

BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OF THE STATE OF IDAHO

IN THE MATTER OF A DECLARATION)
OF DROUGHT EMERGENCY FOR)
LEMHI COUNTY)
_____)

ORDER DECLARING
DROUGHT EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners for Lemhi County has requested that the Governor and the Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources declare a drought emergency for Lemhi County to allow administrative actions to lessen the impacts of drought conditions in the county; and

WHEREAS, Lemhi County is included within and relies upon water supplies from the Upper Salmon River drainage area, including the Lemhi River basin, a portion of the Pahsimeroi River basin, and the Salmon River drainage from the Pahsimeroi River to the Middle Fork Salmon River; and

WHEREAS, the Upper Salmon River drainage is experiencing moderate to severe drought conditions due to below normal snowpack and precipitation levels. Specifically, snow water equivalent (SWE) levels for the Salmon River above Salmon were about 82 percent of median on April 1, 2021, but above average temperatures and below normal precipitation during April and May reduced June 1 SWE levels to just 13 percent of median in the drainage area; and

WHEREAS, water year to date precipitation levels through June 1, 2021 for the Salmon River above Salmon were about 72 percent of average; and

WHEREAS, stream flow volume for the Salmon River at Salmon and the Lemhi River near Lemhi is forecasted to be only 38 percent of normal from June through September; and

WHEREAS, the United States Drought Monitor Index, as of July 1, 2021, shows Lemhi County included within that portion of Eastern Idaho classified as moderate to severe drought; and

WHEREAS, section 42-222A, Idaho Code, provides that upon declaration of a drought emergency for an area designated by the Director of the Department of Water Resources ("Director") and approved by the Governor, the Director is authorized to allow 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 when the Director determines that such changes can be accomplished in accordance with the provisions of section 42-222A, Idaho Code; now

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that pursuant to the authority of the Director provided in section 42-222A, Idaho Code, a drought emergency for purposes of section 42-222A, Idaho Code, is hereby declared for Lemhi County, Idaho.

IT IS FURTHER HEREBY ORDERED that pursuant to this declared drought emergency and the provisions of section 42-222A, Idaho Code, the following procedures and requirements shall apply to the filing, processing, and approval of any application for a temporary change to an existing water right within Lemhi County during the pendency of this declared drought emergency:

1. An application for a temporary change to an existing water right shall be made upon forms provided by the department and shall be accompanied by an application fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per application.
2. The Director is not required to publish notice of the proposed change pursuant to the provisions of section 42-211, 42-222(1) or 42-240, Idaho Code, and is not required to make findings as provided in said sections. A temporary change may be approved upon completion of the application form, payment of the filing fee, and a determination by the Director that the proposed change can be properly administered and there is no information that the change will injure any other water right. If the right to be changed is administered by a watermaster within a water district, the Director shall obtain and consider the recommendations of the watermaster before approving the temporary change application.
3. All temporary changes approved pursuant to the provisions of this order shall expire on the date shown in the approval which shall not be later than December 31, 2021, and thereafter, the water right shall revert to the point of diversion and place of use existing prior to the temporary change. Nothing herein shall be construed as approval to authorize construction of a new well as a new point of diversion or to alter a stream channel.
4. The recipient of an approved temporary change issued pursuant to this order shall assume all risk of curtailment or mitigation should the diversion and use of water under the temporary change cause injury to other water rights or result in an enlargement in use of the original right.
5. Temporary changes shall only be approved for the purpose of providing a replacement water supply to lands or other uses that normally have a full water supply, except for the drought condition. Temporary changes may not be approved to provide water for new development or to allow expansion of the use of water under existing water rights. If the right to use the water is represented by shares of stock in a corporation, or if the diversion works or delivery system for such right is owned or managed by an irrigation district, no change in point of diversion, place or nature of use of such water shall be made or allowed without the written consent of such corporation or irrigation district.

6. Any applicant for a temporary change who is aggrieved by a denial of the Director for a temporary change pursuant to this order and the provisions of section 42-222A, Idaho Code, may request a hearing pursuant to section 42-1701A(3), Idaho Code, and may seek judicial review of the final order of the Director pursuant to the provisions of section 42-1701A(4), Idaho Code.

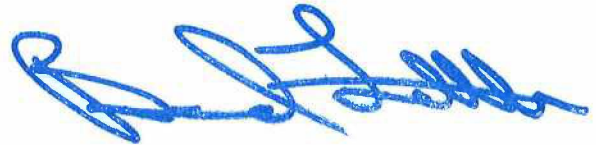
IT IS FURTHER HEREBY ORDERED that this order is effective upon approval of the Governor and expires on December 31, 2021, unless extended or terminated by order of the Director.

DATED this 1st day of July, 2021



Gary Spackman
Director

APPROVED this 2nd day of July, 2021



Brad Little
Governor



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**206 COURTHOUSE DRIVE
SALMON, IDAHO 83467**

RECEIVED

**Brett Barsalou, Chairman
Rick Snyder
Leah Madsen**

MAY 28 2021

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Fax: 208-756-8424

Phone: 208-756-2815 ext. 1667

May 24, 2021

Governor Brad Little
Statehouse, 2nd Floor
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0034

Dear Governor Little:

Our agricultural constituents have approached us regarding the shortage of snowpack moisture in Lemhi County. According to the figures from Idaho Snow Survey SNOTEL data as of this date, the snow water equivalent for the Salmon Basin is 15% of average and water Year-to-Date Precipitation is 69% of average. Lemhi Basin is %46 of average and water Year-to-Date Precipitation is 71% of average.

