DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY

BEFORE THE COUNTY COURT

FOR MALHEUR COUNTY

In the Matter of Declaring)
A State of Emergency within)
Malheur County)

MALHEUR COUNTY, OR 2018-3739
MRCOUNTY COURT
DOCUMENT
Cnt=1 Pgs=2 Total:\$0.00



I Gayle V. Trotter, County Clerk for Malheur County, Oregon certify that the instrument identified herein was recorded in the Clerk records.

Gayle V. Trotter - County Clerk



This matter came before the County Court at a regular meeting dated the 3rd Day of October, 2018, the Malheur County Court finds that the Malheur County agricultural and livestock industries, and related economy are suffering widespread and severe economic damage, potential injuries and loss of property resulting from Extreme drought conditions; and

WHEREAS, as of September 20, 2018, drought conditions have deteriorated to EXTREME conditions by the U.S. Drought Monitor, with roughly 60% of Malheur County designated in the D3 or "Extreme Drought" category due to a hot summer and very little precipitation; and

WHEREAS, all, or many, stock ponds on publicly owned lands are at zero (empty) capacity and ranchers have to truck water into their livestock. Livestock have to walk greater distances to get water and this is contributing to exaggerated numbers of "dust pneumonia" cases in calves. Many ranchers began bringing their cattle in as early as July of this year due to the dry conditions on grazing lands. However, many of their pastures were not ready for livestock because of the dry conditions. Some of the ranchers have lost pastures, this summer, due to fire or grasshopper infestation.

WHEREAS, on August 1, 2018, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture designated Malheur County and 26 other contiguous counties as <u>primary natural disaster areas</u> due to the drought conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Malheur 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 Malheur County Court that:

- 1. A local disaster is declared within Malheur County.
- 2. The Malheur 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 Malheur 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 Malheur 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 Malheur County: Temporary Transfers of Water Rights, Emergency Water Use Permits, 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.

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT

County Judge Dan Joyce

Commissioner Don Hodge

Commissioner Larry Wilson