

## *Third Annual Report Highlights Klamath Agreement Activity*

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*KLAMATH BASIN*-- Amidst the damage caused by another dry water year in the Klamath Basin, the Klamath Basin Coordinating Council (KBCC) today released its third annual report describing accomplishments since the Klamath Agreements were signed in 2010.

The Klamath Basin is experiencing a severe drought and communities throughout the basin are experiencing serious impacts. Surface water withdrawals above and around Upper Klamath Lake have been regulated off, water supplies to the Klamath Reclamation Project have been reduced, and the Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge does not have an allocation of Project water. Fishery resources in Upper Klamath Lake and the Klamath River are experiencing low-water conditions.

The parties to the Klamath Basin Agreements have made good progress on implementing some parts of the agreements. Those accomplishments are described in the report. Implementation of a number of the Klamath Basin Agreement programs has been delayed because certain proposed activities are not currently authorized under existing law and funding has not been available. The KBCC noted that when these agreements are implemented, local irrigators, refuges, and fish and wildlife would have greater certainty for obtaining the water needed, particularly in dry years.

The Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement (KBRA) and the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement (KHSA) were forged by Klamath Basin stakeholder groups including Basin irrigators, fishermen, tribes and conservation groups, the dam owner PacifiCorp, counties and agencies within the states of California and Oregon, and Federal agencies. There are 45 Parties to the KHSA and 43 Parties to the KBRA.

The Klamath Agreements are designed to create economic stability, provide reliable water supplies and energy, and restore important fisheries for all the Basin's diverse communities. Over the past three years, parties to the Klamath Basin Agreements have implemented the following near-term actions:

### **Summary of Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement Activities**

- The KBCC has reviewed and updated the cost estimates to implement the KBRA in 2011. This process reduced the seven-year cost estimates by 38 percent and the 15-year cost estimates by 18 percent. The parties are working on further modifications related to federal funding as part of the work of the Klamath Basin Task Force.

- The Parties completed a review of the KBRA and all parties approved amendments to the agreement.
- The Fishery Managers have agreed on an outline and approach to develop the Klamath Basin Fisheries Restoration and Monitoring Plan. However, funding is not currently available for the development of the Plan.
- Reclamation has completed studies of the potential for additional water storage in the Klamath Basin.

### **Summary of Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement Activities**

- The Department of the Interior has issued the Klamath Dam Removal Overview Report.
- The Department of the Interior released a final Environmental Impact Statement for a Secretarial Determination. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has completed the draft Environmental Impact Report. These environmental reports were developed in coordination under the provisions of the Hydroelectric Settlement.
- The public utility commissions in California and Oregon have approved the collection of funds to pay for decommissioning of the four hydroelectric dams that could be removed under the KHSA. As of June 30, 2013, the combined balance of the Oregon and California dam removal trust accounts was \$54.4 million.
- The interim measures to improve environmental conditions within the Klamath Hydroelectric Project to benefit aquatic habitat and listed species, improve water quality, and improve hatchery operations are being implemented on the schedule called for in the Hydroelectric Settlement.

Implementation of a number of programs has been delayed until Congress passes legislation and funding is available. Implementation of the Klamath Basin Agreement programs would have helped during this drought year:

- The KBRA Drought Plan would have provided additional resources to reduce water use.
- KBRA On-Project Plan also would have provided further tools to align Project demand with available supplies of water.
- Full implementation of the water assurances would have changed winter management and thus provided an allocation of water to the Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge.
- The Off-Project Water Use Retirement Program would have provided funding for voluntary water use retirements in the upper basin to free up water for Upper Klamath Lake and its tributaries and the Klamath River.
- KBRA Power for Water Management Program would have provided assistance to lower the electricity costs for pumping, thus allowing for greater efficiency and reuse of water.

- The KBRA overall would have provided more flexibility to manage the available water.
- The fishery programs would have lowered the pressure on listed species in the basin and provide more resilience to address a drought.

Copies of the Annual Report, the Klamath Settlement Agreements, along with summaries, reports, and meeting notices can be found at [www.klamathcouncil.org](http://www.klamathcouncil.org). To learn more about the studies related to the four Klamath River dams visit [www.klamathrestoration.gov](http://www.klamathrestoration.gov)