

## Klamath River Sedimentation Studies

### Project Description

In 2007, 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. Subsequently, in February 2010, numerous parties and stakeholders signed the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement (KBRA) and the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement (KHSA).

The AIP and the KHSA call 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.

### 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.

### Project Status

- Studies for the Secretarial Determination begun in June 2009 included the sampling and analysis of sediments; hydrology, engineering and geomorphology studies; and the development of economic study methods to analyze the potential impacts on affected local communities and Tribes.
- A \$843,180 contract was awarded to RTI International of Research Triangle Park, N. C., in December 2009 for economic studies.
- A \$4.23 million contract was awarded to CDM Federal Programs of Sacramento, Calif., in March 2010 for preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement and Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR).
- On June 14, 2010, the Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS/EIR by Reclamation on behalf of the Department, and by California Department of Fish and Game was published in the Federal Register. Public scoping meetings were conducted at seven locations in California and Oregon in July 2010. The proposed action is to make a determination, pursuant to the KHSA, regarding whether to proceed with dam removal.

### Budget Information

Recovery funding: \$11.25 million. The original project cost was \$4 million. Additional funding has been approved for the project increasing the project cost to \$11.25 million.

### For more information

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