

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR LAKE COUNTY, OREGON

In the matter of:)	
Declaration of Local Disaster and Request to)	First Amendment to
Declare a State Drought Emergency)	Resolution 2022-02C
for Lake County, Oregon)	

WHEREAS, on 15th day of March, 2022, the Lake County Board of Commissioners finds that the Lake 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 Lake County are a function of both available water storage in the Chewaucan River, Deep Creek, Thomas Creek, Drews Creek, Honey Creek, Silver Creek and Twentymile Creek and in various reservoirs (including Thompson, Cottonwood and Drews), and the estimated seasonal inflow from winter snow pack. Water supplies are in serious jeopardy; and

WHEREAS, Drews Reservoir is at 6980 AF(Acre-Feet) which is about 11% of capacity (62,500 AF) and will have very limited irrigation available. Thompson Valley Reservoir in north Lake County is currently at 838 AF of storage (less than 4% of capacity). This reservoir supplies the water for the Silver Lake Irrigation District and at this time of year it is generally between 10,000 AF - 21,040 AF. This will be the second year in a row the irrigation district will not be able to turn on irrigation water; and

WHEREAS, over half of Lake County is currently listed in the United States Drought Monitor released on March 10, 2022 to be in a state of extreme or exceptional drought; and

WHEREAS, soil moisture is continuing to measure well below average wetness for this time of year. Soil moisture in Lake County is currently between 5% to 30% wetness percentile documented in the February 28, 2022 GRACE-Based Root Zone Soil Moisture Drought Indicator Report, and

WHEREAS, the Lake County Goose-Lake Basin are at the 74% of the median Snow Water Equivalent according to the March 6, 2022 NRCS Report; and

WHEREAS, Lake County has received 25% of normal precipitation stated in the WestSide Drought Tracker created on March 2, 2022; and

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

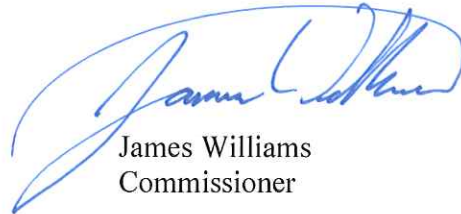
WHEREAS, the Lake County Board of Commissioners determines that extraordinary measures must be taken to alleviate suffering of people and livestock and to protect or mitigate economic loss, and to be responsive to the threat of wildfires.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Lake County Board of Commissioners that:

- 1 A local disaster is declared within Lake County.
- 2 The Lake County Drought Emergency Management Plan has been implemented.
- 3 Pursuant to ORS 401.032 we find that appropriate response is beyond the capability of Lake County. We are declaring a state of emergency for the purpose of assessment, evaluation and acquiring the ability to provide appropriate available resources.
- 4 **Request:** The Honorable Kate Brown, Governor of Oregon, declare a Drought Emergency for all of Lake County under the provisions of ORS 401.165 and ORS Chapter 536, 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 Lake 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 and will expire on December 31, 2022.

Dated 5th of April, 2022


Barry Shullanberger
Vice Chair


James Williams
Commissioner


Mark Albertson
Chair