

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020- 018**

**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 Oregon Water Conditions Report of February 24, 2020 states: "Basin precipitation values range from a low of 67 percent in the Klamath Basin..." The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Oregon Basin Outlook Report February 1, 2020 report states the April through September streamflow forecasts in the basin range from 70% to 75% of average; and

**WHEREAS**, the Oregon Water Resources Department Water Conditions Report of February 24, 2020 shows that the Klamath Basin is at 72% of normal Snow Water Equivalent (snow pack); compared to this time last year it was 97%; 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 25 day of February, 2020.

  
Chair

  
Commissioner

  
Commissioner