

1 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

2 COUNTY OF COOS

3 STATE OF OREGON

4
5 In the Matter of Declaring a Local Drought Emergency in) RESOLUTION
Coos County) 21-06-122L
6)

7 NOW BEFORE THE Board of Commissioners sitting for the transaction of County
8 business on the 22nd day of June, 2021 is the matter of declaring a local drought emergency in
9 Coos County;

10 WHEREAS, Coos County has received below normal rainfall for this water year, with
11 County areas receiving from -0.75 to -2.25 inches less precipitation than recorded averages;

12 WHEREAS, due to the lack of winter rainfall, Coos County is considered to be in D2
13 (Severe Drought) status as of April 14th, many domestic water wells have gone dry and have not
14 recovered sufficiently to date;

15 WHEREAS, due to this lack of rainfall, the stream flow rates are near record lows,
16 averaging less than 20% of normal, and there is little chance of recovery;

17 WHEREAS, local agricultural interests rely exclusively on stream flow water for
18 irrigation as opposed to reservoir storage;

19 WHEREAS, the weather predictions for the rest of the year do not demonstrate the
20 potential for recovery with above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation predicted
21 for the summer season;

22 WHEREAS, the above conditions will result in severe economic hardship to Coos
23 County, including shortages of livestock forage, smaller than average hay crops, loss of
24 agricultural interests, severe impact to domestic water wells, and increased chance of wildfires;

25 WHEREAS; Coos County does not have adequate resources to respond to these threats;

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WHEREAS, the Coos County Board of Commissioners has determined that extraordinary measures must be taken to protect or mitigate economic and agricultural loss and to be responsive to the threat of wildfires.

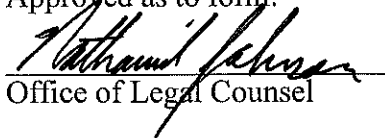
NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that a local drought emergency is declared within Coos County;

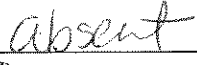
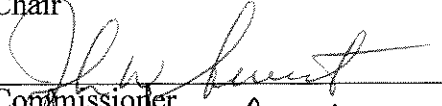
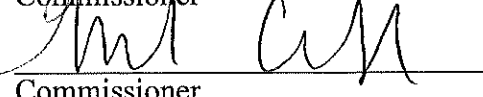
IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the appropriate response is beyond the capability of Coos County and a local emergency is declared for the purpose of assessment, evaluation and acquiring the ability to provide appropriate available resources;

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners hereby requests that the Honorable Kate Brown, Governor of Oregon, declare that a State of Drought Emergency exists for all of Coos County under the provision of ORS 536 due to severe and continuing drought conditions beginning at this time and continuing until 31 March, 2022;

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners hereby requests that the Honorable Kate Brown, Governor of Oregon, direct the U.S Secretary of Agriculture to issue a Disaster Declaration for Coos County.

Dated this 22nd day of June, 2021.

Approved as to form:

Office of Legal Counsel

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chair

Commissioner

Commissioner

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

250 N. Baxter Street, Coquille, Oregon 97423

(541) 396-7535

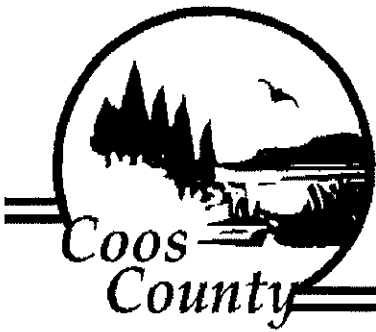
FAX (541) 396-1010 / TDD (800) 735-2900

E-Mail: bbrooks@co.coos.or.us

John Sweet

Robert "Bob" Main

Melissa Cribbins



June 22nd, 2021.

To: Governor Kate Brown
State Capital Building
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301-4047

Through: Director Office of Emergency Management
Andrew Phelps
PO Box 14370
Salem, OR 97309

Dear Governor Brown:

The Coos County Board of Commissioners requests approval of the attached Drought Declaration for all of Coos County under the provision of ORS 536.740 as a direct result of severe lack of rainfall, to begin immediately and continue until 31 Mar, 2022.

To date, Coos County has received only two-thirds of normal rainfall water this year. As a result, stream flow rates are near record lows, resulting in less than 20% of average for this time of year, and there is little chance of recovery. This poses a severe threat to the local economy as our local agricultural interests depend exclusively on stream flow water for irrigation as opposed to reservoir storage. Further, estimated projections for precipitation for the rest of the year do not demonstrate a potential for recovery. Our preliminary assessment of damage predicts severe economic damage, loss of agricultural interests, dramatic impact to domestic water wells, and a significantly heightened threat for wildfires.

As a result of the severity and magnitude of these threats, the Coos County Board of Commissioners has determined that the proper and effective response is beyond the capabilities of the County. Supplementary State and Federal assistance is needed. We extend in advance our appreciation for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Absent

Robert "Bob" Main, Chair

Melissa Cribbins, Commissioner

John Sweet, Commissioner