

# BOARD of COMMISSIONERS

COUNTY OF CARBON • STATE OF MONTANA

Post Office Box 887  
Red Lodge, MT 59068

Phone: (406) 446-1595

Fax: (406) 446-2640

## CARBON COUNTY RESOLUTION 2012-14

### NATURAL DISASTER (DROUGHT) DECLARATION

**WHEREAS**, agriculture and supporting industries are a major economic contribution to Carbon County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners has received requests from local producers, the County Fire Warden, and DES Coordinator; and

**WHEREAS**, dryland hay production in the county is estimated to be 15% of normal; and

**WHEREAS**, most of the dryland spring wheat is not expected to make a harvestable grain crop; and

**WHEREAS**, livestock pasture and range conditions are extremely poor due to lack of precipitation, excessive winds, and grasshoppers; and

**WHEREAS**, many wells, springs, and dams have gone dry; and

**WHEREAS**, groundwater supplies are at a critical state; and

**WHEREAS**, conditions are not expected to improve in the near future.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that a natural disaster is hereby declared, pursuant to Section 10-3-402 and 403 MCA, and all provisions of the Carbon County Emergency Operations Plan are in effect; and

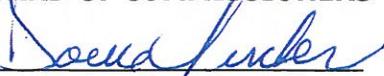
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture is urged to use any and all means available to help agriculture in Carbon County; and

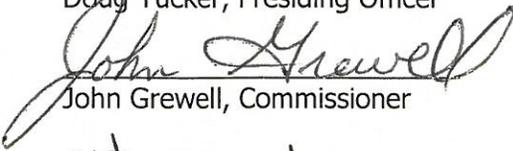
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the U.S Secretary of Agriculture address using soil moisture monitoring and other means of determining usable soil moisture for a natural disaster declaration; and

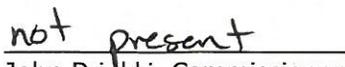
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be filed with the Governors Drought Advisory Committee, Carbon County Clerk & Recorder, County Assessor and Emergency Services Division in Helena.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED**, by the Board of Commissioners, Carbon County Montana, this 16 day of July, 2012.

#### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CARBON COUNTY

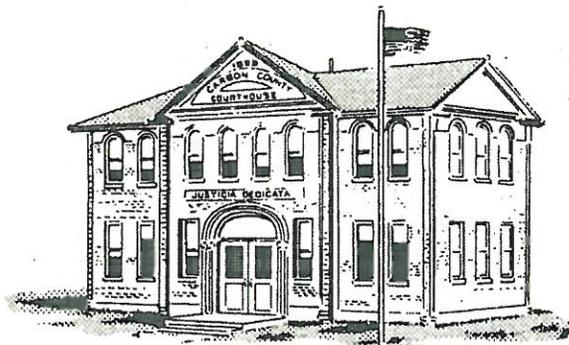
  
Doug Tucker, Presiding Officer

  
John Grewell, Commissioner

  
John Prinkki, Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
Marcia Henigman, Clerk & Recorder



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July 16, 2012

Governor Brian A. Schweitzer  
Office of the Governor  
Montana State Capitol Bldg.  
P.O. Box 200801  
Helena, MT 59620-0801

## **RE: Request to initiate a Natural Disaster Designation**

Honorable Governor Schweitzer:

The Carbon County Board of Commissioners is requesting that you please initiate a Natural Disaster Designation (NDD) for Carbon County with the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. Enclosed is Carbon County's Resolution declaring a Natural Disaster.

We understand this would open discussion considering the utilization of the Conservation Reserve Program acres for grazing and haying purposes. Additionally, this could allow extension of Crop Market loans, provide for low interest emergency loans for money that producers may need to borrow and also allow the Small Business Administration to extend loans to agriculture businesses which may experience impact from drought conditions. This may also offer a primary designation with the Internal Revenue Service to allow delayed investments to restore breeding livestock numbers that may have to be sold due to lack of forage.

Carbon County has received substantially lower than normal precipitation over the last 12 months.

We appreciate your consideration in this matter and if you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to call our office at 406-446-1595. Thank you.

Sincerely,

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
CARBON COUNTY**

Doug Tucker  
Presiding Officer

John Grewell  
Commissioner

*not present*  
John Prinkki  
Commissioner