

The Klamath Settlement Agreements

These landmark settlement agreements, signed in 2010 by more than 40 parties and expanded in 2014, would resolve conflicts over water rights, fisheries, dam-relicensing and other issues, and end decades of litigation and division.

Agreement basics:

- Klamath Basin farmers and ranchers receive increased water supply security
- Klamath River Tribes and other parties obtain restoration of fisheries including the future removal of four dams
- Customers in the West served by the privately owned hydroelectric dams are protected from uncertain costs of FERC relicensing conditions

Who supports it?

- The George W. Bush Administration and the Obama Administration
- The states of California and Oregon
- The Klamath and Upper Klamath Water Users associations, the Oregon Farm Bureau, the Oregon Cattlemen's Association and the Family Farm Alliance
- The Klamath County Chamber of Commerce and numerous business interests
- PacifiCorp, the owner of the hydroelectric dams
- Commercial and recreational fishing interests and several environmental organizations
- The Klamath, Karuk and Yurok Tribes

Important Dates:

- 2001: Klamath irrigators have water shutoff during drought
- 2002: Massive fish kill occurs in lower Klamath River
- 2006: Klamath issues contribute to the closure of West coast commercial salmon fishery, resulting in \$60.4 million in federal economic disaster assistance
- 2006: License expires for Klamath River dams
- 2010: Klamath Settlement signed after years of negotiation
- 2010: The Oregon Public Utility Commission rules that the Klamath Settlement is less costly and less risky for electricity ratepayers than continuing to operate the dams under new mandatory requirements
- 2011: The California Public Utilities Commission affirms that the Klamath Settlement is in the best interest of electricity customers
- 2013: Adjudication order issued affirming senior tribal water rights with a priority date of "time immemorial"
- 2013: The Klamath Tribes and the Klamath Reclamation Project made a "call" under their adjudicated basin water rights for the first time, impacting Upper Basin agriculture
- 2014: The Upper Klamath Comprehensive Agreement is signed by irrigators formerly opposed to the settlement agreements
- 2014: California voters approve water bond that can provide state's \$250 million share of dam removal funding, to be added to the \$200 million from PacifiCorp customers

Quick Facts:

- Settlement would provide more predictable water supplies for farmers in dry years
- The privately owned dams that would be removed are not operated to provide water supply or for flood control
- No federal funding is needed for dam removal

Klamath River Basin

Klamath Tribes

Klamath Hydroelectric Project

Upstream Irrigators

Commercial Fishermen

National Wildlife Refuges

BLM Land

Klamath Reclamation Project

Oregon

California

Karuk

Yurok

Hoopa

Downstream Irrigators

Eureka

Weaverville

Redding

Trinity River

0 10 20 30 40 50 Miles

