

# **Klamath Basin Restoration Initiative**

September 18, 2008

# Recent History in the Klamath Basin

2001



2002



2006



# Seeking a More Certain Future

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- ◆ Water allocations for irrigation and fish created conflicts, economic losses, and an uncertain future
- ◆ Communities facing additional uncertainty
  - Water Adjudication, ESA, cost of electricity for pumping is increasing, relicensing of PacifiCorp dams
- ◆ Leaders in the Klamath Basin decided that law suits and demonstrations were not producing any more water or fish
- ◆ Formed Klamath Settlement Group
  - 26 organizations have been working for two years

# Klamath Settlement Group

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## United States

U.S. Department of Agriculture,  
Forest Service

U.S. Department of Commerce's  
National Marine Fisheries  
Service

U.S. Department of the Interior,  
Bureau of Indian Affairs,  
Bureau of Land Management,  
Bureau of Reclamation, and  
Fish and Wildlife Service

## State of California

Fish and Game

## State of Oregon

Environmental Quality

Fish and Wildlife

Water Resources

# Klamath Settlement Group

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## Tribes

Hoopa Valley Tribe

Karuk Tribe

Klamath Tribes

Yurok Tribe

## Counties

Humboldt County, California

Klamath County, Oregon

Siskiyou County, California

## Irrigation Organizations

Klamath Water Users Association

Klamath Off-Project Water Users  
Association

## Non-Governmental Organizations

American Rivers

California Trout

Friends of the River

Klamath Forest Alliance

National Center for Conservation  
Science and Policy

Northcoast Environmental Center

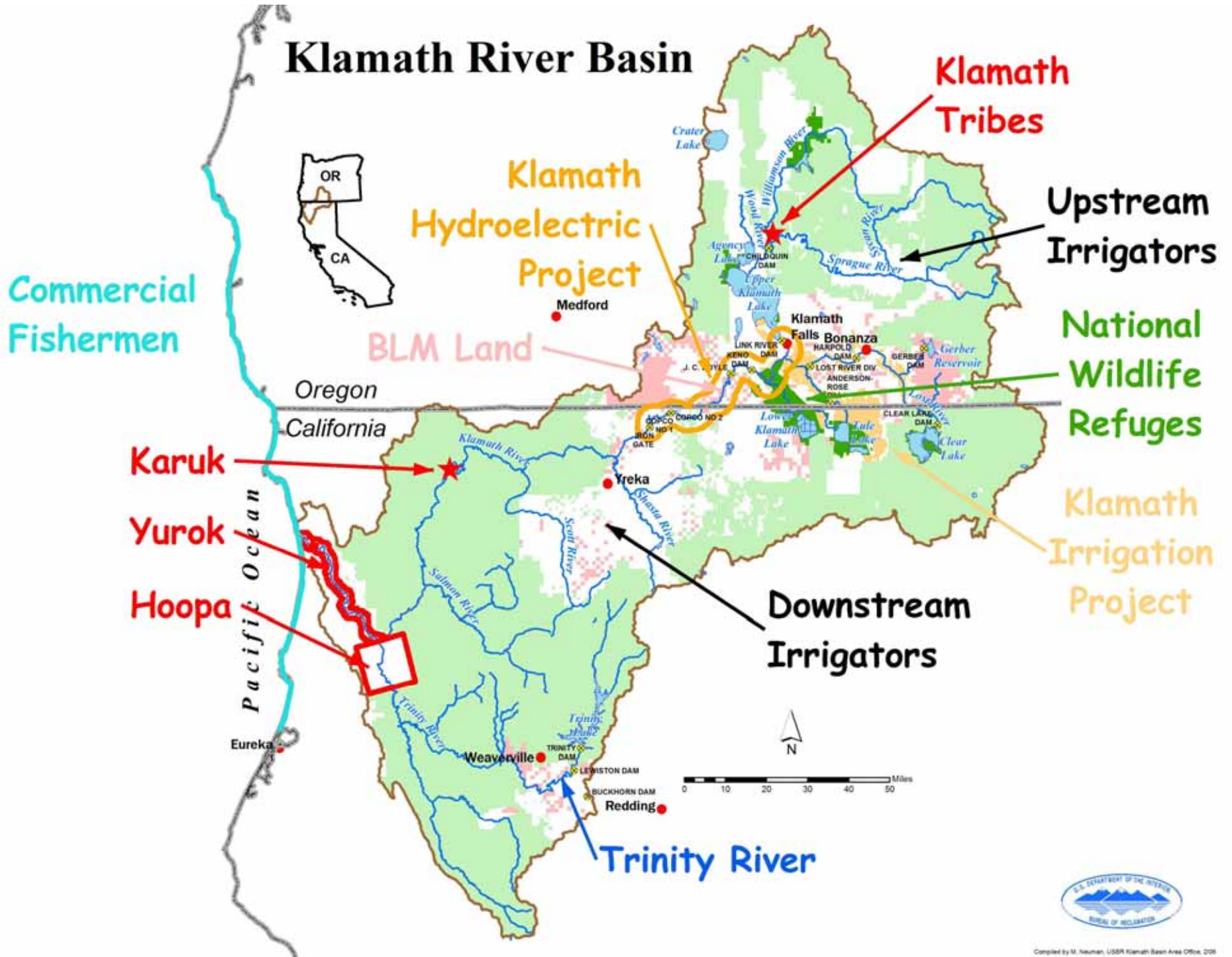
Northern California/Nevada  
Council Federation of Fly  
Fishers

