

IN THE COUNTY COURT FOR WHEELER COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-09

A RESOLUTION DECLARING A STATE OF DROUGHT EMERGENCY

THIS MATTER, coming before the County Court for Wheeler County sitting as the County governing body at a regularly scheduled meeting on this 20th day of April 2022; and

WHEREAS, as of April 5th, 2022, well over three quarters of Wheeler County is experiencing a D4 drought (Exceptional Drought) and the rest of the County is in D3 drought (Extreme Drought) or D2 drought (Sever Drought) in the northeaster portion of Wheeler County according to the U.S. Drought Monitor (EXHIBIT A); and

WHEREAS, the total precipitation for the area is significantly below average; and

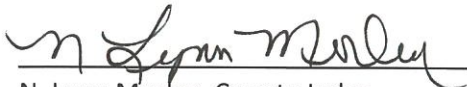
WHEREAS, Wheeler County is faced with potential crop failures both in dry land and irrigated areas that are served by streams; and

WHEREAS, Wheeler County is faced with a substantial reduction in available range forage for livestock, likely necessitating livestock feed assistance.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Wheeler County Court hereby resolves as follows:

- (1) The Wheeler County Court declares that a state of drought emergency exists within Wheeler County; and
- (2) The Wheeler County Court requests that Governor Kate Brown declare a state of drought emergency for Wheeler County, and that Governor Kate Brown requests that the United States Secretary of Interior and the United States Secretary of Agriculture issue a Drought Disaster Declaration for Wheeler County.

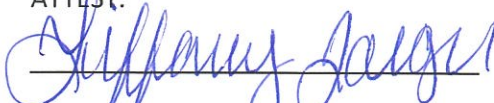
Adopted by the Wheeler County Court this 20th day of April 2022.


