

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR LAKE COUNTY, OREGON

In the matter of:)
Declaration of Local Disaster and Request to)
Declare a State Drought Emergency) Resolution 2021-02C
for Lake County, Oregon)

WHEREAS, on 7th day of April, 2021, the Lake County Board of Commissioners finds that the Lake County agricultural and livestock industries, and related economy are suffering widespread and severe economic damage, potential injuries and loss of property resulting from extreme weather conditions within the county; and

WHEREAS, annual water supplies available for irrigators and ranchers within Lake County are a function of both available water storage in the Chewaucan River, Deep Creek, Thomas Creek, Drews Creek, Honey Creek, Silver Creek and Twentymile Creek and in various reservoirs (including Thompson, Cottonwood and Drews), and the estimated seasonal inflow from winter snow pack. Precipitation since the beginning of the water year (October – April 5) has been 65% of average. Water supplies are in serious jeopardy; and

WHEREAS, over half of Lake County is currently listed in the United States Drought Monitor released on March 30, 2021 to be in a state of extreme drought, and the other half is in a state of severe drought; and

WHEREAS, The April through September streamflow forecasts in the basin range from 69% to 96% of average. Overall, forecasts remain similar to last month's report. If conditions remain similar, water supplies in the basin are likely to be well below normal; and

WHEREAS, many long-time Lake County farmers and ranchers have commented that they have not seen water conditions this severe since 1992; and

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

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

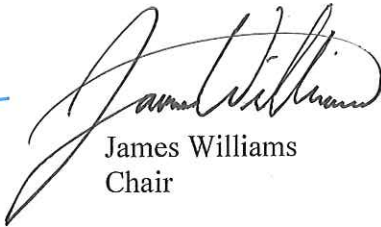
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Lake County Board of Commissioners that:

- 1 A local disaster is declared within Lake County.
- 2 The Lake County Drought Emergency Management Plan has been implemented.
- 3 Pursuant to ORS 401.015 (2), we find that appropriate response is beyond the capability of Lake 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 Lake County under the provisions of ORS 401.055 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 Lake 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 _____ of April, 2021



Barry Shullanberger
Commissioner



James Williams
Chair



Mark Albertson
Vice Chair