

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE STATE OF OREGON
FOR THE COUNTY OF JEFFERSON

IN THE MATTER OF DECLARING)
A LOCAL DISASTER AND REQUEST)
TO DECLARE A STATE OF DROUGHT)
EMERGENCY FOR JEFFERSON)
COUNTY, OREGON)

RESOLUTION NO. R-014-15

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners finds that the Jefferson 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 Jefferson County are a function of both available water storage in the Willow Creek and Trout Creek resources and the estimated seasonal inflow from winter snow pack. The 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, the Oregon Surface Water Index for the Upper Deschutes region as of May 1, 2015 is -1.1; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the available water storage and the estimated seasonal inflow, Jefferson County's irrigated ground from stored water will receive reduced supply and reduced allocations; and

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

WHEREAS, the above conditions will result in loss of economic stability, pasture shortages, decreased feed production, shortened growing season, and decreased water supplies for Jefferson 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, the Jefferson 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 the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners HEREBY PROCLAIMS:

1. A local disaster is declared within Jefferson County.
2. The Jefferson County drought Emergency Management Plan has been implemented.
3. Pursuant to ORS 401.165, we find that the appropriate response is beyond the capability of Jefferson County. We are declaring a state of emergency for the purpose of assessment, evaluation and acquiring the ability to provide appropriate available resources.
4. The Honorable Kate Brown, Governor of Oregon, is requested to declare a Drought Emergency for all of Jefferson County under the provision 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 Jefferson 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 3rd day of June, 2015.

JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSION



Wayne Fording, Commission Chair



Mike Ahern, Commissioner



Mae Huston, Commissioner