

Weekly water update

Klamath Falls Herald and News
April 8, 2010

From the Bureau of Reclamation: According to the Bureau of Reclamation's weekly water report, inflows to Upper Klamath Lake have fluctuated this week, and are less than the average inflow the same week one year ago. U.S. Geological Survey data shows on Wednesday that inflows from the Williamson River were 16 percent of average. On Tuesday, Williamson River inflows were about half what they were on April 6, 2009. The Bureau of Reclamation is still predicting it will provide 150,000 acre-feet of water to the Klamath Project with a start date of later than May 15.

Current lake levels: Upper Klamath Lake had storage of 295,067 acre-feet on Monday. This is up 10,388 acre-feet from one week earlier. Clear Lake had storage of 64,360 acre-feet. This is down 25,100 acre-feet from one year ago. Gerber Reservoir had storage of 32,076 acre-feet. This is down 24,392 acre-feet from one year ago.

Irrigation district report

Klamath Irrigation District Manager Dave Solem said not much has changed in the irrigation outlook in the past week. The KID board of directors has made no decisions on how the district should proceed, and is attempting to determine if there is a way to more accurately project the water outlook. Solem said the district intends to deliver all the water it receives, whenever it receives it. Rain would help to wash the snowpack out of the mountains and into the tributaries that feed Upper Klamath Lake, he said. There is some concern that the snowpack won't generate enough runoff and water will instead soak into the ground.

Horsefly Irrigation District Manager Don Russell said despite last week's precipitation, Clear Lake continues to lose storage. The lake's storage capacity lost about 10,000 acre-feet from last week. No water deliveries from Clear Lake are expected this irrigation season. Russell said all the federal and state aid that could be brought to the region will be needed to help water users stay afloat, and most are struggling with how they will survive the year.

Tulelake Irrigation District Manager Earl Danosky and Langell Valley Irrigation District Manager Frank Hammerich could not be reached Wednesday afternoon.

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