

Upper Klamath Basin Agreement in Principle (AIP)

Over the past six months, irrigators in the upper basin have been meeting with the Klamath Tribes and the United States to attempt to resolve water, land and economic issues in the upper basin. The parties have reached an Agreement in Principle that is designed to accomplish four objectives.

1. To support the economic development interests of the Klamath Tribes;
2. To provide a stable, sustainable basis for the continuation of agriculture in the Upper Klamath basin;
3. To manage and restore riparian corridors along streams that flow into Upper Klamath Lake in order to achieve Proper Functioning Conditions permanently; and
4. To resolve controversies regarding certain water right claims and contests in the Oregon Klamath Basin Adjudication.

Elements of the Upper Klamath Basin AIP

There are three main elements of the Upper Klamath Basin AIP:

1. A Water Use Program designed to reduce consumptive water use in key reaches of the tributaries to Upper Klamath Lake, as well as to increase the volume of water flowing into the lake – all in return for a significant reduction in the frequency and extent of water regulation.
2. A Riparian Restoration and Management Program designed to improve and protect riparian conditions along key reaches of the tributaries to Upper Klamath Lake; and
3. An Economic Development component designed to create employment opportunities for the Klamath Tribes.

Next Steps

Following input from community members, the AIP will be developed into a Final Agreement, expected to be completed early in 2014. Once the Final Agreement is completed, comprehensive Federal legislation will be introduced to implement the agreements and create stability for the entire basin.