

IN THE MATTER OF DECLARING)
A STATE OF DROUGHT EMERGENCY)
IN HARNEY COUNTY)

RESOLUTION 2024-32

THIS BEING the 25th day of October, 2024 and a day set aside for a special session of the Harney County Court and there being present Bill Hart, County Judge; Kristen Shelman, County Commissioner and Patty Dorroh, County Commissioner; and

WHEREAS, information has been provided to the Harney County Court that a drought is occurring in Harney County and that protective actions may be or are required to protect the citizens of Harney County;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture has designated Harney County as a contiguous disaster county due to drought, enabling producers in the County eligible for emergency aid, with a moderate drought monitor condition;

WHEREAS, the National Drought Mitigation Center has listed a large portion of Harney County as "Moderate Drought".

WHEREAS, unless weather conditions improve substantially to above normal conditions, water users who rely 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 will result in severe economic hardship to Harney County, including shortages of livestock forage, loss of agricultural interests, and increased chance of wildfire;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. A state of emergency exists in Harney County due to drought conditions.
2. The Harney County Drought Emergency Management Plan has been implemented
3. Due to the state of emergency, the Harney County Court does hereby request and entreat the Honorable Tina Kotek, Governor of the State of Oregon, to:
 - A. Declare a "State of Emergency," a drought, to exist in all of Harney County, Oregon under 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 Water Resources Department to provide all available means of assistance to Harney County agricultural producers: Temporary Transfers of

Water Rights, Emergency Water Use Permits, and Use of Existing Option/Agreement; and other federal and state drought assistance programs as needed.

- B. Direct Office of Emergency Management to coordinate and assist as needed, to address current and projected conditions in Harney 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 Harney County.

DONE AND DATED this 25th day of October, 2024.

HARNEY COUNTY COURT



William Hart, Judge



Kristen Shelman, Commissioner



Patty Dorroh, Commissioner