Instrument # 62717 **# Pages: 2**
BUTTE COUNTY, Idaho
May 12, 2025 10:24:39 am Fee: $
For: SHELLY BLACKNER CLERK
SHELLY BLACKNER, Recorder
BILLEE, Deputy

Butte County
Resolution 2025-01
LOCAL DROUGHT EMERGENCY DECLARATION

WHEREAS, Idaho Code § 46-1011 allows a quorum of the Board of Butte County Commissioners to declare a local disaster emergency and

WHEREAS, Idaho Code § 46-1002(2) defines "disaster" as the imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from any natural or man-made cause…; and

WHEREAS, Idaho Code § 46-1002(3) provides that an "emergency" includes the imminent threat of a "disaster" or condition threatening life or property which requires state emergency assistance to supplement local efforts to protect property or avert or lessen the threat of "disaster"; and

WHEREAS, Idaho Code § 42-222A grants the Director of the Department of Water Resources and the Governor of the State of Idaho authority to declare a drought emergency and authorize temporary changes in the point of diversion, the place of use, and the purpose of use for valid existing water rights and temporary exchanges of water rights; and,

WHEREAS, drainages in and around Butte County are experiencing drought conditions resulting from a Total Water Year to Date Precipitation percent of median measured 90% of normal in the Big Lost and 82% in Little Lost River drainage basins, with only 75% normal precipitation in April, and a current SWSI Value of -1.1 to -0.8 indicating that there will be insufficient surface water to meet all irrigation requirements in the 2025 farming season; and

WHEREAS, the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) forecasts that stream flow volumes in the Big Lost River Basin for the 2025 farm production season are predicted to run at near to below normal resulting in the potential for an agricultural economic disaster.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the Board of Butte County Commissioners does hereby declare:

That a drought emergency presently exists in Butte County authorizing temporary changes to the appropriation of water as necessary and allowed by § 42-222A, Idaho Code; and

That this Local Drought Emergency Declaration shall expire on December 31, 2025 unless the Board of Butte County Commissioners expressly authorizes the continuance of such Declaration; and

That this Declaration shall promptly be filed with the Butte County Recorder's Office; and

That prompt and general publicity shall be given by a press release notifying the public of the Declaration.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 12th day of May, 2025

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BUTTE COUNTY, IDAHO

Chairman, Brian Harrell

Commissioner M.H. "Hootie" Langseth

Commissioner Blake Van Etten

ATTEST: SHELLY BLACKNER, CLERK

By: Shelly Blackner
County Clerk