



IN THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE STATE OF OREGON

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WASCO

IN THE MATTER OF DECLARING A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY IN WASCO COUNTY AS A RESULT OF EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS

RESOLUTION 21-006

NOW ON THIS DAY, the above-entitled matter having come on regularly for consideration, said day being one duly set in term for the transaction of public business and a majority of the Board of Commissioners being present; and

WHEREAS, ORS 401.025(1)(a) defines “emergency” as a natural event or circumstance causing or threatening widespread loss of life, injury to person or property, human suffering, or financial loss, including but not limited to “fire” and “severe weather”;

WHEREAS, ORS 401.309 authorizes the County governing body to declare a state of emergency within the County and to establish procedures to prepare for and carry out activities which are necessary to prevent, minimize, respond to, or recover from an emergency;

WHEREAS, Wasco County requested the Governor of the State of Oregon declare a drought throughout the County on May 5, 2021;

WHEREAS, As of June 1, 2021, all outdoor burning has been prohibited with a total burn ban for Wasco County in effect;

WHEREAS, as of June 2020, the Oregon Department of Forestry has imposed fire restrictions including, but not limited to, fireworks ban within and adjacent to Oregon State Forests within Wasco County;

WHEREAS, according to the National Weather Service, the high temperature at The Dalles Municipal Airport was 118 degrees Fahrenheit, on June 28, 2021;

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service has issued an Excessive Heat Warning for the region, including The Dalles, through at least 8:00 p.m. Sunday, July 4, 2021;

WHEREAS, the current National Weather Service forecast for The Dalles shows daily high temperatures as high as 112 degrees Fahrenheit and no lower than 96 degrees Fahrenheit through at least July 12, 2021;

WHEREAS, the extreme heat is contributing to already high fire danger, and, as of June 29, 2021, the Mt. Hood National Forest fire danger was High;

WHEREAS, As of June 29, 2021, there are several active wildfires and corresponding active evacuation notices to impacted residences in Wasco County;

WHEREAS, As of June 29, 2021, numerous crops throughout Wasco County have sustained and continue to sustain irreparable damage due to wildfire;

WHEREAS, according to the National Fire Protection Association fireworks cause over 19,000 fires in the United States each year; and

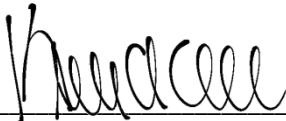
WHEREAS, this region, like many other regions in the western United States, is experiencing extremely low water levels and is carefully monitoring water use due to a shortage of chlorine necessary for treatment, and cannot afford to use its limited water supply for fighting fires caused by fireworks.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DECLARES AS FOLLOWS:

1. A local State of Emergency is declared to exist throughout Wasco County as a result of severe weather conditions.
2. This Declaration of a State of Emergency is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until July 14, 2021. It may be amended, modified, supplemented, and/or extended in additional increments by the Board of Commissioners so long as conditions continue to pose an ongoing, immediate, and substantial threat to life, safety, health, or property in Wasco County.
3. The Board of Commissioners directs the Wasco County Emergency Manager to address mitigating risks associated with extreme heat including but not limited to coordinating services with other public bodies and requesting assistance from the State of Oregon to the extent available.
4. To preserve limited public safety and water resources, and to prioritize emergency preparedness and response to maximize public safety, including those related to extreme weather conditions, use of all fireworks as defined by ORS 480.111 within the unincorporated areas of Wasco County during this emergency is strictly prohibited. Violations are subject to Class C misdemeanors and all civil and/or criminal penalties, sanctions, and liability allowed by law. For purposes of this section, "use" includes lighting, exploding, or igniting in any way. Fireworks displays approved by the Oregon State Fire Marshall are exempt from this restriction. Use of fireworks that are illegal under state law continues to be prohibited at all times.
5. The County may take any other actions within its authority for the protection of safety, health, life, or property during this emergency.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 30TH DAY OF JUNE, 2021.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Kristen Campbell, County Counsel

WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:



Scott C. Hege, Commission Chair



Kathleen B. Schwartz, Vice-Chair



Steven D. Kramer, County Commissioner