

OREGON



WATER RESOURCES  
DEPARTMENT

# **Klamath Dry Well Request**

## **Joint Emergency Board**

September 21, 2022

Bryn Hudson, Legislative Coordinator

Annette Liebe, Technical Services Division Administrator

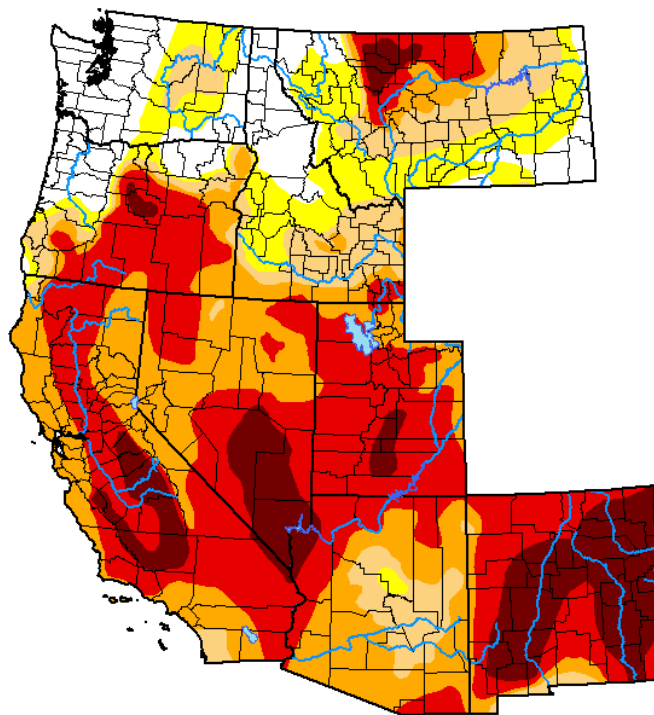
Danielle Gonzalez, Policy Manager

# Nature of Emergency

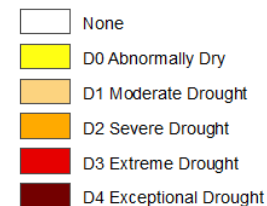
- Worst megadrought in 1,200 years<sup>1</sup>
- Driest 22-year period since 800 CE in terms of soil moisture
  - 2000-2021
- Driest, hottest 22-year period since 1901

## U.S. Drought Monitor West

**June 14, 2022**  
(Released Thursday, Jun. 16, 2022)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



### Intensity:



*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>*

### Author:

Adam Hartman  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

1. Williams, A.P, Cook, B.I., & Smerdon, J.E. 2022. Rapid intensification of the emerging southwestern North American megadrought in 2020-2021. *Nature Climate Change*, 22, 232-234.

# Nature of Emergency

- Over 300 dry well complaints statewide for 2022
- About half of the complaints reported in Klamath Basin alone
  - 2022 complaints: 179 reports (as of 9/13/22)
  - 2021 complaints: 263 reports
- December 2021 December Special Session
  - \$4 million to Klamath County to address dry or significantly impaired domestic and community wells
  - Almost all dollars have been allocated to 2021 dry wells
  - 75/25 percent cost share
  - \$40k funding cap

## Agency Action

- OWRD Well Repair, Replacement and Abandonment Fund
  - \$5.4 million
  - Low-moderate income requirements
  - No cost share required
  - \$40k funding cap
- OWRD has received some applications from Klamath County
- Klamath County needs to continue their well funding program due to the significant number of affected wells in their area

# Request

- **\$5 million General Fund**
- OWRD to enter into an agreement to pass funding directly to Klamath County
- Funds to be spent to address dry or significantly impaired domestic and community wells

OREGON



WATER RESOURCES  
DEPARTMENT

Bryn Hudson, [bryn.hudson@water.oregon.gov](mailto:bryn.hudson@water.oregon.gov)

Annette Liebe, [annette.i.liebe@water.oregon.gov](mailto:annette.i.liebe@water.oregon.gov)

Danielle Gonzalez, [danielle.l.gonzalez@water.oregon.gov](mailto:danielle.l.gonzalez@water.oregon.gov)