

**COUNTY OF BAKER
BOARD of COMMISSIONERS**

DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER

WHEREAS, the County of Baker on this 18th day of June, 2025 has determined that the Baker County agricultural industry, and related economy is suffering widespread and severe economic damage, potential injuries and loss of property resulting from extreme cyclical weather conditions within the county.

And

During the period of March 1st through May 31, 2025, Baker County recorded 1.23 inches of precipitation – its driest March-May period since records began in 1944 at the Baker City Airport. The average for this period is 3.00 inches. May, which has historically been the wettest month in Baker County only recorded 0.37 inches approximately 25% of its 1.42 inch average.

And

Snowtel sites located in and near Baker County showed snow levels with water equivalents of 6 to 8 inches above median during the first quarter of the year to then be erased and returned to median amounts due to Aprils warm temperatures for those areas around 5,000 feet and below. The Anthony Lake Highway, Forest Service Road 73, with an elevation around 7,200 feet, typically remains closed until the snow melts off around the 4th of July but was open during the second week of June.

And

Unity and Thief Valley Reservoirs have just dipped below average acre feet held for this time of year and Phillips Reservoir is releasing higher flows about two weeks ahead of schedule.

And

Fuel moisture measurements taken from our federal wildland firefighting agencies are reading at late July/August levels for the beginning of June.

And

These disaster conditions will result in loss of economic stability, and decreased water supplies for Baker County agricultural producers. Ranchers are having to move livestock to other rangeland for grazing earlier than normal which will equate to a shortage of rangeland feed later in the year. Those producers not located under stored water will likely yield less than normal unless they are able to provide water from other sources.

WHEREAS, the Baker County Board of Commissioners, have determined that extraordinary measures must be taken to alleviate the 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 Baker County Board of Commissioners:

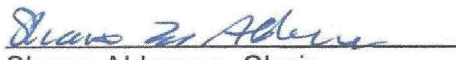
Section 1. That a local disaster is declared within Baker County.

- Section 2. That the Baker County EOP, Drought Annex plan has been implemented and that all county departments are directed to utilize all available resources to respond to and mitigate the effects of this disaster.
- Section 3. That this proclamation shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance and shall remain in effect until rescinded by subsequent action of the Board of Commissioners or until December 31, 2025.
- Section 4. To raise awareness and encourage producers to use the Condition Monitoring Observer Report (CMOR) system to report conditions affecting them at:
<https://droughtimpacts.unl.edu/Tools/ConditionMonitoringObservations.aspx>
- Section 5. The Board of Commissioners, request that the Honorable Tina Kotek, Governor, of the State of Oregon declare: "A Local Disaster and State of Emergency" exists in Baker County. That a drought declaration under Oregon Revised Statute 563 be used to allow the Water Resources Department to use a number of water-related tools that include temporary drought permits to use groundwater and emergency water rights under ORS 540.

And

Request the Honorable, Brooke Rollins, Secretary, of the United States Department of Agriculture, to expedite assistance to local agricultural industries/producers who have suffered extensive and ongoing loss from the drought and continue recovery efforts associated with the wildfires, and for technical assistance on drought mitigation through the Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service.

ORDERED this 18th day of June, 2025


Shane Alderson, Chair
Board of Commissioners


Michelle Kaseberg
Commissioner


Christina Witham
Commissioner