

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 - 003 - 24

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.

- Wickiup Reservoir on March 26, 2024, is at 152,504 AF which is below the 186.995 AF historical average for this same time.
- The current U.S. drought monitor had most of Jefferson County mapped at Abnormally Dry to Moderate 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 average 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 Commissioner 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 Tina Kotek, Governor of Oregon, is requested to declare a Drought Emergency for all of Jefferson County under the provision of ORS 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 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 3rd day of April, 2024.

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Wayne Fording, Commission Chair


Kelly Simmelink, Commissioner


Mark Wunsch, Commissioner