

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## **Summary of Klamath Project May 2012 Operations**

The elevation of Upper Klamath Lake (UKL) decreased from 4,143.01 feet on May 1<sup>st</sup> to 4,142.20 feet on May 31<sup>st</sup>. The May 31, 2012 UKL elevation is over half a foot lower than the elevation at the end of May 2011 (4142.77). Total net inflows to UKL for May were almost 123 Thousand Acre Feet (TAF), which is 86% of the Natural Resource Conservation Service average of 142 TAF for the month.

Releases from Link River Dam averaged 2,875 cfs through the first half of the month and averaged 1,787 cfs during the second half. Iron Gate Dam releases varied from 3,480 cfs on May 1<sup>st</sup> to 1,700 cfs on May 31<sup>st</sup>, with an average of 2,571 cfs. Consistent with the Variable Base Flow Procedure (VBF), releases downstream of Iron Gate Dam were increased during May when the trajectory of UKL elevations indicated that they would exceed VBF threshold elevations of 4,142.6 feet during the first half of May and 4,142.4 feet during the second half. Total May VBF threshold releases were just under 39 TAF.

Reclamation is dedicated to managing, developing, and protecting water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Reclamation, and Klamath Project stakeholders are working together to manage available water to provide benefits to basin irrigators while protecting Endangered Species Act-listed fish.