Pacific Coast Federation of  
Fishermen's Associations

Salmon River Restoration Council

Trout Unlimited.

# Klamath River Basin



# Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement

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- ◆ Proposed Agreement issued in January, 2008
- ◆ Public meetings and comments
- ◆ Revisions in March, 2008
- ◆ Completion is linked to Hydropower Agreement
  - Discussions with PacifiCorp on removal of four dams

# Purposes

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Effective and durable solutions which:

- 1) in concert with the removal of four dams, will restore and sustain natural production and provide for full participation in ocean and river harvest opportunities of fish species throughout the Klamath Basin;
- 2) establish reliable water and power supplies which sustain agricultural uses, communities, and National Wildlife Refuges; and
- 3) contribute to the public welfare and the sustainability of all Klamath Basin communities.

# Scope of the Agreement

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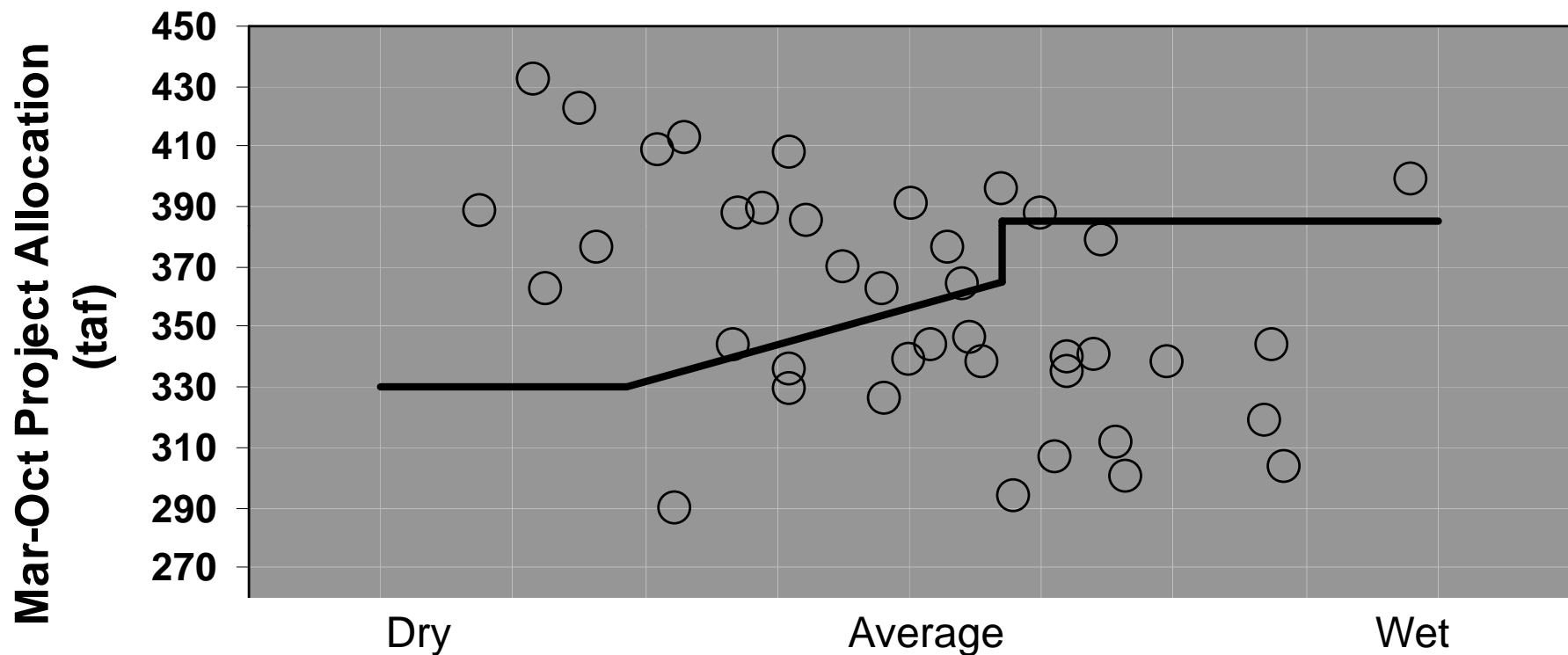
- ◆ General Provisions
- ◆ Hydropower Agreement
- ◆ Fisheries Program
- ◆ Water Resources Program
- ◆ Regulatory Assurances
- ◆ Power Resources Program
- ◆ Counties Program
- ◆ Tribal Program

