

Klamath Settlement



PROCESS

Science and the Secretarial Determination Klamath River Dam Removal

The U.S. Secretary of the Interior is committed to utilizing the best available science and the highest standards of scientific integrity to determine whether removal of four dams on the Klamath River will help restore salmonid fish to the Klamath Basin and whether dam removal is in the public interest. The federal team, in assembling new and existing studies to help make this decision, will also follow guidance from the White House Office of Management and Budget on scientific peer review, using a system of checks and balances to gain the best understanding possible of the costs and benefits of potential dam removal.

Described below are key processes underway to ensure scientific integrity.

See reverse side for a list of science studies to be used to inform the Interior Secretary's decision.

Independent Science Panels

The federal team has contracted with an independent consulting firm to convene and facilitate four expert panels on Klamath River fish species under two scenarios: A) if the four dams on the Klamath remain, and B) if the dams are removed. These four Independent Science Panels will evaluate studies on populations of 1) lamprey (eel-like fish), 2) coho salmon and steelhead trout, 3) Chinook salmon, 4) resident fish including trout and suckers. The evaluations from these experts, generally university professors and resource managers, will be independent and not a product of any federal agency. As such, they will not necessarily represent the views and conclusions of the federal government. The results of the panel reviews will be considered, along with other available information, in the Interior Secretary's March 2012 determination on dam removal.

Additional information on the panels can be found on the independent contractor's website at www.pbsj.com/KlamathRiver/Pages/default.aspx, or on the project website at KlamathRestoration.gov.

Peer Review of the Science

New scientific studies, independent panel evaluations, and selected existing reports being considered for the Secretarial Determination will go through an expert, peer review process. In the case of the Independent Science Panels, this adds another layer of independent scientific review to that process. Peer review means that scientific experts not involved with the Klamath River settlements will evaluate the scientific merits of studies being used by the federal teams to support the Secretary's decision. These experts give their professional judgments about the appropriateness of the study methods, the data generated, and the authors' conclusions. They provide their comments and recommendations to the study author(s) for response and edits. Peer reviewers are independent scientists and their professional reputations depend on their evidence of objective evaluations. Their names and a summary of unattributed comments will be made available as part of the public record. Peer review is used to ensure that the quality of published information meets the standards of the scientific and technical community. An official from the Department of the Interior will make the final decision as to whether a final peer-reviewed science study represents the official position of one or more federal agencies and whether the study is ready for dissemination and use.

Additional information on the core elements of the peer review process and methods for implementation can be found at KlamathRestoration.gov.

Science Studies

The following planned studies/reports have been or will be conducted and provided to the Secretary as part of the Secretarial Determination Overview Report. To view stand-alone reports that have been completed to date visit www.KlamathRestoration.gov.

Secretarial Determination Data Collection

- Klamath Reservoir Sediment Investigation
- Questions and Answers for Klamath Reservoir Sediment Investigation

Engineering, Geomorphology/Construction Studies & Information

- Preliminary Assessment of Gravel Mobility below Iron Gate Dam
- Value Engineering Study for Dam Removals
- Yreka Water Supply Modification Report
- Keno Dam Fish Passage Report (including cost estimates and drawings)
- Feasibility Design Summary for Dam Removals (including cost estimates and drawings)
- Design Estimating Construction (DEC) Review Report and Designers' Response
- Hydrology, Hydraulic and Sediment Analysis of Klamath Dam Removal
- Reservoir Area Management Plan (including cost estimates)

Water Quality Studies & Information

- Interpretive Report of Sediments and Contaminants
- Synthesis Report on Water Quality
- Report on Sediment/Oxygen Demand
- Nutrients and Restoration Analysis

Biological (Fish and Wildlife) Studies & Information

- Biological Synthesis/Nonuse Valuation Document
- Fish Model and Supporting Documents
- Report from Independent Science Panel on Lamprey
- Report from Independent Science Panel on Resident Fish
- Report from Independent Science Panel on Coho/Steelhead
- Report from Independent Science Panel on Chinook Salmon
- Report on Refuge Effects
- Study of Effects of Dam Removal on Klamath River Fish and Wildlife

Economic Studies & Information

- Report on the Effects on Reservoir Recreation
- Report on the Effects on Non-fishing Recreation (whitewater, refuge)
- Report on the Effects on Real Estate
- Report on the Effects on Non-tribal Fisheries (ocean commercial/ocean & in-river recreational)
- Report on the Effects on Tribal Fisheries (ceremonial/subsistence/commercial)
- Report on the Effects on Agriculture
- Report on the Effects on Hydropower
- Report on the Effects on Tribal Health
- Report on County Impacts with changes in non-tribal fisheries, reservoir recreation, non-fishing recreation, real estate, agriculture, hydropower, engineering/other costs
- Non-Use Values Survey Report

Real Estate Studies & Information

- Real Estate Evaluation Report

Public Participation: Get involved, stay informed

We encourage the community to keep informed of the Secretarial Determination process and provide information that you think is important for the Secretary to consider in making his determination about dam removal. We encourage you to visit KlamathRestoration.gov to:

- Track the science studies, peer review, and independent panel processes
- View science studies as they are completed
- Access background documents and information on the project
- Sign up for email/mailed updates on the process
- Stay informed of upcoming meetings
- Access meeting documents, including agendas, presentations, summaries, etc.
- Provide your thoughts and input directly to staff