

Draft Principles for Potential Klamath Basin Resource Management Discussions

May 2, 2018

Introduction

A number of Tribes, organizations and individuals have expressed interest in pursuing discussions to address sustainable resource management in the Klamath Basin.¹ The purpose of this document is to solicit feedback, in broad-based Tribal and stakeholder discussions, on feasible, effective, and sustainable ways to achieve these goals and principles.

Goals

A Klamath Basin-wide process should address sustainable resource management regarding fish and water, including water quality, agriculture, wildlife, and recreation by identifying actions that the local communities are able to implement and maintain into the future. This is not intended to be a federally driven process, however, it is recognized that federal participation is essential because of the current level of federal influence over resource management, Tribal trust obligations and contractual obligations to water users in the Klamath Project. Funding, while important, should be secondary to identifying sustainable resource management goals on which local communities can agree.

Principles

- Provide for self-sustaining fish populations that will lead to delisting of ESA listed species and harvestable levels for Tribes and will support commercial, subsistence, and sport fisheries.
- Provide for sustainable agriculture and other uses that reduce crisis management.
- Provide a sustainable economy for communities in the basin that are dependent on fish and agriculture.
- Provide a regulatory structure that assists, rather than impedes, implementation of the above principles.
- Provide federal authorization and funding to the extent necessary to address the agreed to principles.
- Sources of non-federal funding should be identified as needed.

While implementation of the above principles should not be constrained by current federal or state authorities, the discussions should clearly identify what can be accomplished with current federal and state authority and where additional authority is needed.

¹ A number of these organizations and individuals are parties to existing agreements that include commitments to pursue Basin-wide discussions.

Alan Mikkelsen plans to meet with Tribes and stakeholders the week of June 11th. It would be helpful to have your comments prior to those meetings; if that is not possible, please send them by Friday, June 15, 2018. Please send comments to Ed Sheets, at ed@edsheets.com and Alex Sterhan, at asterhan@usbr.gov.

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