

REVIEWED  
*KR*  
LEGAL COUNSEL

For Recording Stamp Only

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON

A Resolution Declaring a Countywide State of  
Emergency and Requesting State Declaration of  
Drought Emergency within all of Deschutes  
County

\*  
\* RESOLUTION NO. 2023-012  
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WHEREAS, ORS 401.309 and the Deschutes County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) authorize the county governing body to declare a state of emergency within the county or within a designated portion of the county; and

WHEREAS, drought conditions endanger crops and livestock, endanger the health and safety of the county's population, jeopardize economic vitality within the county, and imperil the quality of the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Deschutes Basin Board of Control has informed Deschutes County that continuing extreme weather conditions within the county are likely to cause widespread and severe damage to livestock, wildlife, natural resources, recreation, tourism and related economies; and

WHEREAS, the Deschutes Basin overall precipitation for the water year is currently at 80% which is the 6<sup>th</sup> straight year of below average precipitation. The latest drought monitor shows most of Deschutes County is currently under drought conditions with a significant portion under severe or extreme drought; and

WHEREAS, Wickiup Reservoir is at 106,497 acre feet on February 13<sup>th</sup> which is just over half its capacity and is expected to peak around April 1<sup>st</sup> at near record low levels; and

WHEREAS, Crescent Lake is at 9% capacity; and

WHEREAS, it is unlikely we will receive adequate precipitation in the coming months to prevent the persistence of drought conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Deschutes River is experiencing extremely low natural flow levels such that all irrigation districts dependent upon water flows from the Deschutes River will be severely impacted by being significantly reduced or severely curtailed due to diminished supplies; and

WHEREAS, these low flows will result in widespread impact and damage to livestock, natural resources, recreation, tourism and the economy; and

WHEREAS, Deschutes County encourages water users to voluntarily share water with water users in Jefferson County,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON, as follows:

Section 1. Pursuant to ORS 401.309, the Deschutes County EOP, and information provided to Deschutes County by the Deschutes Basin Board of Control, a State of Emergency is presently declared within Deschutes County.

Section 2. Pursuant to ORS 401.032(2), the governing body for Deschutes County finds that the appropriate response is beyond the capability of Deschutes County.

Section 3. The governing body for Deschutes County respectfully submits the Request contained immediately below in Section 4.

Section 4. Request: The Honorable Tina Kotek, Governor of Oregon, declare a Drought Emergency for all of Deschutes County under the provisions of ORS Chapters 401 and 536 due to severe and continuing drought conditions beginning at this time and continuing to December 31, 2023; and direct the Oregon Department of Water Resources and other Oregon executive branch agencies to make available for all purveyors of water within Deschutes 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 needed.

Section 5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately from and after its adoption.

Dated this 22<sup>nd</sup> of Feb., 2023

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON

  
ANTHONY DeBONE, Chair

  
PATTI ADAIR, Vice Chair

ATTEST:

  
Recording Secretary

  
PAUL CHANG, Commissioner



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

# AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE:** February 22, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Resolution No. 2023-012, declaring a countywide State of Emergency and requesting a State Declaration of Drought Emergency within all of Deschutes County

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

Move approval of Resolution No. 2023-012, declaring a countywide State of Emergency and requesting a State Declaration of Drought Emergency within all of Deschutes County.

**BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

Continuing weather conditions within Deschutes County are not likely to resolve drought conditions and may cause widespread and severe damage to livestock, wildlife, natural resources, recreation, tourism and related economies, potentially endangering crops and livestock as well as the health and safety of residents and visitors. Drought conditions can also imperil the quality of the environment.

The overall precipitation for the water year is currently at 80% which is the 6<sup>th</sup> straight year of below average precipitation. The latest drought monitor shows most of Deschutes County is currently under drought conditions with a significant portion under severe or extreme drought. Specifically, the Wickiup Reservoir was at 106,497 acre feet on February 13<sup>th</sup> which is just over half its capacity and is expected to peak around April 1<sup>st</sup> at near record low levels, and Crescent Lake is at 9% capacity. It is not expected that adequate precipitation will fall in the coming months to prevent the persistence of drought conditions.

Additionally, the Deschutes River is experiencing extremely low natural flow levels such that all irrigation districts dependent upon water flows from the Deschutes River will be severely impacted by being significantly reduced or severely curtailed due to diminished supplies.

Resolution 2023-012, if adopted, would immediately declare a State of Emergency to exist, and would request that the Governor declare a Drought Emergency for all of Deschutes County continuing to December 31, 2023 and direct the Oregon Department of Water Resources and other Oregon executive branch agencies to make available for all purveyors

of water within Deschutes County Temporary Transfers of Water Rights, Emergency Water Use Permits, and Use of Existing Right Option/Agreement.

**BUDGET IMPACTS:**

To be determined according to the level of emergency response needed.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Sergeant Nathan Garibay, DCSO