



### About the Klamath Water Users Association

#### Board of Directors

Earl Danosky  
Dave Solem  
Luther Horsley  
Gary Wright  
Rob Unruh  
Shane McDonald  
Steve Kandra  
Bob Flowers  
Bill Kennedy  
Karl Scronce  
Bob Gasser

#### Alternates

Bill Heiney  
Jason Chapman  
Tim O'Connor  
Mike Byrne  
Luke Robison  
L.D. Sorensen  
Rob Crawford  
Frank Hammerich  
Ed Bair  
Curt Mullis  
Scott Seus

#### Staff

Greg Addington  
Belinda Stewart  
Tara Jane Campbell

#### Committees

Executive  
Administration and Budget  
Energy  
Government Affairs  
Public Relations and Events  
Project Operations

The Klamath Water Users Association (KWUA) is a non-profit corporation that has represented Klamath Irrigation Project farmers and ranchers since 1953. KWUA members include rural and suburban irrigation districts and other public agencies as well as private individuals who operate on both sides of the California-Oregon border. We represent over 1400 family farms and ranches that encompass over 200,000 acres of some of the best farm land in the West.

The mission of the organization is to preserve, protect and defend the water and power rights of the landowners of the Klamath Basin, while promoting wise management of ecosystem resources.

The Klamath Water Users Association is governed by an 11 member board of directors who are representatives from Klamath Project districts. The association employs an Executive Director and staff to execute the policy decisions made by the board.

#### Irrigation and Drainage

The Klamath Project on the Oregon-California border was one of the earliest Federal reclamation projects. In addition to providing irrigation, a major aspect of the project was drainage – the ability to remove water from a closed basin. The project was authorized by the Reclamation act of 1902 and construction began in May of 1905. According to a 1998 study conducted by David's Engineering ("Klamath Project Historical Water Use Analysis"), effective efficiency for the overall Project is 93 percent, making the Klamath Project one of the most efficient in the country.

#### Water Supply

There are two main sources of water supply for the Klamath Project. One consists of Upper Klamath Lake and the Klamath River, and the other consists of Clear Lake Reservoir, Gerber Reservoir, and the Lost River, which are located in a closed basin.

#### Power

Power has always been an integral component to the Klamath Project. There are 5 major (drainage) pumping plants with power output ranging from 450 to 3,650 hp. In addition, there are 40 pumping plants of less than 1000 hp.

#### Canals, Laterals and Drains

There are 18 canals with a total length of 185 miles. Laterals total 516 miles and drains 728 miles.

(over)

## **Member Districts**

Ady District  
Improvement Co.

Enterprise Irrigation  
District

Klamath Basin  
Improvement District

Klamath Drainage  
District

Klamath Irrigation  
District

Malin Irrigation District

Midland District Imp.  
Co.

Pine Grove Irrigation  
District

Pioneer District  
Improvement Co.

Poe Valley  
Improvement District

Shasta View Irrigation  
District

Sunnyside Irrigation  
District

Tulelake Irrigation  
District

Van Brimmer Ditch  
Company

Warren Act  
Contractors

Westside  
Improvement District

Wocus Drainage  
District

## **Principal Crops**

Alfalfa Hay  
Beef Cattle  
Barley  
Dairy  
Nursery Stock  
Grass Hay  
Horseradish  
Mint  
Onions  
Oats  
Potatoes  
Strawberry Root-  
Stock  
Wheat

## **Irrigation Season**

The average irrigation season extends from April through September. The growing season varies considerably from year to year, but averages approximately 120 days.

## **Principal Crops**

The primary commodities grown in this area are alfalfa hay, beef cattle, irrigated pasture, cereal grains, onions, potatoes, mint, and horseradish. Dairy production is a major component of agriculture in the Basin. In recent years organic production of most of these crops has increased significantly and the market for organics appears to be strong. In addition, the Klamath Basin has shown tremendous potential for the development of crops for use in bio-fuels.

## **Homestead Lands**

Oregon and California legislation, which relinquished state title to project lands, and congressional action which directed the project undertaking, provided for disposition of the reclaimed lands in accordance with the 1902 Reclamation Act. Under provisions of the Act, the reclaimed public lands were to be opened for homesteading. The first public lands were opened for homesteading in March of 1917. Much of the Klamath project went on to be homesteaded by both World War I and World War II veterans.

## **Watershed**

The Klamath River Watershed represents a landmass of over 10 million acres. Annual flows at the mouth of the Klamath River average over 15 Million acre feet per year. There are over 100 tributaries to the Klamath River that are located downstream of the Klamath Reclamation Project.

## **Habitat**

The Upper Klamath Basin is home to 6 National Wildlife Refuges. Tulelake NWR and Lower Klamath NWR are two of the pre-eminent waterfowl refuges in the country. Water used by these refuges is delivered via the irrigation and drainage system of the Klamath Reclamation Project. Private lands in the Upper Basin are home to more than 400 species of fish and wildlife.

## **Conservation**

In 2003 and 2004 the Klamath Water Users received the "Leadership in Conservation" award from the State of Oregon. The 2003 award recognized the organization for their continuing efforts and support of more than 250 conservation projects in the Basin since 1992. The 2004 award was given to KWUA for "exemplifying the spirit of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds".

In addition to these awards, numerous individuals and irrigation districts within the Klamath Project have been recognized for their contributions to conservation and cooperation.

For more information visit [www.kwua.org](http://www.kwua.org)