



P.O. Box 788 • Heppner, OR 97836
541-676-5613
www.co.morrow.or.us

Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Melissa Lindsay, Chair
Commissioner Don Russell
Commissioner Jim Doherty

July 1, 2020

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

Traci Naile
Operations and Preparedness Manager
Oregon Office of Emergency Management
Co-Chair, Oregon Drought Readiness Council
P.O. Box 14370
Salem, OR 97301
Via Email: traci.naile@state.or.us

RE: Oregon County Drought

Mr. Stahr and Ms. Naile,

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

There is the potential for Morrow 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 County is experiencing negative impacts to agriculture.

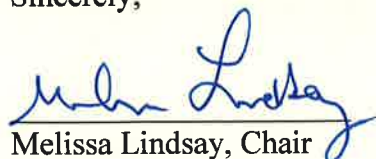
The County has already formally declared a drought, and has attached a copy of the adopted resolution for your files.

The Morrow 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.


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

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

Sincerely,


Melissa Lindsay, Chair


Don Russell, Commissioner


Jim Doherty, Commissioner

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR MORROW COUNTY, OREGON**

IN THE MATTER OF DECLARING)
A STATE OF DROUGHT EMERGENCY) RESOLUTION NO. R-2020-20
IN MORROW COUNTY)

THIS MATTER COMING BEFORE THE Morrow County Board of Commissioners sitting as the County governing body on July 1, 2020, at a regularly scheduled meeting;

WHEREAS, information has been provided to the Morrow County Board of Commissioners that a drought is occurring in Morrow County and that protective actions may be or are required to protect the citizens of Morrow County;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture has designated Morrow County as a contiguous disaster county due to drought, enabling producers in the County eligible for emergency aid, with a moderate drought monitor condition;

WHEREAS, the National Drought Mitigation Center has listed a large portion of Morrow County as “Severe Drought” with smaller portions listed as “Moderate Drought” and “Abnormally Dry” as of June 23, 2020. See Attachment A attached hereto and herein incorporated by this reference.

WHEREAS, unless weather conditions improve substantially to above normal conditions, water users who rely on stored water will have a shortened water use season, and depending upon the priority date of their water right, water users who rely on stream flows will have substantially less water available and a shortened water use season;

WHEREAS, the above conditions will result in severe economic hardship to Morrow County, including shortages of livestock forage, loss of agricultural interests, and increased chance of wildfire;

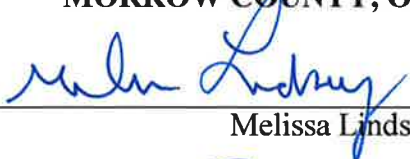
NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Commissioners resolves that:

1. A state of emergency exists in Morrow County due to drought conditions.
2. Due to the state of emergency, the Morrow County Board of Commissioners does hereby request and entreat the Honorable Kate Brown, Governor of the State of Oregon, to:
 - A. Declare a “State of Emergency,” a drought, to exist in Morrow County, Oregon;

- B. Direct the Oregon Water Resources Department to provide all available means of assistance to Morrow County agricultural producers.
- C. Direct Office of Emergency Management to coordinate and assist as needed, to address current and projected conditions in Morrow County.
- D. Direct all other state agencies to coordinate with the above agencies and to provide appropriate state resources as determined necessary to assist those affected in Morrow County.

Dated this 1st day of July 2020.

