

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR LAKE COUNTY, OREGON**

In the matter of:	)	
Declaration of Local Disaster and Request	)	Resolution 2024-04
to Declare a State Drought Emergency	)	
for Lake County, Oregon	)	

**WHEREAS**, on the 7th day of August, 2024, 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**, the U.S. Drought Monitor has identified all of Lake County as “Moderate Drought” as of July 16, 2024. See attachment A attached hereto and herein incorporated by this reference.

**WHEREAS**, streamflow in Lake County over the water year thus far is 93% of average (as of 7/14), more recent streamflow’s are well below average. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, over 68% of Lake County is experiencing moderate drought (D1) conditions. One of the key indicators used in determining drought coverage is the Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index (SPEI), which is an indicator of whether conditions are wetter or drier than normal. The SPEI for Lake County for March – June is showing drier than normal conditions, especially when compared to the same months for 2021-2023. Furthermore, evaporative demand over the past 45 days has been significant enough to contribute to a decrease in soil moisture throughout the county.

**WHEREAS**, unless weather conditions improve substantially to above normal conditions, water users who rely solely on stored water will have a shortened water use season, and depending upon the priority date of their water right, water users who rely on stream flows will have substantially less water available and a shortened water use season;

**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 prolonged fire danger; and

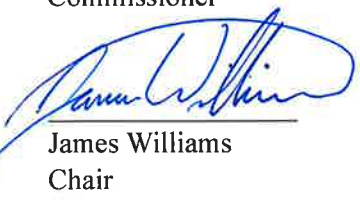
**WHEREAS**, the Lake County Board of Commissioners determines that extraordinary measures must be taken to alleviate suffering of people and livestock and to protect or mitigate economic loss, and to be responsive to the threat of wildfires.

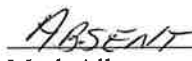
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** by the Lake County Board of Commissioners that:

1. A local disaster is declared within Lake County.
2. The Lake County Drought Emergency Management Plan has been implemented.
3. Due to the state of Emergency, the Lake County Board of Commissioners does hereby request and entreat the Honorable Tina Kotek, Governor of Oregon, to:
  - A. Declare a Drought Emergency for all of Lake County under the provisions of ORS 536, due to severe and continuing drought conditions beginning July 16, 2024 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.
  - B. Direct the Oregon Department of Emergency Management to coordinate and assist as needed, to address current and projected conditions in Lake County.
  - C. Direct all other state agencies to coordinate with the above agencies and to provide appropriate state resources as determined necessary to assist those affected in Lake County.
4. This proclamation shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance and will expire December 31, 2024.

Dated 16TH day of AUGUST, 2024

  
Barry Shullanberger  
Commissioner

  
James Williams  
Chair

  
Mark Albertson  
Vice Chair