

IN THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WASCO COUNTY, OREGON

IN THE MATTER OF DECLARING A BAN ON RESIDENTIAL BURNING AND FIRE AND A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY IN WASCO COUNTY, OREGON AS A RESULT OF EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS

ORDER #26-017

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

IT APPEARING TO THE BOARD: That local fire officials have identified a need to ban all residential burning in Wasco County, Oregon until the fire danger has been reduced; and

IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE BOARD: That fire agencies located within Wasco County have designated a complete ban on all residential burning within their jurisdiction; and

IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE BOARD: That due to the extreme fire conditions in Wasco County, Oregon it is imperative that a ban on all residential burning be declared, which includes piles and burn barrels, for those areas in Wasco County that lie outside the boundary of an officially recognized Fire Protection District; and

IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE BOARD: 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";

IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE BOARD: 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;

IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE BOARD: according to the National Fire Protection Association fireworks cause over 19,000 fires in the United States each year; and

IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE BOARD: this region, like many other regions in the western United States, is experiencing extremely low water levels 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 adverse climate conditions.
2. This Declaration of a State of Emergency is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until the Wasco County Burn Ban is lifted in coordination with local Fire Officials. 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 adverse climate conditions and 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. Pursuant to ORS 401.309 and the County's inherent police powers to protect public health and safety, and preserve limited public safety and water resources and to prioritize emergency preparedness and response to maximize public safety, use of all fireworks as defined by ORS 480.111 within the unincorporated areas of Wasco County during this emergency is strictly prohibited. For purposes of this section, "use" includes lighting, igniting, or exploding fireworks in any manner. Fireworks displays approved by the Oregon State Fire Marshal are exempt from this restriction. Violations are subject to all applicable civil and criminal penalties provided by law. Fireworks prohibited under state law remain unlawful 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.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED: That a ban on all burning, including burn piles and burn barrels, for areas outside the boundary of an officially recognized Fire Protection District in Wasco County is hereby ordered to become effective on May 8, 2026, at 12:01 a.m., and will remain in effect until it is determined by local fire officials that said burning ban can be lifted.

DATED this 6th day of May, 2026

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Kristen Campbell, County Counsel

WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:



Scott C. Hege, Commission Chair



Phillip L. Brady, Vice Chair



Jeffrey L. Justesen, County Commissioner


Juniper Flat Rural Fire Protection District

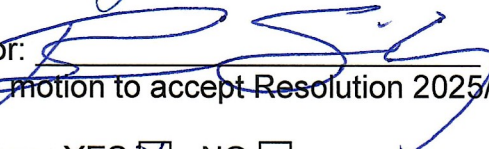
Resolution 2025/2026 No. 05

THE JUNIPER FLAT RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF WASCO, STATE OF OREGON, HEREBY RESOLVES:

THIS RESOLUTION TO ADOPT FIRE REGULATIONS SET FORTH BY THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND THE WASCO CO BURN BAN AND IMPOSE THOSE REGULATIONS TO THE JUNIPER FLAT RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors for the Juniper Flat Rural Fire Protection District hereby adopts the Oregon Department of Forestry 2026 Fire Season regulations that are imposed within the Juniper Flat RFPD and ODF Dual Protection Lands and applies those regulations to the entire Juniper Flat Rural Fire Protection District. This allows for all the patrons of the entire Juniper Flat Fire District to adhere to same regulations. Those regulations include but are not limited to such items as dates of fire season, burning permits, 2026 Wasco County burn ban, and prohibited acts during fire season such as using fireworks, the release of sky lanterns, the discharge of exploding targets, tracer ammunitions and shooting steel targets in dry grass or outside of a bare dirt area. This resolution will enhance fire response as Juniper Flat RFPD will respond to all smokes during fire season

Director 
Made a motion to adopted Resolution 2025/2026 No. 5

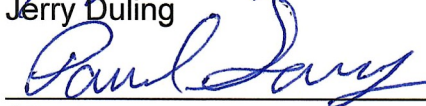
Director: 
2nd the motion to accept Resolution 2025/2026 No. 5

All in favor YES NO

Number: In Favor 5 Opposed _____

ADOPTED THIS 13th DAY OF May 2026

, President
Jerry Duling

, Director
Attest