaction of public business and a majority of the Board of Commissioners being present; and

WHEREAS, on this 20th day of May, 2015, the Wasco County Court finds that the Wasco 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 Wasco County are a function of both available water storage in the Wasco County rivers and in various reservoirs (Pine Hollow Reservoir, Rock Creek Reservoir, Clear Lake Reservoir), and the estimated seasonal inflow from winter snow pack. The USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service has estimated the May through September, 2015

stream flow forecasts to be below average. For the main tributaries in Wasco County the run off forecast is 54 % of average. As of May 1, only two of fourteen SNOTEL sites still had snow. In general SNOTEL sites in the basin peaked 70 to 90% below typical peak snowpack levels and six to twelve weeks earlier than normal. Three long-term SNOTEL sites set new record lows for May 1 snowpack.

WHEREAS, Wasco County has approximately 8,600 acres of irrigated ground from stored water; approximately 50% of these lands will have little or no water by early September. About 2,500 acres in the Fifteenmile Creek Basin will have a reduced supply or completely shut off four to six weeks earlier than normal ; and

WHEREAS, many long-time Wasco County farmers and ranchers have commented that they have not seen water conditions this severe since 1981; and

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

WHEREAS, the above conditions will result in loss of economic stability, pasture shortages, decrease in feed production, shortened growing season, and decreased water supplies for Wasco 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 Wasco County experienced devastating and large wildfires Wasco County still suffers from the effects of; and

WHEREAS, the Wasco 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.

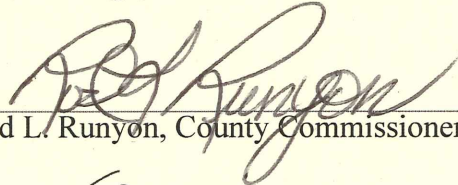
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Wasco County Court that:

1. A local disaster is declared within Wasco County.
2. The Wasco County drought Emergency Management Plan has been implemented.
3. Pursuant to ORS 401.165, we find that appropriate response is beyond the capability of Wasco 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 Wasco County 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 in Wasco 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 immediately from and after its issuance.

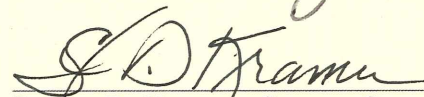
DATED this 20th day of May, 2015



Scott C. Hege, Commission Chair

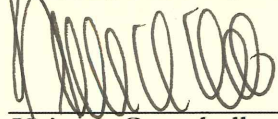


Rod L. Runyon, County Commissioner



Steven D. Kramer, County Commissioner

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Kristen Campbell
Wasco County Counsel