**MORROW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MORROW COUNTY, OREGON**



Melissa Lindsay, Chair



Don Russell, Commissioner



Jim Doherty, Commissioner

Approved as to Form:

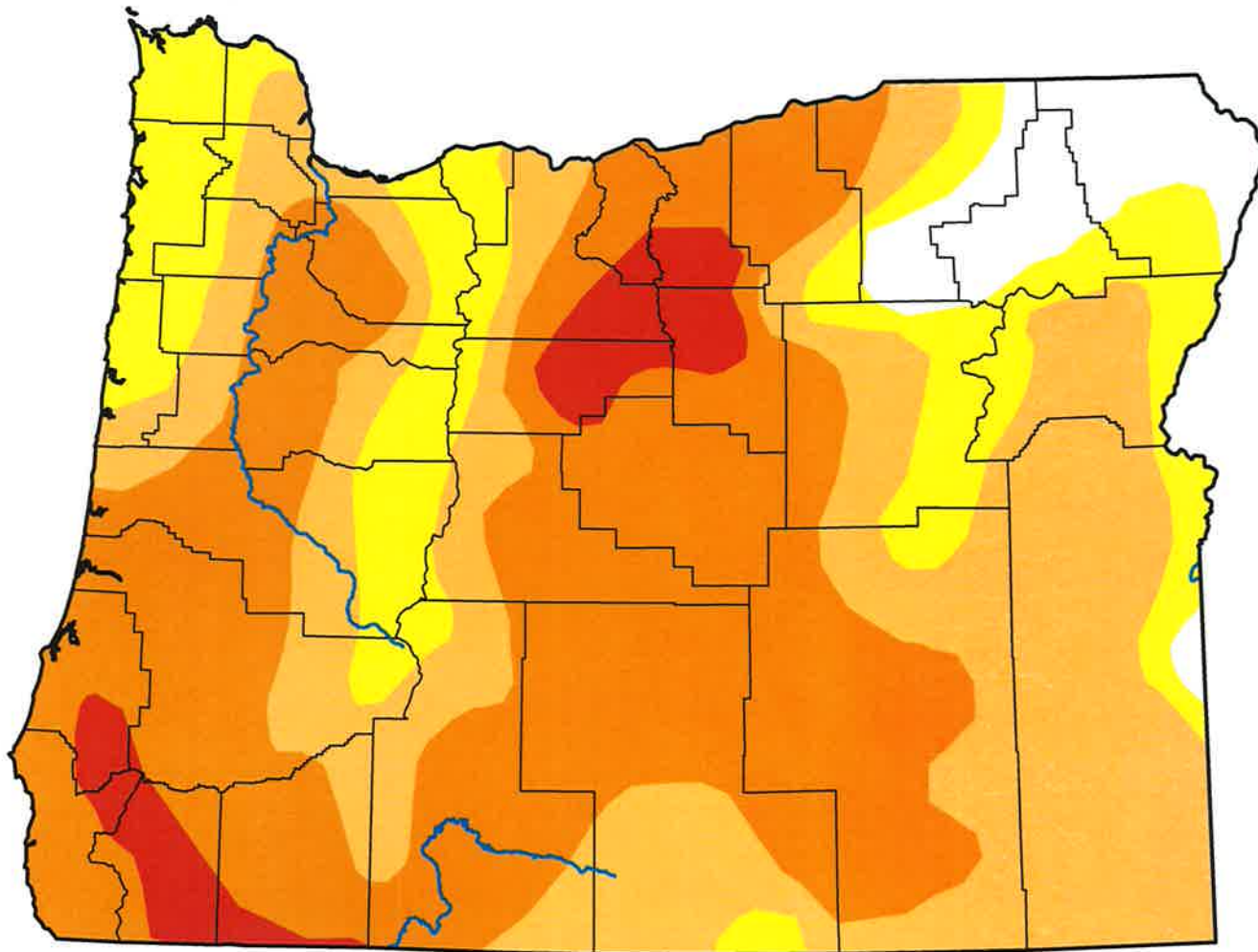


Morrow County Counsel







U.S. Drought Monitor Oregon

June 23, 2020
(Released Thursday, Jun. 25, 2020)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

ATTACHMENT A



Intensity:

-  None
-  D0 Abnormally Dry
-  D1 Moderate Drought
-  D2 Severe Drought
-  D3 Extreme Drought
-  D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Adam Hartman
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



droughtmonitor.unl.edu