



From: Wheeler County Court
PO Box 447
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To: 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: Wheeler County Drought

Date: 07/01/2020

Mr. Stahr and Ms. Naile:

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

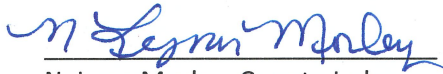
There is the potential for the Wheeler County agricultural and livestock, natural resources, recreational, tourism, and related economies to experience widespread and severe damage resulting from extreme weather conditions within the county. At the time of writing many springs in the county are at 50% of normal output; pasture grow-back after livestock have been removed is substantially less than what can usually be expected; first crop hay production in the county is estimated by producers to be at 60 – 70% of average production levels; many creeks are well below normal flows and irrigation shutoffs can reasonably be expected. Ensuring the availability of emergency drought tools for holders of water rights is likely to be instrumental in ensuring that our local producers can successfully navigate this drought.

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

Therefore, the Wheeler County Court hereby requests an executive order from the Governor, declaring drought in Oregon County.

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

With Respect,


N. Lynn Morley, County Judge

IN THE COUNTY COURT FOR WHEELER COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-23

A RESOLUTION DECLARING A STATE OF DROUGHT EMERGENCY

THIS MATTER, coming before the County Court for Wheeler County sitting as the County governing body at a regularly scheduled meeting on this 1st day of July, 2020; and

WHEREAS, as of June 25, 2020 well over one third of Wheeler County is experiencing a D3 drought (extreme drought) and the nearly all of the rest of the County is in D2 drought (severe drought) according to the U.S. Drought Monitor (EXHIBIT A); and

WHEREAS, the total precipitation for the area is significantly below average; and

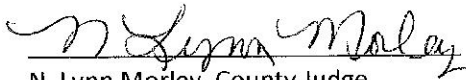
WHEREAS, Wheeler County is faced with potential crop failures both in dry land and irrigated areas that are served by streams; and

WHEREAS, Wheeler County is faced with a substantial reduction in available range forage for livestock, likely necessitating livestock feed assistance.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Wheeler County Court hereby resolves as follows:

- (1) The Wheeler County Court declares that a state of drought emergency exists within Wheeler County; and
- (2) The Wheeler County Court requests that Governor Kate Brown declare a state of drought emergency for Wheeler County, and that Governor Kate Brown requests that the United States Secretary of Interior and the United States Secretary of Agriculture issue a Drought Disaster Declaration for Wheeler County.

Adopted by the Wheeler County Court this 1st day of July, 2020.


N. Lynn Morley, County Judge

Robert L. Ordway, Commissioner


Rick Shaffer, Commissioner

ATTEST:

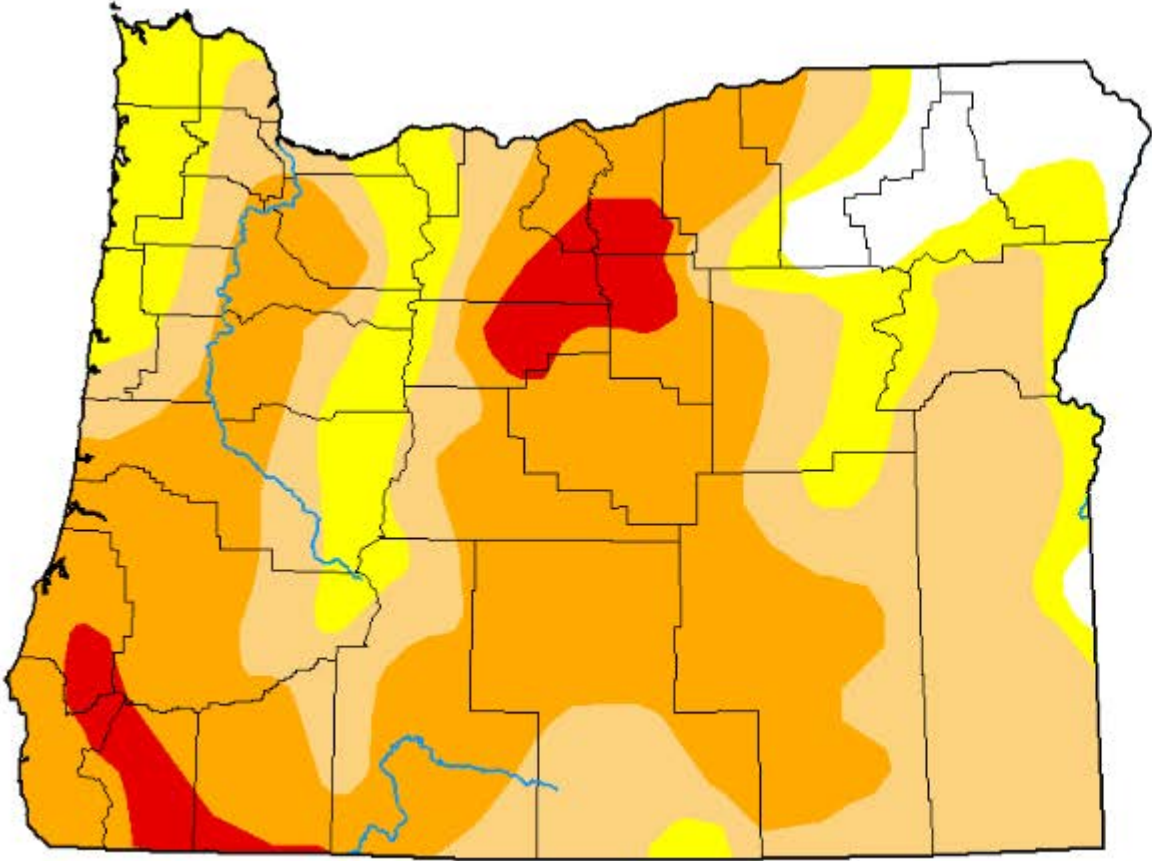

Tami Stockton, Court Secretary

Oregon

[Current Map](#) >

Map released: Thurs. June 25, 2020

Data valid: June 23, 2020 at 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

Author(s):

Adam Hartman, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale