



Oregon Water Resources Department  
Co-Chair, Oregon Drought Readiness Council  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301

Oregon Office of Emergency Management  
Co-Chair, Oregon Drought Readiness Council  
P.O. Box 14370  
Salem, OR 97309

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February 21, 2018

Jason Miner, Natural Resources Policy Manager  
Lauri Aunan, Natural Resources Policy Advisor, and  
Heather Moawad, Public Safety and Military Policy Advisor  
Office of Governor Kate Brown  
900 Court St., NE  
Salem Oregon 97301

Dear Policy Advisors,

The Oregon Drought Readiness Council is a standing body comprised of federal and state natural resource, public health, and emergency response agencies. During a drought, the Council reviews local requests for assistance and makes recommendations to the Governor. The Council meets regularly to discuss current water conditions and likely upcoming conditions for the growing season.

On February 20, The Drought Readiness Council received a request from the Klamath County Commission requesting a Governor's drought declaration. The county's attached resolution (2018-017) and letter describes the water conditions the county has observed during the past several months, along with current water conditions, and projected economic impacts for the summer growing season.

The Drought Readiness Council has received input from Oregon's Water Supply Availability Committee on basin water conditions and has also conferred with the Council members on this matter. The Council recommends that the Governor declare drought in Klamath County for the 2018 calendar year, expiring December 31, 2018.

Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us at:  
[brenda.o.bateman@oregon.gov](mailto:brenda.o.bateman@oregon.gov) (503-986-0879) or [Sonya.Andron@state.or.us](mailto:Sonya.Andron@state.or.us) (503-378-4025).

Sincerely,

Brenda O. Bateman, Ph.D.  
Co-Chair, Oregon Drought Readiness Council  
Administrator, Technical Services Division  
Oregon Water Resources Department

Sonya L. Andron, MPH  
Co-Chair, Oregon Drought Readiness Council  
Operations and Preparedness Manager  
Oregon Office of Emergency Management

**IN THE MATTER OF DECLARING )  
A STATE OF EMERGENCY WITHIN )  
KLAMATH COUNTY )**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018- 017**

**WHEREAS**, annual water supplies available for irrigators and wildlife refuges within Klamath County are a function of both available storage in various reservoirs and the estimated seasonal inflow from winter snow pack; and

**WHEREAS**, the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Oregon Basin Outlook Report of January 1, 2018 states: "December precipitation was 27% of average... Three SNOTEL sites set new records for the lowest December precipitation..." The February 1, 2018 report states the April through September streamflow forecasts in the basin range from 23-61% of average; and

**WHEREAS**, the Oregon Water Resources Department Water Conditions Report of February 14, 2018 shows that the Klamath Basin is at 28% of normal Snow Water Equivalent (snow pack); compared to this time last year it was 117%; and

**WHEREAS**, water supplies for irrigators and wildlife refuges are in serious jeopardy. The above conditions result in loss of economic stability, pasture shortages, decrease in feed production, and a shortened growing season. In addition, this drought will result in decreased fuel moisture and a potential early and prolonged onset of fire danger. Catastrophic damages to Klamath County's agricultural industry resulting from severe drought could potentially result in over \$557 million in economic losses and also nearly 4500 lost jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, the resources committed and actions initiated by local governments to alleviate the emergency include:

- By this Declaration, implemented the Klamath County Emergency Operations Plan
- Initiated a limited activation of the Emergency Operations Center
- Examined County fiscal resources and found them inadequate to provide relief

**WHEREAS**, we find that appropriate response is beyond the capability of Klamath County. We are declaring a State of Emergency for the purpose of assessment, evaluation and acquiring the ability to provide appropriate available resources. Resources required include a Governor's Drought Declaration and a Federal Drought Declaration; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Commissioners for Klamath County declare a Drought Emergency in Klamath County, Oregon.

**DONE AND DATED** this 20<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2018.



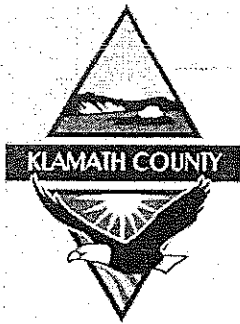
Chair



Commissioner



Commissioner



## Board of Commissioners

Donnie Boyd, Commissioner  
Position One

Kelley Minty Morris, Commissioner  
Position Two

Derrick DeGroot, Commissioner  
Position Three

February 20, 2018

Dr. Brenda Bateman, Division Administrator  
Oregon Water Resources Department  
Co-Chair, OR Drought Readiness Council  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A, Salem, OR 97301  
Via Email: [brenda.o.bateman@state.or.us](mailto:brenda.o.bateman@state.or.us)

Mr. Matt Marheine, Deputy Director  
Oregon Office of Emergency Management  
Co-Chair, OR Drought Readiness Council  
PO Box 14370, Salem, OR 97309  
Via Email: [matt.marheine@state.or.us](mailto:matt.marheine@state.or.us)

### RE: Klamath County, Oregon, Drought

Dear Dr. Bateman and Mr. Marheine:

Klamath County, by and through its County Elected Officials, requests that the Governor of Oregon issue an executive order for all of Klamath County under the provisions of ORS 536 as a direct result of severe and continuing drought conditions.

Annual water supplies available for irrigators and wildlife refuges within Klamath County are a function of both available storage in Upper Klamath Lake and various reservoirs and the estimated seasonal inflow from winter snow pack. The Natural Resource Conservation Service Oregon Basin Outlook Report of January 1, 2018 states: "December precipitation was 27% of average... Three SNOTEL sites set new records for the lowest December precipitation..." The February 1, 2018 report states the April through September streamflow forecasts in the basin range from 23-61% of average. The Oregon Water Resources Department Water Conditions Report of February 14, 2018 shows that the Klamath Basin is at 28% of normal Snow Water Equivalent (snow pack); compared to this time last year it was 117%. Water supplies for irrigators and wildlife refuges are in serious jeopardy.

There is the potential for Klamath County's agriculture and livestock, natural resources, recreational, tourism, and related economies to experience widespread and severe damage resulting from extreme weather conditions within Klamath County. Losses could exceed \$557 million, and nearly 4,500 jobs.

Klamath County has already formally declared a drought, and has attached a copy of the adopted resolution for your files. In response to this event, we have taken appropriate actions under the laws of Klamath County and directed implementation of the county Emergency Operations Plan and a limited activation of the Emergency Operations Center on February 20, 2018.



## Board of Commissioners

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Derrick DeGroot, Commissioner  
Position Three

The Klamath County Board of Commissioners has determined that action by and support from the State is needed. This may include assistance from the Oregon Water Resources Department and other Oregon executive branch agencies, operating within their statutory authorities.

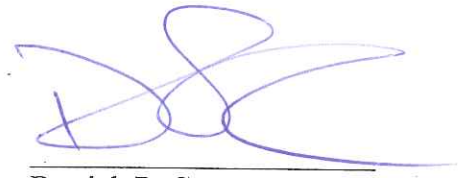
The Klamath County Board of Commissioners therefore requests an executive order from the Governor, declaring drought in Klamath County. With this request Klamath County has determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the County and affected local governments and that supplementary state assistance is required, and further that federal assistance may also be necessary. We are specifically requesting: a Governor's Drought Declaration.

We very much appreciate your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Donnie Boyd  
Vice Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kelley Minty Morris  
Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Derrick DeGroot  
Chair