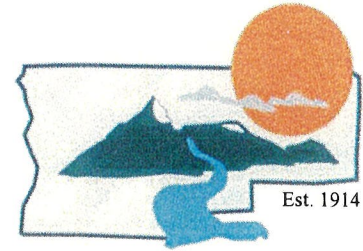


# JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

66 S.E. "D" St., Suite A • Madras, Oregon 97741 • Ph: (541) 475-2449 • FAX: (541) 475-4454



March 2, 2022

Ryan Andrews  
Oregon Water Resources Department  
Co-Chair, Oregon Drought Readiness Council  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301  
Via Email: [ryan.m.andrew@state.or.us](mailto:ryan.m.andrew@state.or.us)

Traci Naile  
Operations and Preparedness Manager  
Office of Emergency Management  
Co-Chair, Oregon Drought Readiness Council  
P.O. Box 14370  
Salem, OR 97301  
Via Email: [traci.naile@state.or.us](mailto:traci.naile@state.or.us)

RE: Jefferson County Drought

Mr. Andrews and Ms. Naile:

Jefferson County, by and through its County Elected Officials, requests that the Governor of Oregon issue an executive order for all of Jefferson County under the provisions of ORS 536 as a direct result of severe and devastating drought conditions.

There is the potential for the Jefferson County agricultural and livestock, natural resources, recreational, tourism, and related economies to experience widespread and severe damage resulting from extreme weather conditions within the county. The County received a letter from Deschutes Basin Board of Control that asked the county to declare a drought disaster. North Unit Irrigation District supports moving forward with a drought declaration as well.

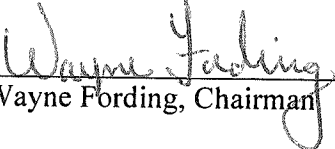
The county has already formally declared a drought and has attached a copy of the adopted resolution for your reference.

The Jefferson County Board of Commissioners has determined that additional action by and support from the state is needed. This may include assistance from the Oregon Water Resources Department and other Oregon executive branch agencies, operating within their statutory authorities.

Jefferson County Board of Commissioners therefore requests an executive order from the Governor, declaring drought in Jefferson County.

We extend in advance our appreciation for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Wayne Fording, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mae Huston, Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kelly Simmelink, Commissioner

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE STATE OF OREGON  
FOR THE COUNTY OF JEFFERSON

IN THE MATTER OF DECLARING A )  
LOCAL DISASTER AND REQUESTING )  
A STATE OF DROUGHT EMERGENCY )  
DECLARATION FOR JEFFERSON )  
COUNTY, OREGON )

RESOLUTION NO. R-002-22

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners finds that the Jefferson County agricultural and livestock industries, and related economy are suffering widespread and severe economic damage, potential injuries and loss of property resulting from extreme weather conditions within the county; and

WHEREAS, annual water supplies available for irrigators and ranchers within Jefferson County are a function of both available water storage in the Willow Creek and Trout Creek resources and the estimated seasonal inflow from winter snow pack; and

- February 2022 average streamflow for Jefferson County was less than 83% of average.
- Wickiup Reservoir on February 22, 2022 is at 92,411 AF which is below the 173,798 AF historical average for this same time, and 5,876 AF less than last year.
- The current U.S. drought monitor had most of Jefferson County mapped in severe to exceptional drought status.
- The seasonal outlook (April through June) for Jefferson County indicates that below precipitation is likely.
- Many areas of Jefferson County received less than 25% of the average January precipitation.
- North Unit Irrigation District began diverting stored water on the first day of the irrigation season.
- Natural flows and reservoir supplies are at or near all-time lows and both irrigation districts with deliveries in Jefferson county (NUID/TSID) will experience shortages and or shut offs this year.

WHEREAS, as a result of the available water storage and the estimated seasonal inflow, Jefferson County's irrigated ground from stored water will receive reduced supply and reduced allocations; and

WHEREAS, the extended weather forecast for Jefferson County projects higher than normal temperatures, and below average precipitation; and

WHEREAS, the above conditions will result in loss of economic stability, pasture shortages, decreased feed production, shortened growing season, and decreased water supplies for Jefferson County agricultural and livestock producers. In addition, this multi-year cumulative drought has resulted in decreased fuel moisture and early onset fire danger; and


WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners determines that extraordinary measures must be taken to alleviate suffering of people and livestock and to protect or mitigate economic loss, and to be responsive to the threat of wildfires;

NOW THEREFORE the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners HEREBY PROCLAIMS:

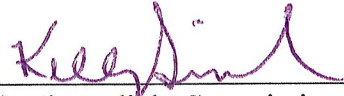
1. A local disaster is declared within Jefferson County.
2. The Jefferson County drought Emergency Management Plan has been implemented.
3. Pursuant to ORS 401.165, we find that the appropriate response is beyond the capability of Jefferson County. We are declaring a state of emergency for the purpose of assessment, evaluation and acquiring the ability to provide appropriate available resources.
4. The Honorable Kate Brown, Governor of Oregon, is requested to declare a Drought Emergency for all of Jefferson 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 Jefferson County: Temporary Transfers of Water Rights, and Emergency Water Use Permits, and Use of Existing Right Option/Agreement; and other federal and state drought assistance and programs as needed.
5. This proclamation shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

DATED this 2nd day of March, 2022.

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Wayne Fording, Commission Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mae Huston, Commissioner

  
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Kelly Simmelink, Commissioner