

04/28/2021

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DOUGLAS COUNTY
DOUGLAS COUNTY OREGON
FILED

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

APR 28 2021

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 April 19, 2021, Oregon Water Resources Department Water Conditions Report states the Umpqua basin stream flows are 72% 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. 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 13, 2021, the U. S. Drought Monitor for Oregon illustrates the majority of Douglas County is already in Moderate 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.

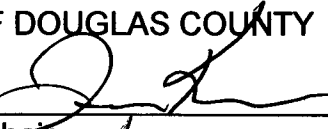
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THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DOUGLAS COUNTY ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

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

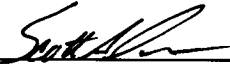
By 
Chair

By 
Commissioner


By 
Commissioner

Date 4-28-2021

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT

By 
Department Head
Date: 4-23-21

APPROVED AS TO FORM

By 
County Counsel
Date: April 26, 2021