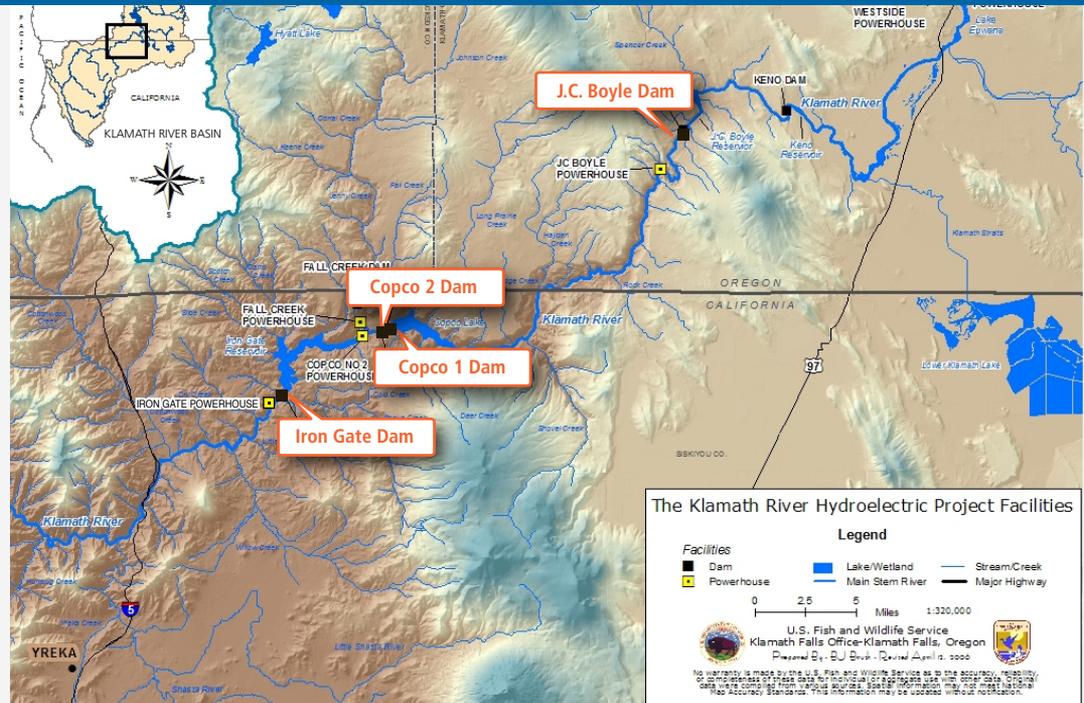




Overview

What is the Klamath Dam Removal EIS/EIR Process?

As part of the evaluation of the Klamath Agreements, the Department of the Interior, through the Bureau of Reclamation and the California Department of Fish and Game, has conducted an environmental review to inform the decision of whether four dams on the Klamath River, which are Iron Gate, Copco 1, Copco 2, and J.C. Boyle dams, should be removed.



The Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIS/EIR), has been prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Draft EIS/EIR analyzes the potential effects of five alternatives in detail, including the proposed action of fully removing all four dams, as well as two alternatives for leaving dams in place.

The Klamath Agreements

Representatives of more than 40 organizations, including farmers, fishermen, Tribes, conservation groups, irrigators, counties, California and Oregon, and federal agencies have developed two linked agreements in an effort to resolve many of the complex natural resource-related issues of the Klamath Basin. These agreements are the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement (KHSA) and the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement (KBRA).

Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement (KHSA)

The KHSA lays out the process for environmental review, additional studies and a decision by the Secretary of the Interior regarding whether removal of four dams owned by PacifiCorp:

1. Will advance restoration of the salmonid fisheries of the Klamath Basin
2. Is in the public interest, which includes but is not limited to consideration of potential impacts on affected local communities and Tribes

The KHSA also includes provisions for the interim operation of the dams and the process to transfer, decommission and remove the dams.

Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement (KBRA)

The KBRA is a connected agreement to the KHSA and is intended to:

1. Restore and sustain natural fish production and provide for full participation in ocean and river harvest opportunities of fish species throughout the Klamath Basin
2. Establish reliable water and power supplies which sustain agricultural uses, communities, and National Wildlife Refuges
3. Contribute to the public welfare and the sustainability of all Klamath Basin communities



Purpose and Need Statement & Project Objectives

The Purpose and Need Statement and the Project Objectives describe what a project is trying to accomplish and why it is thought to be necessary. Together they form the basis for the development of the alternatives and the analysis of impacts and benefits considered in the Draft EIS/EIR.

The Purpose and Need Statement and the Project Objectives are requirements for the Federal and State environmental review processes, respectively.

▶ NEPA Purpose and Need

The need for the Proposed Action is to advance restoration of the salmonid fisheries in the Klamath Basin consistent with the KHSA and the connected KBRA. The purpose is to achieve a free flowing river condition and full volitional fish passage as well as other goals expressed in the KHSA and KBRA. By the terms of the KHSA, the Secretary will determine whether the Proposed Action is appropriate and should proceed. In making this determination, the Secretary will consider whether removal of the four dams will advance the restoration of the salmonid fisheries of the Klamath Basin, and is in the public interest, which includes but is not limited to consideration of potential impacts on affected local communities and Tribes.

▶ CEQA Project Objectives

As required by CEQA, a lead agency must identify the objectives sought by the proposed project. For this project, California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) as lead agency has identified the following objectives:

1. Advance restoration of the salmonid fisheries in the Klamath Basin.
2. Restore and sustain natural production of fish species throughout the Klamath Basin in part by restoring access to habitat currently upstream of impassable dams.
3. Provide for full participation in harvest opportunities for sport, commercial, and tribal fisheries.
4. Establish reliable water and power supplies, which sustain agricultural uses and communities and National Wildlife Refuges.
5. Improve long-term water quality conditions consistent with designated beneficial uses.
6. Contribute to the public welfare and the sustainability of Klamath Basin communities.
7. To be consistent with the goals and objectives of KHSA and KBRA.