

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF CURRY, OREGON

In the Matter of Declaring a Local)
Drought Emergency in Curry County) Resolution No. R2021-27
)

WHEREAS Curry County has received below normal rainfall for this water year, with some areas of the county receiving only 25-50% of the normal precipitation in the last thirty days, coupled with temperatures 3-6 degrees above average in some areas of the County in July 2021; and

WHEREAS due to the lack of rainfall and trend of higher temperatures, 100% of Curry County is considered to be in D2 (Severe Drought) status, and slightly over 6% of the County considered to be in D3 (Extreme Drought) status as of September 9, 2021; and

WHEREAS due to this lack of rainfall, the stream flow rates are near record lows, averaging less than 25% of normal, and there is little chance of recovery;

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

WHEREAS the weather predictions for the rest of the year do not demonstrate the potential for recovery as they forecast above-normal temperatures and below-normal precipitation levels for the summer and fall seasons;

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

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

WHEREAS the Curry 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 Curry County;


IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the appropriate response is beyond the capability of Curry 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 Curry County under the provision of ORS 536 due to severe and continuing drought conditions beginning at this time and continuing until September 15, 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 Curry County.

Dated this 15th day of September, 2021.

BOARD OF CURRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



John Herzog, Chair


OPPOSED

Christopher Paasch, Vice Chair



Court Boice, Commissioner 9-15-21

Approved as to Form:



Anthony Pope, OSB # 192939
Curry County Legal Counsel