



**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR JOSEPHINE COUNTY  
STATE OF OREGON**

In the Matter of the Declaration of a Drought                    )  
Emergency for Josephine County, Oregon                        )

**Resolution No. 2021-036**

**WHEREAS**, ORS 401.305 provides authority for Josephine County to act as an emergency management agency and to establish policies and protocols for defining and directing responsibilities during time of emergency or disaster; and

**WHEREAS**, annual water supplies available for irrigators and ranchers within Josephine County are a function of available water in the Rogue, Applegate and Illinois Rivers and their tributaries, and in the Lost Creek and Applegate Reservoirs; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Agriculture has estimated that in this water year Josephine County continues to meet or exceed definitions of multi-year cumulative drought and remains in this month with Severe D2 conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, the above conditions may result in loss of stability for agriculture, recreation and tourism industries, pasture shortages, decrease in feed production, shortened growing season and decreased water supplies for Josephine County agricultural, vineyard and livestock producers; and

**WHEREAS**, the Josephine County Board of Commissioners declare a factor of concern is illegal water takes by unauthorized hemp, marijuana and related businesses increasing consumption strains on already limited local rivers and tributaries;

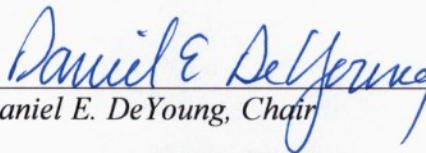
**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Josephine County Board of Commissioners formally declares a drought conditions state of emergency for Josephine County to allow emergency drought permits for domestic and commercial water use for legal water rights holders to utilize. Effective this 1<sup>st</sup> day of September 2021, for all areas of Josephine County, including the incorporated cities of Grants Pass and Cave Junction until the 31<sup>st</sup> day of December 2021; and

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Emergency Manager or her designee shall take all necessary steps authorized by law to coordinate response and recovery from emergency or disaster, including but not limited to requesting assistance from the State of Oregon; and

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that pursuant to ORS 536, the Board of Commissioners requests that the Governor of Oregon declare a Drought Emergency for all of Josephine County due to severe and continuing drought conditions; and that the Oregon Department of Water Resources make available in Josephine County: Temporary Transfers of Water Rights, Emergency Water Use Permits and Use of Existing Right Option/Agreement, and other Federal and State drought assistance and programs as applicable under this resolution.

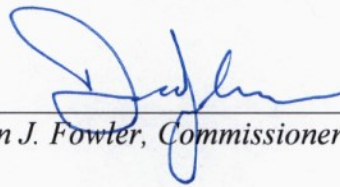
Dated this 1<sup>st</sup> day of September 2021

**JOSEPHINE COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Daniel E. DeYoung, Chair*

**Absent at Signing**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Herman E. Baertschiger Jr., Vice Chair*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Darin J. Fowler, Commissioner*