



UNION COUNTY Emergency Services

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July 15, 2015

The Honorable Kate Brown
Governor of Oregon
160 State Capital
900 Court Street
Salem, OR 97301-4047

Dear Governor Brown:

Union County has declared a local state of emergency due to drought. Based on the recommendations of the Watermaster and Farm Service Agency, the Union County Board of Commissioners is requesting a state disaster declaration. Supporting documentation is attached including: Resolution 2015-13 declaring a local emergency and requesting state declaration.

In summary, record low flows in the Grande Ronde River have been recorded. Dryland crops, including range and pasture, have been significantly impacted by the lack of precipitation (both rain and snow pack). Excessive heat (July and continuing) and drought continues to impact crops and pasture. The combination has resulted in reduced yields and quality for most crops in Union County. The full scope of drought affects will not be known for many months.

The Union County Board of Commissioners hereby requests that state provide assistance to Union County citizens, making all State, Federal programs, grants, loans and other assistance available to the affected Union County citizens.

Sincerely,

Mark Davidson
Chair

Steve McClure
Commissioner

Jack Howard
Commissioner

BE IT REMEMBERED, that at a regular term of the Board of Commissioners of the State of Oregon, for the County of Union, sitting for the transaction of County business, begun and held at the Joseph Building Annex in the City of La Grande, in said County and State, on Tuesday of said month and the time fixed by law for holding a regular term of said Commission, when were present:

The Honorable Mark Davidson, Chair
Steve McClure, Commissioner
Jack Howard, Commissioner

WHEN, on Wednesday the 15th day of July 2015, among others the following proceedings were had to wit:

IN THE MATTER OF A RESOLUTION DECLARING A LOCAL) RESOLUTION
STATE OF EMERGENCY WITHIN UNION COUNTY DUE) 2015-13
TO DROUGHT CONDITIONS AND REQUESTING THE)
STATE OF OREGON DECLARE A DISASTER AND STATE)
OF EMERGENCY IN UNION COUNTY)

WHEREAS, Union County received significantly less snowpack than an average water year;

WHEREAS, the USDA Farm Services Agency has stated that local producers have and will continue to experience damage due to ongoing drought conditions;

WHEREAS, Union County has determined that the County's agricultural industry is suffering widespread and severe economic damage, potential injuries, and loss of property resulting from extreme weather conditions within the county, evidenced by current drought conditions and a projected decrease in precipitation for the balance of the water year;

WHEREAS, water flows in the Grande Ronde Basin have receded quickly to extremely low levels and are projected to continue to recede;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture has declared that an Agricultural Disaster exists in Union County due to drought conditions;

WHEREAS, the Union County Board of Commissioners has determined that extraordinary measures must be taken to alleviate the suffering of people and livestock, to protect or mitigate economic loss, and to be responsive to the threat of wildfires;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Union County Board of Commissioners, under the emergency powers granted by ORS 401.309, declare a local STATE OF EMERGENCY within Union County due to **drought conditions**.

IT IS FURTHER DECLARED that since the STATE OF EMERGENCY exists, the Union County Board of Commissioners does hereby request and entreat the Governor of the State of Oregon to declare an Agricultural Disaster and ask that Oregon provide assistance to Union County agriculture producers, thereby making State and Federal grants, loans and other financial assistance available to the affected residents of Union County.

DATED this 15th day of July 2015.



Mark Davidson, CHAIR



Steve McClure, COMMISSIONER



Jack Howard, COMMISSIONER