Klamath River Renewal Project
A cooperative effort to revitalize the Klamath River

Information for Upper Basin Landowners and Residents

Who is KRRC?
The Klamath River Renewal Corporation (KRRC) is an independent nonprofit organization formed in 2016 as part of the amended Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement (KHSA). Signatories of the amended KHSA, including the States of California and Oregon, local governments, Tribal nations, dam owner PacifiCorp, irrigators, and several conservation and fishing groups, appointed KRRC to take ownership and oversee removal of four hydroelectric dams on the river and restoration of formerly inundated lands. KRRC’s work is funded by PacifiCorp customer surcharges and California Proposition 1 water bond funds.

What will happen to Keno and Link River Dams?
Keno and Link River Dams are not part of the KRRC project. PacifiCorp will transfer Keno Dam to the United States government under the amended KHSA, but both dams will remain operational: Link River Dam will continue to provide water storage in Upper Klamath Lake for the Klamath Reclamation Project, and Keno Dam will continue regulating upstream water levels to provide for diversion and flood control. The Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) expects to undertake evaluation of Keno Dam fish passage alternatives and related work in the near future.

Will dam removal negatively impact Upper Basin agriculture?
The hydroelectric dams that KRRC proposes to remove do not provide irrigation diversions for agriculture. As described below, Keno and Link River Dams, which provide water for diversion and flood control, are not part of KRRC’s dam removal and river restoration project.

If endangered fish return to the Upper Basin, who will pay for fish screens and other improvements to ensure local farmers are not fined for harming protected fish?
Improvements to Upper Basin agricultural infrastructure are not part of KRRC’s scope of work. USBR will soon undertake an evaluation of diversion screening requirements. USBR is looking for resources to fund this important work.

www.klamathrenewal.org
Why is dam removal going forward without water sharing agreements in the Upper Basin?

The failure of federal legislation, which would have authorized the original settlement package addressing a broad suite of issues (including water sharing agreements), led to the expiration of the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement (KBRA) in 2015. Parties subsequently pursued amendments to the KHSA to allow dam removal to proceed. KRRC recognizes that dam removal is one piece of a comprehensive solution for the Klamath Basin and supports efforts to address water sharing and other natural resource and economic issues. When the amended KHSA was signed in 2016, parties also signed the Klamath Power and Facilities Agreement (KPFA), expressing a willingness to continue to work toward shared solutions.

How will recreation areas and opportunities be affected?

The KRRC project will directly affect recreation areas associated with JC Boyle, Copco 1, Copco 2, and Iron Gate Dams. All reservoir recreation facilities at Pioneer Park will be removed and these sites will be restored to native habitats. The boat launch, floating dock, and fishing pier at Topsy Campground will be removed and these areas restored to native habitat, but the remaining campground area will be retained for public use. The privately owned Sportsman’s Club located on the southeast end of JC Boyle will also remain. Hells Canyon whitewater boating reach will no longer receive peaking flows from the JC Boyle powerhouse and whitewater opportunities will decrease in this reach.

KRRC’s work to restore fish passage and habitat throughout the reservoir areas will promote long-term health of fisheries in the Basin, providing enhanced fisheries recreation opportunities (especially for steelhead). KRRC is evaluating other measures to improve river access for fishing and boating. Plans for recreation will be developed in coordination with local stakeholders and presented for feedback in public forums.

What construction impacts can I expect around JC Boyle Dam?

Temporary construction impacts will include construction-related traffic, air quality, and noise during the estimated 18-month period of dam deconstruction and reservoir restoration. The peak construction period will be between May and October of the second year of project construction. KRRC will develop a plan which identifies steps to reduce impacts, including limitations on hours or days for construction activities, alerts and outreach to residents, taking measures to control dust, and other mitigation measures.

What is the process for reservoir drawdown?

Drawdown is a relatively slow and regulated process that involves a number of phases. First, reservoir levels will be lowered to existing gate or spillway elevations. Then, reservoir drawdown will continue to allow a controlled release of sediment, ideally over a period of two months (January - February). Drawdown will continue throughout the year as dam removal proceeds. Reservoir water levels will reach the ultimate river elevation when dam removal is complete.

Will this project create any local jobs?

Yes. KRRC’s direct activities in the Klamath Basin, including dam deconstruction and river restoration work, will create a few hundred jobs in the Klamath Basin. KRRC intends to work with local chambers and economic development agencies to ensure local companies are aware of opportunities and requirements. In addition, KRRC’s expenditures in the basin are expected to stimulate creation of 1,400 related, or indirect, jobs.

KRRC’s work is part of a cooperative effort to re-establish the natural vitality of the Klamath River so that it can support all communities in the basin.