

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF HOOD RIVER COUNTY, OREGON**

IN THE MATTER OF:)	
)	
A RESOLUTION DECLARING A)	RESOLUTION NO. 2392
LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO)	
EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS AND)	
FIRE DANGER IN UNINCORPORATED)	
HOOD RIVER COUNTY)	

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”; and

WHEREAS, ORS 401.025(3) defines “emergency services” as activities engaged in by local government agencies to prepare for an emergency and to prevent, minimize, respond to, or recover from an emergency, including but not limited to coordination, preparedness planning, firefighting, interagency liaison, and law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, ORS 401.309 and the Hood River County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) authorize the county governing body to declare a state of emergency within the county or within a designated portion of the county; and

WHEREAS, Hood River County is facing a moderate to extreme drought as indicated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as of June 22, 2021, which has forecast persistent drought conditions until at least September 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the County is experiencing record high temperatures and strong winds with no measurable precipitation in the forecast. Excessive heat and red flag warnings for wind and relative low humidity have been issued by the National Weather Service through at least July 1 as of the drafting of this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the extreme weather conditions are an immediate public health emergency and are contributing to already high fire danger; and

WHEREAS, Oregon Department of Forestry Level 3 regulated use restrictions are now in effect and all outdoor burning has been prohibited with a total burn ban for Hood River County; and

WHEREAS, the public health emergency caused by the extreme heat will further impact local fire districts and emergency responders already stretched resources, jeopardizing public health and safety. Mitigating the risk of fires caused by use of fireworks will allow emergency responders to prioritize other public safety needs; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Fire Protection Association, fireworks cause over 19,000 fires and require emergency room treatment for over 9,000 people in the United States each year; and

WHEREAS, the Hood River County Board of Commissioners determines that extraordinary measures must be taken to protect or mitigate economic loss, and to be responsive to the threat of wildfires.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. Pursuant to ORS 401.309 and the Hood River County EOP, a State of Emergency is presently declared within the unincorporated areas of Hood River County as a result of severe weather conditions and fire danger.
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 so long as conditions continue to pose an ongoing, immediate, and substantial threat to life, safety, health, or property in Hood River County.
3. The Board authorizes the Administrator and Emergency Manager to coordinate emergency services connected with response and recovery of this emergency, including but not limited to 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 Hood River County during this emergency is strictly prohibited. Violations will be subject to a Class A civil infraction and any other 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.

DATED 1st day of July, 2021.

HOOD RIVER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Michael J. Oates, Chair