

Klamath River Sedimentation Studies

Project Description

In 2008, at the request of the States of Oregon and California and three Indian Tribes, the Secretary of the Interior entered into negotiations with hydropower producer PacifiCorp over removal of four of its dams on the Klamath River. The negotiations culminated in an Agreement in Principle (AIP) signed by the Governors of California and Oregon, the President of PacifiCorp, and the Department of the Interior in November 2008.

The AIP calls for the Secretary to undertake an investigation and make a Secretarial Determination by 2012 whether the benefits of dam removal outweigh the detriments. The parties are to address and quantify the potential benefits, liabilities, environmental risks, and effects on downstream resources resulting from dam removal.

This investigation is the primary focus of the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement (KBRA).

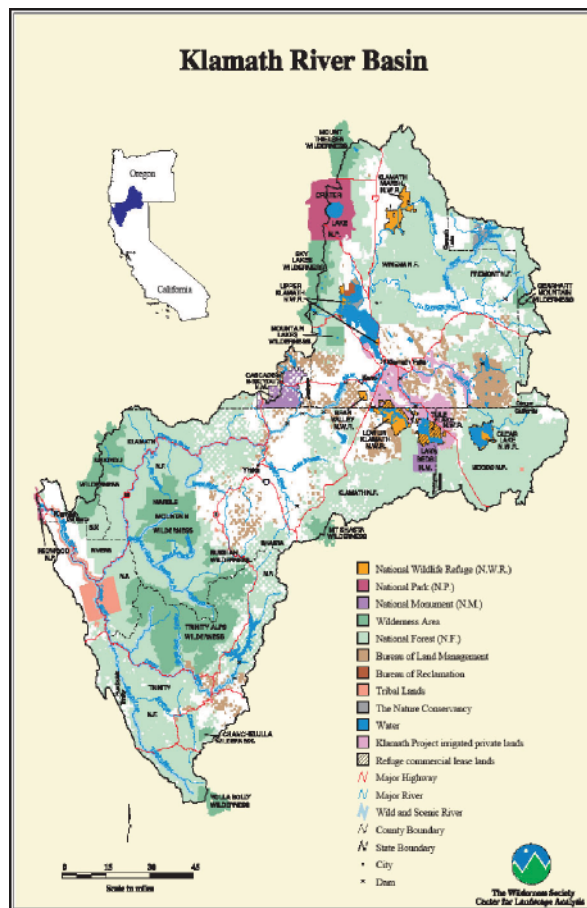
Project Benefits

The engineering analysis of the effects of dam removal and the study of sedimentation behind the dams will:

- Complete a key milestone of the KBRA in an effort to resolve long-standing issues regarding dam removal and salmon recovery on the Klamath River.
- Determine costs and benefits of dam removal and fisheries resources to resolve the Klamath River water and fisheries crisis, improve Klamath Project operations by providing certainty in water supply for Project irrigators and National Wildlife Refuges, and resolve many contentious water rights conflicts in the Upper Klamath Basin in Oregon.

Budget Information

Recovery funding: \$4 million.



For more information:

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