

DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY

BEFORE THE COUNTY COURT
FOR MALHEUR COUNTY

In the Matter of Declaring)
A State of Emergency with-in)
Malheur County)

R22-09

MALHEUR COUNTY, OR 2022-1744
MRRESOLUTION 04/06/2022 11:22 AM
Cnt=1 Pgs=2 NO FEE



I, Gayle V. Trotter, County Clerk for Malheur County,
Oregon certify that the instrument identified herein was
recorded in the Clerk records.

Gayle V. Trotter - County Clerk

Gayle

RESOLUTION

This matter came before the County Court at a regular meeting dated the 6th Day of April, 2022. The Malheur County Court finds that the Malheur County agricultural and livestock industries, and related economy will suffer widespread and severe economic damage, potential injuries and loss of property resulting from **Severe to extreme drought conditions**; and

WHEREAS, lower than average snowfall over the winter and record low rainfall throughout the spring (less than ½” in Eastern Oregon in the last 2 weeks) have not been enough to allow us to recover from last year’s drought; and

WHEREAS, a report from BLM dated 03/17/2022 show below average fuel moisture readings for this time of the year; and

WHEREAS, based on a report by the U.S. Drought Monitor dated March 29, 2022, most of Malheur County is currently in Severe Drought (D2) conditions, and some in Extreme (D3) Drought conditions, with predictions only showing worsening conditions; and

WHEREAS, in Severe Drought conditions, you can expect pastures are brown; hay yields are down and prices are up; producers are selling cattle. Fire risk increases. Marshes are drying up, little water is available for livestock and wildlife. River flows are low and stock ponds are running dry. Ranchers will have to truck water into their livestock. Livestock have to walk greater distances to get water and this contributes to exaggerated numbers of “dust pneumonia” cases in calves; and

WHEREAS, 10 other Oregon Counties have filed drought declarations through Oregon Emergency Management; and

WHEREAS, a Westwide SNOTEL report dated 03/31/2022 showed the Malheur basin snow water equivalent % at only 19% of normal, Owyhee Basin was at 56% of normal; and

WHEREAS, as we prepare to enter into this irrigation season, the Owyhee Reservoir is currently at 39%, Bully Creek reservoir is 52%, Warm Springs is at 15% and Beulah is at 36% of normal

CONCLUSION, the Malheur County Court 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 Malheur County Court that:

1. A local disaster is declared within Malheur County.
2. The Malheur County Drought Emergency Management Plan has been implemented.
3. Pursuant to ORS 401.015 (2), we find that appropriate response is beyond the capability of Malheur 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 Malheur County under the provisions of ORS 401.055 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 Malheur County: Temporary Transfers of Water Rights, Emergency Water Use Permits, 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.

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT



County Judge Dan Joyce



Commissioner Ron Jacobs



Commissioner Don Hodge