



IN THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE STATE OF OREGON

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IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WASCO

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IN THE MATTER OF A DECLARATION AND REQUEST TO DECLARE A STATE DROUGHT EMERGENCY FOR WASCO COUNTY, OREGON

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**ORDER #20-035**

NOW ON THIS DAY, the above-entitled matter having come on regularly for consideration, said day being one duly set in term for the transaction of public business and a majority of the Board of Commissioners being present; and

IT APPEARING TO THE BOARD: That on May 5, 2020 the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture issued Drought Disaster Declarations for Wasco County with a D3 Extreme Drought status; and

IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE BOARD: That the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is predicting persistent drought, above average temperatures and below average precipitation in Wasco County through at least August 31, 2020; and

IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE BOARD: That the water supply outlook released by the Natural Resources Conservation Service in May 2020, indicates that we should prepare for a well-below-normal water year; and

IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE BOARD: That as of May 27, 2020, the snowpack snow water equivalent reported by the Natural Resources Conservation Service for the Hood Deschutes basin is 68% of normal for the northern portion of Wasco County and 41% in the Upper Deschutes for the southern portion of Wasco County; and

IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE BOARD: That soil moisture is below average and the irrigation season has started early; and

IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE BOARD: That the Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District anticipates the above conditions will result in loss of economic stability, pasture shortages, decrease in feed production, shortened growing season and decreased water supplies for Wasco County agricultural and livestock producers as well as a higher likelihood of wildfire conditions; and

IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE BOARD: that extraordinary measures must be taken to alleviate suffering of people and livestock and to mitigate economic loss and to be responsive to the threat of wildfires.

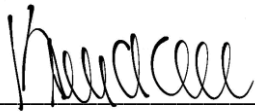
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DECLARED by the Wasco County Board of Commissioners that:

1. A local disaster is declared within Wasco County.
2. The Wasco County drought Emergency Management Plan has been implemented.

3. Pursuant to ORS 401.165, we find that appropriate response is beyond the capability of Wasco 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 Wasco County under the provisions 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 Wasco 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 proclamation shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

DATED this 3<sup>RD</sup> Day of June, 2020.

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**



Kristen Campbell, County Counsel

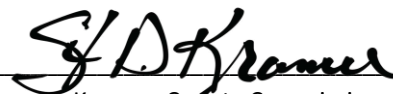
**WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:**



Scott C. Hege, Commission Chair



Kathleen B. Schwartz, Vice-Chair



Steven D. Kramer, County Commissioner