N. Lynn Morley, County Judge


Clinton Dyer, Commissioner

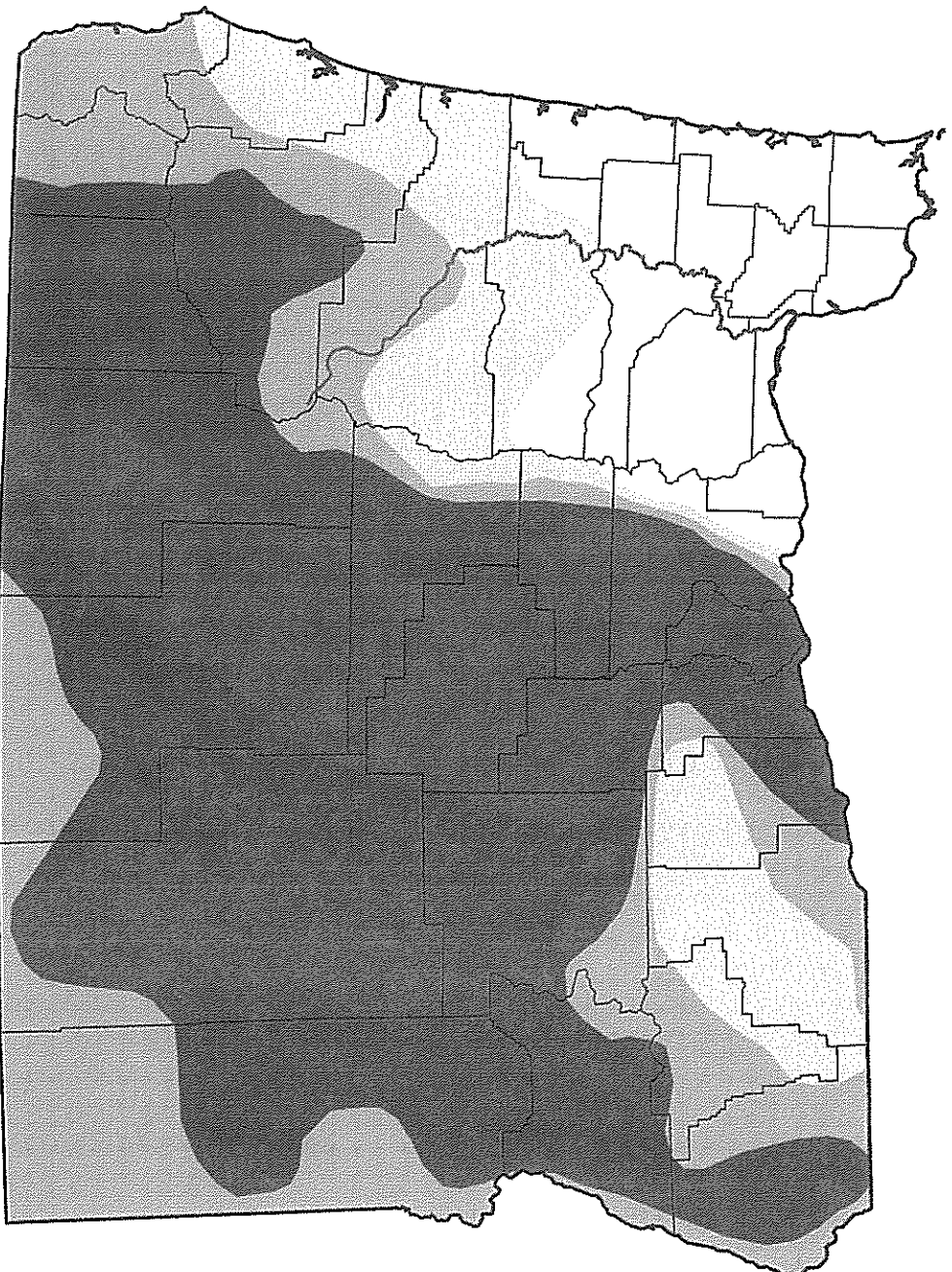

Rick Shaffer, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Tiffany Jaeger, Court Secretary

U.S. Drought Monitor Oregon

EXHIBIT A: RESOLUTION 2022-09









April 5, 2022

(Released Thursday, Apr. 7, 2022)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

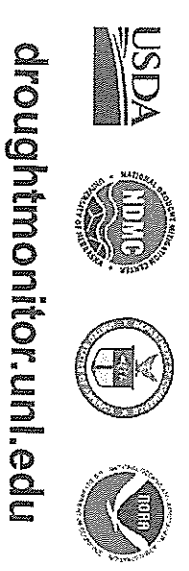
Intensity:

-  None
-  D0 Abnormally Dry
-  D1 Moderate Drought
-  D2 Severe Drought
-  D3 Extreme Drought
-  D4 Exceptional Drought

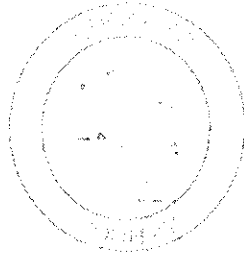
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Deborah Bathke
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu



From: Wheeler County Court
PO Box 447
Fossil, OR 97830

To: Ryan Andrews
Hydrologist
Oregon Water Resources Department
Co-Chair, Oregon Drought Readiness Council
725 Summer St., NE, Salem, OR 97301
Tel: 971-345-7481
ryan.m.andrews@oregon.gov

Traci Naile
Operations and Preparedness Manager
Oregon Office of Emergency Management
Co-Chair, Oregon Drought Readiness Council
P.O. Box 14370, Salem, OR 97301
Tel: 503-378-4025
traci.naile@state.or.us

RE: Wheeler County Drought

Date: 04/20/2022

Mr. Andrews and Ms. Naile:

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

There is the potential for the Wheeler 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. At the time of writing many springs in the county are at 50% of normal output; seasonal pasture is substantially less than what can usually be expected; local beef producers are already being forced to sell; many creeks are well below normal flows and irrigation shutoffs can reasonably be expected. Ensuring the availability of emergency drought tools for holders of water rights is likely to be instrumental in ensuring that our local producers can successfully navigate this drought.

The county has already formally declared a drought emergency and has attached a copy of the adopted resolution for your files. Further, the Wheeler County Court 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.

Therefore, the Wheeler County Court hereby requests an executive order from the Governor, declaring drought in Oregon County.

We appreciate your consideration of this matter.

With Respect,

N. Lynn Morley, County Judge