

Klamath Secretarial Determination Process



Peer Review Plan

Date: 12/29/2011 (revised)

Source Center: U.S Geological Survey (USGS)
Klamath Secretarial Determination
2130 SW 5th Ave
Portland, OR 97201

Preliminary Title: Klamath Dam Removal Overview Report for the Secretary of the Interior: An Assessment of Science and Technical Information

Point of Contact for Comments/Questions: The above address or Dennis D. Lynch, Program Manager (ddlynch@usgs.gov)

Subject and Purpose: The Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement (KHSA) was signed on February 10, 2010, and provides the framework for investigating whether removal of the four lower dams on the Klamath River (Oregon and California) is in the public interest and whether it would advance salmonid fisheries in the Klamath Basin. The KHSA was signed by dozens of stakeholders in the basin, including two Federal agencies, the States of Oregon and California, PacifiCorp (owner of the four dams), counties, tribes, and many other interest groups. The KHSA also calls for the development of a detailed plan for dam removal as well as an evaluation of the risks and liabilities associated with dam removal.

This *Klamath Dam Removal Overview Report for the Secretary of the Interior: An Assessment of Science and Technical Information* provides an overview of new Federal studies that were undertaken to fulfill the data needs identified in the KHSA and other existing studies relevant to these data needs. This assessment is designed to provide a convenient, peer-reviewed summary of key findings from these studies in order to present all interested parties with the scientific foundation for a Secretarial Determination on Klamath dam removal. The Determination on dam removal is scheduled to be made by the Secretary of the Interior, in coordination with the Secretary of Commerce, in March 2012.

New and existing Federal studies summarized in this assessment cover a broad range of disciplines in order to fill data gaps in areas such as fisheries biology, engineering, economics, geomorphology, hydrology and sociology. The report is written at a level that is accessible to readers not familiar with each of these technical disciplines. Detailed technical discussions on the various topics summarized in this report are found in cited Federal

studies available at KlamathRestoration.gov. The studies contain full descriptions of study assumptions, methods used, data sources, and uncertainties.

The scope of this report is primarily limited to addressing the four KHSA-derived questions. Consequently, this report should not be viewed as a comprehensive synthesis of all the literature available in the Klamath Basin. This report, however, does draw conclusions regarding (1) the likely effects of facilities removal and implementation of the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement (KBRA) on salmonid fisheries and other fish species; (2) a detailed plan for removing the four dams, mitigation actions that may be needed, and a range of costs for these actions; and (3) the risks and liabilities associated with facilities removal. This report does not draw conclusions regarding whether facilities removal is in the public interest; that determination will be made by the Secretary of the Interior in a Record of Decision. To inform the Secretary's public interest determination, this report presents findings regarding the likely effects of facilities removal and KBRA implementation on tribal and local communities as well as on regional and national economies. Complete copies of the KHSA and KBRA agreements can be found at: <http://www.edsheets.com/Klamathdocs.html>. The published product will be prepared by a consulting firm (CDM), for various Federal agencies, and released on the public website KlamathRestoration.gov.

Impact of Dissemination: This product is considered to be a Highly Influential Scientific Assessment.

Timing of Review: January 2012 – March 2012. Deferrals are not anticipated at this time.

Manner of Review, Selection of Reviewers, and Nomination Process: Review will be by panel. Potential reviewers will be selected by the Technical Management Team for the Klamath Secretarial Determination Process, which is made up of representatives from the U.S. Geological Survey, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, and Environmental Protection Agency. Potential reviewers with expertise in the primary disciplines covered in this report will be assembled. A consulting firm (Atkins North America), with a specialty in conducting peer reviews, will contact potential reviewers from the selection list to determine their availability and to ensure selected panel members do not have a conflict of interest. Atkins will then facilitate the deliberations of the peer review panel and assist them in the preparation of a single report of their peer review comments.

Expected Number of Reviewers: Expect 4-10 reviewers.

Requisite Expertise: Engineering, geomorphology, fisheries biology, hydrology, water quality, stream ecology/restoration, natural resource economics, and anthropology/tribal history.

Opportunity for Public Comment: Yes, public comment will be requested before the peer review and publication process. Written technical comments from the public will be requested during a two to three week period in January and/or February 2012; these public comments will be given to the peer review panel before their face-to-face meeting in February 2012 to consider while preparing their peer review report.

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