

Weekly water update

Klamath Falls Herald and News
April 15, 2010

From the Bureau of Reclamation

The Bureau of Reclamation estimates it will have an operations plan available on April 23. Reclamation spokesman Kevin Moore said the plan is being developed with a close eye on the weather, and that rain would be good for lake levels. Snowpack stood at 90 percent of average in snow-water equivalent Wednesday, but there is concern that melting snow will evaporate, sublimate or soak into the ground rather than reaching Upper Klamath Lake. Total precipitation Basin-wide is (?) of average.

Current lake levels

Upper Klamath Lake was at 4,140.72 feet as of Tuesday, up .07 feet from the previous week. Storage is 306,224 acre feet, up 5,208 acre-feet from the previous week. Inflows into Upper Klamath Lake from the Williamson River were 78 cubic feet per second Wednesday, compared with 113 on April 13, 2009.

Clear Lake has storage of 65,230 acre feet. This is down 26,210 acre-feet from last year. Gerber Reservoir has storage of 33,380 acre-feet, which is down 25,296 acre-feet from last year.

Irrigation district report

Klamath Irrigation District is planning to disseminate information as quickly as possible through the Klamath Water Users Web site, said Manager Dave Solem. It will be the fastest way for KID to provide producers with updated water projections and distribution decisions. KID board meetings are the second Thursday of the month and are open to the public.

Horsefly Irrigation District Manager Don Russell said although the Lost River appears full right now, once water is used for irrigation, it won't appear as full. Dams on the Lost River are holding water in, and Harpold Dam, owned by Horsefly, will ensure that the district can deliver water to at least half the acres in the district for the first part of the season. Russell said he doubts it will last past the first of July.

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