

05/13/2020

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DOUGLAS COUNTY

AN ORDER IN THE MATTER OF)
DECLARING A LOCAL DISASTER) ORDER
AND REQUEST TO DECLARE A)
STATE OF EMERGENCY)
FOR DOUGLAS COUNTY, OREGON)

DOUGLAS COUNTY OREGON
FILED

MAY 13 2020

DOUGLAS COUNTY CLERK

WHEREAS, the Douglas County Board of Commissioners finds that the Douglas County agricultural, livestock and forest products industries, and related businesses are experiencing economic hardship and potential serious injury and losses resulting from extreme weather conditions within the county; and

WHEREAS, the May 4, 2020, Oregon Water Resources Department Water Conditions Report states the Umpqua basin stream flows are 67% of average. Snowpack, according to the most recent NRCS report states parts of southwestern Oregon, including the Umpqua basin snow water equivalent (SWE) remains well below normal. As of May 1, the basin snowpack was 43% of normal, which is significantly lower than the prior month when the snow pack was 75% or normal. This report also indicates that April precipitation was 41% of average, and since October 1 it has been 65% of average. The May through September streamflow forecasts in the basin range from 35% to 83% of average. Overall, forecasts decreased significantly from last month's report. Water managers in the basin should prepare for significantly reduced water supplies in the coming summer. The most recent three-month outlook prepared by NOAA Climate Prediction Center indicates "an increased probability of above-normal temperatures along with below-normal precipitation". Due to minimal snowpack and low stream flows, basin water managers expect to regulate surface water right users much earlier and to older priority dates than normal. This lack of surface water resources will negatively impact consumptive water users including irrigators, industrial and domestic users resulting in economic losses and hardship. Groundwater resources will also be affected by a lack of sufficient recharge resulting in reduced spring and well water supplies for household uses. As of April 28, 2020, the U. S. Drought Monitor for Oregon, illustrates the majority of Douglas County is in Severe Drought.

WHEREAS, the extended weather forecast for Douglas County projects higher than normal temperatures, and below average precipitation; and

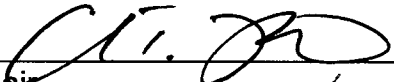
WHEREAS, the above conditions will result in the loss of economic stability, decreased feed and pasture production, shortened growing season and decreased water supplies for Douglas County agricultural, livestock and vineyard producers. In addition this multi-year cumulative drought has resulted in decreased fuel moisture and early onset fire danger; and

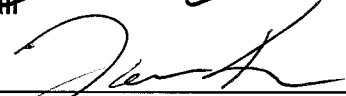
WHEREAS, the Douglas County Board of Commissioners determines that extraordinary measures must be taken to alleviate the suffering of citizens and livestock and to protect or mitigate economic loss, and to be responsive to the threat of wildfires.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DOUGLAS COUNTY ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

1. A local disaster is declared within Douglas County.
2. Pursuant to ORS 401.165, the board finds that the appropriate response is beyond the capability of Douglas County and we are therefore declaring a state of emergency for the purpose of assessment, evaluation and acquiring the ability to provide appropriate available resources.
3. The Honorable Kate Brown, Governor of Oregon is requested to declare a Drought Emergency for all of Douglas County under the provision of ORS 401.165 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 Douglas County: Temporary Transfers of Water Rights and Emergency Water Use Permits, and Use of Existing Right Option/Agreement; and make available other federal and state drought assistance and programs as may be available and needed.


**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF DOUGLAS COUNTY**

By 
Chair

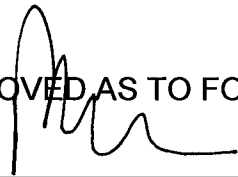
By 
Commissioner

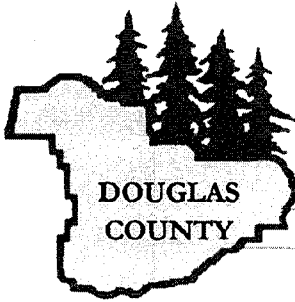
By Absent
Commissioner

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT

By 
Department Head
Date 5/6/2020

APPROVED AS TO FORM

By 
County Counsel
Date 5/13/2020



**DOUGLAS COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

CHRIS BOICE TIM FREEMAN TOM KRESS

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Ken Stahr,
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Oregon Water Resources Department
Co-Chair, Oregon Drought Readiness Council
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Via Email: kenneth.l.stahr@oregon.gov

Matt Marheine
Deputy Director
Oregon Office of Emergency Management
Co-Chair, Oregon Drought Readiness Council
PO Box 14370
Salem, OR 97301
Via Email: Sonya.Andron@state.or.us

RE: Douglas County Drought

Date: May 13, 2020

Mr. Stahr and Mr. Marheine:

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

There is the potential for the Douglas 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 Douglas County are from winter snow pack which is significantly lower than normal in the Umpqua basin. Current predictions by NOAA are that drought within our region will persist or intensify and could dramatically increase wildland fire danger due to higher than normal temperatures and below average precipitation.

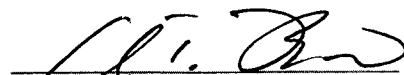
Additionally, a large share of the county's economy is dependent upon the agriculture sector which is adversely affected by low rainfall. Our initial assessment of impacts indicates imminent and significant damages and losses to the agricultural economy of Douglas County.

Douglas County has already formally declared a drought, and has attached a copy of the order for your files.

The Douglas 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.

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

DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Commissioner Chris Boice, Chair



Commissioner Tom Kress



Commissioner Tim Freeman

→ Information (541) 440-4201

→ Fax (541) 440-4391

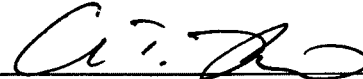
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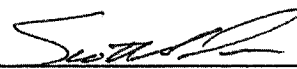
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF DOUGLAS COUNTY

By 
Chair

By 
Commissioner

By Absent
Commissioner

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT

By 
Department Head
Date 5/6/2020

APPROVED AS TO FORM

By /s/ Tiffany Podlesnik
County Counsel
Date May 7, 2020