

# Klamath River Watershed Coordination Agreement

The Klamath River Basin has long been renowned for its strong agricultural economy, its premier waterfowl viewing on the Pacific Flyway, its National Wildlife Refuges, National Parks and National Forests, its lakes and rivers, its fishery, wildlife and timber resources, and its hunting and fishing opportunities. Over the past decade, however, the Klamath River Basin has been in the forefront of national attention due to contentious resource issues related to water allocation, water quality, protection and recovery of threatened and endangered fish, and maintenance of sustainable irrigation and anadromous fish runs. California, Oregon and the federal government have targeted efforts and resources to address these complex Klamath Basin issues. Establishment of the President's Klamath River Basin Working Group has improved coordination among federal agencies and focused additional federal resources on addressing environmental, Tribal, and agricultural concerns. Better coordination among the States and the federal agencies is needed to maximize the benefits of these efforts and available resources. Last year, the National Academy of Sciences released a study that confirmed that the Klamath Basin issues must be dealt with in an integrated and comprehensive way for a lasting resolution of the issues in the Basin. Representatives of the States of California and Oregon, the President's Klamath River Basin Working Group and the Environmental Protection Agency have been meeting to address this need for better coordination.

Coordination will bring to bear science-based attention to identify and address the environmental, economic, agricultural, and Tribal trust needs of the Basin and its communities. We recognize that resolution of the complex issues of the Klamath Basin will take many years, close coordination, and consistent, focused application of available programs and resources.

Accordingly, we the undersigned agree to the following:

1. The State and Federal Klamath Basin Coordination Group, co-chaired by designated representatives from Oregon and California state governments, is formally established. It will consist of the appropriate designees of the two states, the U.S. Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, and Commerce, and the Environmental Protection Agency.
2. The members of the Klamath Basin Coordination Group and their respective agencies and staffs are to place a priority on their Klamath Basin activities and on their coordination and communications with one another and with tribal governments, local governments, private groups and individuals, to resolve water quantity, water quality and fish and wildlife

resource problems in the basin. They should work diligently to recover the threatened and endangered fish species in the Klamath basin, enhance anadromous fish runs, improve and protect fish and wildlife habitat and water quality, and provide water for irrigation and other beneficial uses. They should also move expeditiously to identify existing funding sources to accomplish these ends.

3. The State and Federal Klamath Basin Coordination Group should implement an aggressive, coordinated approach to allocate existing resources to the extent possible toward short-term opportunities that will improve conditions in the basin. These short-term actions are important, both to demonstrate a coordinated intergovernmental approach and to reduce the likelihood of year to year crises in the Basin.

4. As a vehicle to develop a long-term management approach, a common vision, and integrated planning, the state and federal agencies which are signatories to this coordination agreement should develop and implement the Klamath Basin Conservation Implementation Program concept which will meld a scientific oversight body, the broad communities of Klamath Basin interests, and resource agencies to identify the Basin's critical water quality, water quantity, and fish and wildlife restoration problems, set priorities and measures of success for addressing those issues through consensus, and monitor progress in resolving them.

It is further mutually agreed that:

A. All commitments made by the signatories to this coordination agreement are subject to the availability of funds and each agency's budget priorities, statutory authorities and legal obligations. Nothing in this agreement, in and of itself, obligates the signatory entities to expend appropriations or to enter into any contract, assistance agreement, interagency agreement, or other financial obligations.

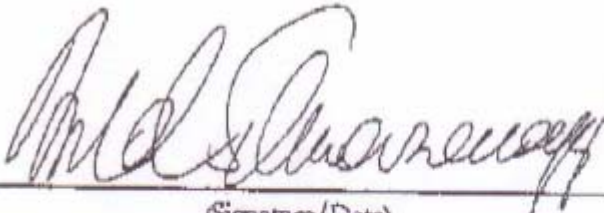
B. The respective federal and state agencies and offices will handle their own activities and utilize their own resources, including the expenditure of their own funds, in pursuing the objectives of this coordination agreement.

C. This coordination agreement does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable by law or equity against the signatory entities, their officers or employees, or any other person or third party, and does not direct or apply to any person outside of the agencies covered by this agreement.

D. This coordination agreement may be signed in counter parts and will take effect upon the date of the last signature of the parties below, and shall remain in effect for five years from the date of execution. This agreement may be extended or amended upon written request of any of the parties below and the subsequent written concurrence of the others. Any of the parties may terminate their participation in this coordination agreement with a 60-day written notice to the others.

# Klamath River Watershed Coordination Agreement

Counterpart Signature Page

 10/13/04

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(Signature/Date)  
Arnold A. Schwarzenegger  
Governor of the State of California

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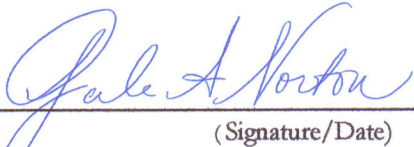
A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Theodore R. Kulongoski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T' and 'K'. It is positioned above a horizontal line.

(Signature/Date)

Theodore R. Kulongoski  
Governor of the State of Oregon

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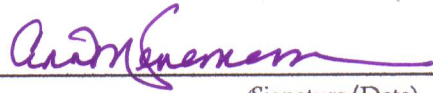
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(Signature/Date)

Gale A. Norton  
Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior

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 October 1, 2004

(Signature/Date)

Ann M. Veneman  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture

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(Signature/Date)

Donald L. Evans  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce

# Klamath River Watershed Coordination Agreement

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(Signature/Date)

Michael O. Leavitt

Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency