BROADWATER COUNTY
Board of County Commissioners
Office 406-266-9203, Fax 406-266-9276
515 BROADWAY
TOWNSEND, MONTANA 59644

COMMISSIONERS:
Gail M. Vennes - Chairman
K. C. Lynn
James V. Hohn

August 25, 2008

Brian Schweitzer
Governor of Montana
State Capital
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

RE: Request for Natural Disaster Declaration

Dear Governor Schweitzer:

On behalf of the agricultural producer and citizens of Broadwater County, and pursuant to Section 10-3-303, MCA, the Broadwater County Board of County Commissioners request you petition the Secretary of Agriculture for a Natural Disaster Declaration (NDD). The reason for the declaration is as follows:

- Drought
- Excessive Heat

The Broadwater Conservation District Supervisors/Local Drought Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, August 12, 2008. A motion was made to declare a drought and excessive heat designation for Broadwater County. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

On Monday, August 25, our Board met and a motion was made to declare a drought designation for Broadwater County. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. During this same meeting, we signed a County Disaster Declaration (Resolution attached).

If you have any questions concerning this request, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Gail M. Vennes

Gail M. Vennes
Chairman of the Board

:naw
Attachments
cc: Bud Revious, MT DES
Bill Fleiner, DES Coord.
Charlotte Lewis, Broadwater Conservation District
Nina Fonk, USDA

159328 Fee: $ Bk Pg
BROADWATER COUNTY Filed 08/26/2008 At 07:59 AM
Rhonda Nelson, Clk & Rcdr By
Return to:

COUNTY DISASTER DECLARATION RESOLUTION
DROUGHT & EXCESSIVE HEAT
RESOLUTION NO. 2008-11

WHEREAS, Broadwater County has been experiencing severe drought conditions for 11 years. Excessive heat was one of the major disaster conditions suffered this year. Although conditions during the spring of 2008 appeared promising due to good precipitation during February through June, conditions changed drastically during the summer months. Excessive heat and drought conditions existed during July and August. The hot dry conditions caused severe stress to the crops affecting yields. Snow-pack last winter was about at average levels. The current and continuing drought conditions along with excessive heat and the potential invasion of grasshoppers is negatively impacting this year's agriculture crops and is also resulting in extremely dry fuel conditions and low water supplies in Broadwater County. The NOAA Climate Prediction Center for period ending 8/9/08 shows drought conditions for Central Montana as Severely Dry or having a weekly value of–4.0 or less, indicating extreme drought.

WHEREAS, the County does not have the financial resources to help feed livestock on the many ranches throughout the County which do not have adequate pasture or rangelands. Addtionally, higher costs for fertilizer, fuel and power have made the financial condition caused by excessive heat & drought to be much worse.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Broadwater County, Montana, that a drought & excessive heat disaster is hereby declared pursuant to Section 10-3-403, MCA.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be filed with the County Clerk and Recorder and the Montana Disaster and Emergency Services Division in Helena.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Broadwater County Board of County Commissioners this 25th day of August 2008.

Gail M. Vennes
Gail M. Vennes
Chairman of the Board

James V. Hohn
James V. Hohn
Commissioner

Keith C. Lynn
Keith C. Lynn
Commissioner

ATTEST:
Rhonda Nelson by Melissa Gilstrap, Deputy
Rhonda Nelson, Clerk & Recorder/Treasurer