

1 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

2 COUNTY OF COOS

3 STATE OF OREGON

4
5 In the Matter of Declaring a Local Drought Emergency in) RESOLUTION
Coos County) 20-04-072L
6)

7 NOW BEFORE THE Board of Commissioners sitting for the transaction of County
8 business on the 24th day of April, 2020 is the matter of declaring a local drought emergency in
9 Coos County;

10 WHEREAS, Coos County has received below normal rainfall for this water year, and
11 only one third of normal rainfall for the month of March, 2020;

12 WHEREAS, due to the lack of winter rainfall, Coos County is considered to be in D2
13 (Severe Drought) status as of April 14th, many domestic water wells have gone dry and have not
14 recovered sufficiently to date;

15 WHEREAS, due to this lack of rainfall, the stream flow rates are near record lows,
16 averaging less than 25% of normal, and there is little chance of recovery;

17 WHEREAS, local agricultural interests rely exclusively on stream flow water for
18 irrigation as opposed to reservoir storage;

19 WHEREAS, the weather predictions for the rest of the year do not demonstrate the
20 potential for recovery with above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation predicted
21 for the summer season;

22 WHEREAS, the above conditions will result in severe economic hardship to Coos
23 County, including shortages of livestock forage, smaller than average hay crops, loss of
24 agricultural interests, severe impact to domestic water wells, and increased chance of wildfires;
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1 WHEREAS; Coos County does not have adequate resources to respond to these threats;
2 WHEREAS, the Coos County Board of Commissioners has determined that
3 extraordinary measures must be taken to protect or mitigate economic and agricultural loss and
4 to be responsive to the threat of wildfires.

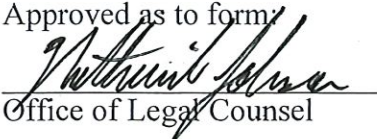
5 NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that a local drought emergency is
6 declared within Coos County;



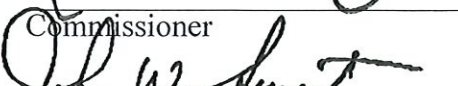
7 IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the appropriate response is beyond the capability of
8 Coos County and a local emergency is declared for the purpose of assessment, evaluation and
9 acquiring the ability to provide appropriate available resources;

10 IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners hereby requests that the
11 Honorable Kate Brown, Governor of Oregon, declare that a State of Drought Emergency exists
12 for all of Coos County under the provision of ORS 536 due to severe and continuing drought
13 conditions beginning at this time and continuing until March 31, 2021;

14 IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners hereby requests that the
15 Honorable Kate Brown, Governor of Oregon, direct the U.S Secretary of Agriculture to issue a
16 Disaster Declaration for Coos County.
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19 Dated this 24th day of April, 2020.
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21
22 Approved as to form:
23 
24 Office of Legal Counsel

21 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
22 
23 
24 Commissioner
25 
26 Commissioner
27

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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John Sweet

Robert "Bob" Main

Melissa Cribbins



April 24th, 2020

To: Governor Kate Brown
State Capital Building
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301-4047

Through: Director Office of Emergency Management
Andrew Phelps
PO Box 14370
Salem, OR 97309

Dear Governor Brown:

The Coos County Board of Commissioners requests approval of the attached Drought Declaration for all of Coos County under the provision of ORS 536.740 as a direct result of severe lack of rainfall, to begin immediately and continue until March 31, 2021.

To date, Coos County has received only two-thirds of normal rainfall water this year. As a result, stream flow rates are near record lows, resulting in less than 25% of average for this time of year, and there is little chance of recovery. This poses a severe threat to the local economy as our local agricultural interests depend exclusively on stream flow water for irrigation as opposed to reservoir storage. Further, estimated projections for precipitation for the rest of the year do not demonstrate a potential for recovery. Long term weather forecasts call for higher than normal temperatures and below normal precipitation for the summer season. Our preliminary assessment of damage predicts severe economic damage, loss of agricultural interests, dramatic impact to domestic water wells, and a significantly heightened threat for wildfires.

As a result of the severity and magnitude of these threats, the Coos County Board of Commissioners has determined that the proper and effective response is beyond the capabilities of the County. Supplementary State and Federal assistance is needed. We extend in advance our appreciation for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Melissa Cribbins, Chair

Robert "Bob" Main, Commissioner

John Sweet, Commissioner



CRAIG ZANNI
SHERIFF

COOS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Ken Stahr
Surface Water Hydrology Manager
Oregon Water Resources Department
Co-Chair, Oregon Drought Readiness Council
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A
Salem, OR 97301
Via Email: kenneth.l.stahr@oregon.gov

Matt Marheine
Deputy Director
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

Re: Coos County Drought

Date: 04-28-20

Mr. Stahr and Mr. Marheine:

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

There is the potential for the Coos 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. Local agriculture and livestock interests rely solely on streamflow water for irrigation, as opposed to reservoir storage. As Coos County is currently considered to be in severe drought conditions, and as Coos County currently has about 25% of average recorded streamflow, with <50% expected rainfall, the conditions will result in severe economic hardships, including shortages to Coos County.

The county has already formally declared a drought, and has attached a copy of the adopted resolution for your files.

The Coos County Board of Commissioners 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.

Coos County Board of Commissioners therefore requests an executive order from the Governor, declaring drought in Oregon County.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gabe Fabrizio".

Gabe Fabrizio
Emergency Manager / Administrative Captain
Coos County Sheriff's Office
Via email: gfabrizio@co.coos.or.us