Although it is still early enough in the year that June may bring us wet spring storm, there is certainly no assurance that this will be the case. We can only be certain that current levels are below average, and that even average moisture levels contain no excess of water needed for our agricultural industry.

Given the information available, the Lemhi County Board of Commissioners respectfully requests that you declare a drought emergency for Lemhi County. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Brett Barsalou, Chairman



Brad Little
GOVERNOR

Submitting Your Request
E-MAIL to proclamations@gov.idaho.gov
FAX to (208) 334-3454
MAIL TO:
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720

PROCLAMATION REQUEST FORM

Today's date:

5/24/2021

Sole point of contact:

Brenda Armstrong

Phone number:

208-742-1667

E-mail address:

clerk@lemhicountyidaho.org

Mailing address to send proclamation:

206 Courthouse Drive
Salmon ID 83467

PROCLAMATION DETAILS

Organization or individual requesting:

Lemhi County

Name of Proclamation (i.e. Energy Awareness Month or Human Rights Day)

Drought Proclamation 2021

Date(s) to be proclaimed:

Year 2021

Purpose of proclamation:

Drought conditions exist in Lemhi County and the commissioners would like to assist farmer in receiving grants or ability to access insurance funds and have flexible water uses.

****A COMPLETE DRAFT** of the proposed proclamation needs to accompany this proclamation request form in order for it to be considered and processed. Be sure to check the Proclamation Policy for guidelines.

Signing ceremony requested (circle one)? Yes

No

If yes, please complete a scheduling request form and submit to the Governor's Office along with this form. Scheduling requests can be submitted at <https://gov.idaho.gov/contact-us/scheduling-request-form/>. Signing ceremonies are granted on a limited basis. In most cases, the proclamation will be mailed to the sole point of contact or it may be picked up in the Governor's Office.

Proclamation Policy:

1. Proclamations are limited to non-commercial, non-profit efforts, which have definite local activities in Idaho. In other words, national organizations, groups, or activities that desire a proclamation must have an in-state sponsor to be considered by the Governor's Office.
2. Your request must be submitted three (3) weeks prior to the date you wish to receive the document.
3. Recurring requests must be filed yearly. Proclamations do not have a standing order.
4. If you feel the media may have an interest in your proclamation, it is your responsibility to contact media outlets.
5. A proclamation does not indicate or imply the Governor's support for any given issue or project.
6. Not all requests for proclamations can be issued due to the volume and nature of the requests.
7. No proclamation or portion of a proclamation may be used as part of a paid advertisement without written permission from the Governor's Office.
8. The Governor reserves the right to deny, without comment, any proclamation request received by his office.



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Idaho Northern SNOTEL Snow/Precipitation Update Report

Based on Mountain Data from NRCS SNOTEL Sites

****Provisional data, subject to revision****

Data based on the first reading of the day (typically 00:00) for Thursday, May 20, 2021

Basin Site Name	Elev (ft)	Snow Water Equivalent Current (in)	Median (in)	Pct of Median	Water Year-to-Date Precipitation Current (in)	Average (in)	Pct of Average
SALMON RIVER ABOVE SALMON BASIN							
Banner Summit	7040	0.1	11.5	1	25.8	34.2	75
Galena	7470	0.0	6.2	0	13.8	21.7	64
Galena Summit	8780	0.0	13.2	0	16.7	24.2	69
Mill Creek Summit	8800	0.9	14.6	6	13.2	22.7	58
Moonshine	7440	0.0	0.0	*	11.0	16.0	69
Morgan Creek	7600	0.0	0.0	*	12.7	18.3	69
Vienna Mine	8960	9.9	26.0	38	26.0	34.6	75
Basin Index (%)		15			69		
LEMHI BASIN							
Beagle Springs	8850	0.0	2.2	0	10.0	14.8	68
Darkhorse Lake	8945	21.6	29.6	73	26.9	33.4	81
Lemhi Ridge	8100	0.0	4.6	0	12.8	17.3	74
Meadow Lake	9150	1.5	11.1	14	13.8	22.7	61
Moonshine	7440	0.0	0.0	*	11.0	16.0	69
Schwartz Lake	8630	0.0	3.0 _C	0	12.2	17.5 _C	70
Basin Index (%)		46			71		
MF SALMON BASIN							
Banner Summit	7040	0.1	11.5	1	25.8	34.2	75
Deadwood Summit	6860	14.2	27.0	53	33.7	50.2	67
Morgan Creek	7600	0.0	0.0	*	12.7	18.3	69
Basin Index (%)		37			70		
SF SALMON BASIN							
Big Creek Summit	6560	1.4	18.0	8	26.1	40.2	65
Deadwood Summit	6860	14.2	27.0	53	33.7	50.2	67
Secesh Summit	6540	1.8	17.0	11	27.3	38.2	71
Basin Index (%)		28			68		
LITTLE SALMON BASIN							
Bear Basin	5350	2.1	0.5	420*	22.7	29.5	77
Brundage Reservoir	6250	0.1	9.3	1	30.5	42.1	72
Squaw Flat	6240	0.0	0.8	0*	24.8	37.0	67
West Branch	5560	0.0	0.0	*	27.7	35.3	78
Basin Index (%)		21*			73		
SAI MON BASIN							