NARRATOR: Since 1988 when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the shortnose and Lost River Suckers under the Endangered Species Act, state and federal agencies have spent a great deal of time and resources on studying the fish and the waters they call home. The suckers inhabit several bodies of water on Reclamation's Klamath Project located in south-central Oregon and northern California. This project was authorized in 1905 and provides irrigation services to approximately 210,000 acres.

Now in addition to providing water to the agriculture needs of the community, the Klamath Basin Area Office (KBAO) is dedicated to reducing the impact their operations may have on the fish. To accomplish this goal, the Klamath Fisheries Division takes advantage of every opportunity to learn more about the species and their habitat.

Recently the crew placed a Rotary Trap in the Link River to capture and study the fish.

Missy Braham, a Fisheries Biologist Technician with the Division explains.

Actuary 1: A rotary trap consists of a perforated cone suspended between two pontoons. Inside the cone are two spiral panels. These panels wrap around a center shaft and taper to the back of the cone.

The force of the water moving downstream causes the cone to

rotate, lifting the fish up and into a live box at the rear of the cone. The rotary trap is placed in a fast portion of the Link River. This maximizes the amount of water and fish moving through the rotary trap. The device is located about a quarter mile down from the Link River Dam. The dam drains Upper Klamath Lake which is the primary habitat of the endangered Lost River and shortnose suckers.

Narrator: After removal from the trap, the fish undergo a thorough evaluation by the specialists.

Actuary 2 We conduct a general fish health study looking at Chubs, fathead minnows, and suckers. These fish species are examined for indications of stress, trauma, parasites, infections, and deformities.

Narrator:

The endangered suckers will also be checked to see if they have been previously tagged by a biologist. This allows the Fisheries Division to learn a great deal about the fish, its movements and habits.

Then, depending on the water and fish conditions, the fish are released, transported, or collected for further evaluation.

Actuary 3: The fish division hopes to further understand the condition of the fish. With this information, we can make informed management decisions about our efforts.

Narrator: For the biologists of the Fisheries Division, the study provides facts that can't be learned any other way. For the fish, it's a brief encounter with scientists dedicated to making a difference in their survival. For Reclamation, it's just one of many examples of how they manage their assets to fulfill agricultural responsibilities while protecting and enhancing conditions for fish and wildlife. Hopefully, because of their work, the future of the two endangered species will be changed for the better.