



# HARNEY COUNTY COURT

## Office of Judge Pete Runnels

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Technical Services Division Administrator  
Oregon Water Resources Department  
Co-Chair, Oregon Drought Readiness Council  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
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Via Email: [Brenda.o.bateman@oregon.gov](mailto:Brenda.o.bateman@oregon.gov)

Ms. Sonya Andron  
Operations and Preparedness Manager  
Oregon Office of Emergency Management  
Co-Chair, Oregon Drought Readiness Council  
P.O. Box 14370  
Salem, OR 97301  
Via Email: [Sonya.Andron@state.or.us](mailto:Sonya.Andron@state.or.us)

RE: Harney County Oregon Drought

April 19, 2018

Dr. Bateman and Ms. Andron:

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

There is the potential for Harney County agricultural and livestock, natural resources, recreational tourism, and related economies to experience widespread and severe damage resulting from extreme weather conditions within the county. The annual water supplies available for irrigators and ranchers within Harney County are from winter snow pack which is significantly lower than normal in the Harney basin. The extended weather forecast for Harney County projects higher than normal temperatures and below average precipitation.

The county has already formally declared a drought, and has attached a copy of the adopted resolution for your files. In addition, the county has taken the following actions to anticipate or mitigate effects of the drought: Local livestock producers have taken major steps by reducing the number of animals they pasture in fields. Some areas are not being used at all due to the desired conditions such as water holes not receiving any water at all.

The Harney County Board of Commissioners/Judge has determined that additional 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 Harney County Board of Commissioners/Judge therefore requests and executive order from the Governor, declaring drought in Harney County Oregon.

We extend in advance our appreciation for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Pete Runnels,  
Harney County Judge

IN THE COUNTY COURT FOR THE STATE OF OREGON  
FOR THE COUNTY OF HARNEY

In the Matter of a Declaration of )  
Local Disaster and Request to )  
Declare a State Drought Emergency )  
For Harney County Oregon )

**RESOLUTION #2018-06**

THIS BEING the 18<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2018 and a day set aside for a regular meeting of the Harney County Court and there being present Pete Runnels, County Judge; Mark Owens, County Commissioner and Patty Dorroh, County Commissioner; and

WHEREAS, the Harney County Court finds that Harney 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 Harney County are from winter snow pack which is significantly lower than normal in the Harney basin; and

WHEREAS, the above conditions result in loss of economic stability, pasture shortages, decrease in feed production, shortened growing season and decreased water supplies for Harney County agricultural and livestock producers. In addition, if a multi-year cumulative drought occurs, it will result in decreased fuel moisture and early onset fire danger; and

WHEREAS, the 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;

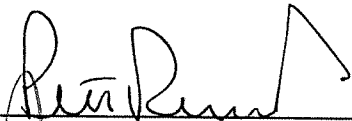
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:


- 1) A local disaster is declared within Harney County.
- 2) The Harney County Drought Emergency Management Plan has been implemented.
- 3) Pursuant to ORS 401.015(2), we find that appropriate response is beyond the capability of Harney County. We are declaring a state of emergency for the purpose of assessment, evaluation and acquiring the ability to provide appropriate available resources.

- 3) Pursuant to ORS 401.015(2), we find that appropriate response is beyond the capability of Harney 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 Harney County under the provisions of ORS 401.055 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 Harney 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 resolution shall take effect upon its issuance.

DONE AND DATED this 18<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2018.

HARNEY COUNTY COURT

  
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Pete Runnels, Judge

  
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Mark Owens, Commissioner

  
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Patty Dorroh, Commissioner