# Water Supply Certainty

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- ◆ On-Project Plan
  - Irrigators will develop plan to use allocation
  - Funding to develop and implement plan
  - Provisions to increase allocation
    - » When dams are removed or new storage available
- ◆ Water rights assurances from Tribes
  - Resolves some issues in Klamath Basin Adjudication
- ◆ Drought Plan
  - Strategies to deal with droughts
    - » Conservation, leasing water, ground water, etc.
  - Reclamation Project could only be limited in extreme droughts

# Historic Deliveries and Allocation



March 1<sup>st</sup> 50% Forecast Apr-Sep Net Inflow to UKL (taf)

— Maximum Project Allocation

○ Historic Deliveries 1961-2000

# Other Water Provisions

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- ◆ Maintain Lease Land Farming
  - Enhance waterfowl management, agricultural use, and lease revenues
- ◆ Maintain Walking Wetlands
  - Rotate lands for crops and wildlife
- ◆ Transfer Keno and Link River Dams from PacifiCorp to Bureau of Reclamation
- ◆ Off-Project Plan
  - Voluntary program to retire water rights
  - Provisions to develop settlement on Klamath Basin Adjudication

# Regulatory Assurances

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- ◆ Goal is to avoid new regulatory, legal, or funding obligations from reintroducing listed species.
- ◆ Provisions to comply with Endangered Species Act
  - General Conservation Habitat Conservation Plans
- ◆ NMFS and FWS process to consider other actions before seeking reductions in water supply
- ◆ Requires process prior to suing Reclamation Project
  - Ensure timely implementation, dispute resolution

# Other Community Programs

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- ◆ Power Rate Stability Program
  - Interim rate stability for irrigators
  - Funding for energy efficiency and renewable resources to provide long-term stable rates
- ◆ Counties Program
  - Economic plans
  - Mitigation for lost property taxes
- ◆ Tribal Program
  - Funding to participate in fisheries programs
  - Support for economic revitalization programs

# Rebuilding Fisheries

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- ◆ **Goal:** restore and sustain natural production
  - Properly functioning lake and river conditions
- ◆ **Approach:** collaboration, incentives, and adaptive management
- ◆ **Fisheries restoration:** develop and implement plans
  - Increased funding for habitat restoration
- ◆ **Fisheries reintroduction:** program to restore salmon to areas blocked by dams

# Additional Water for Fish

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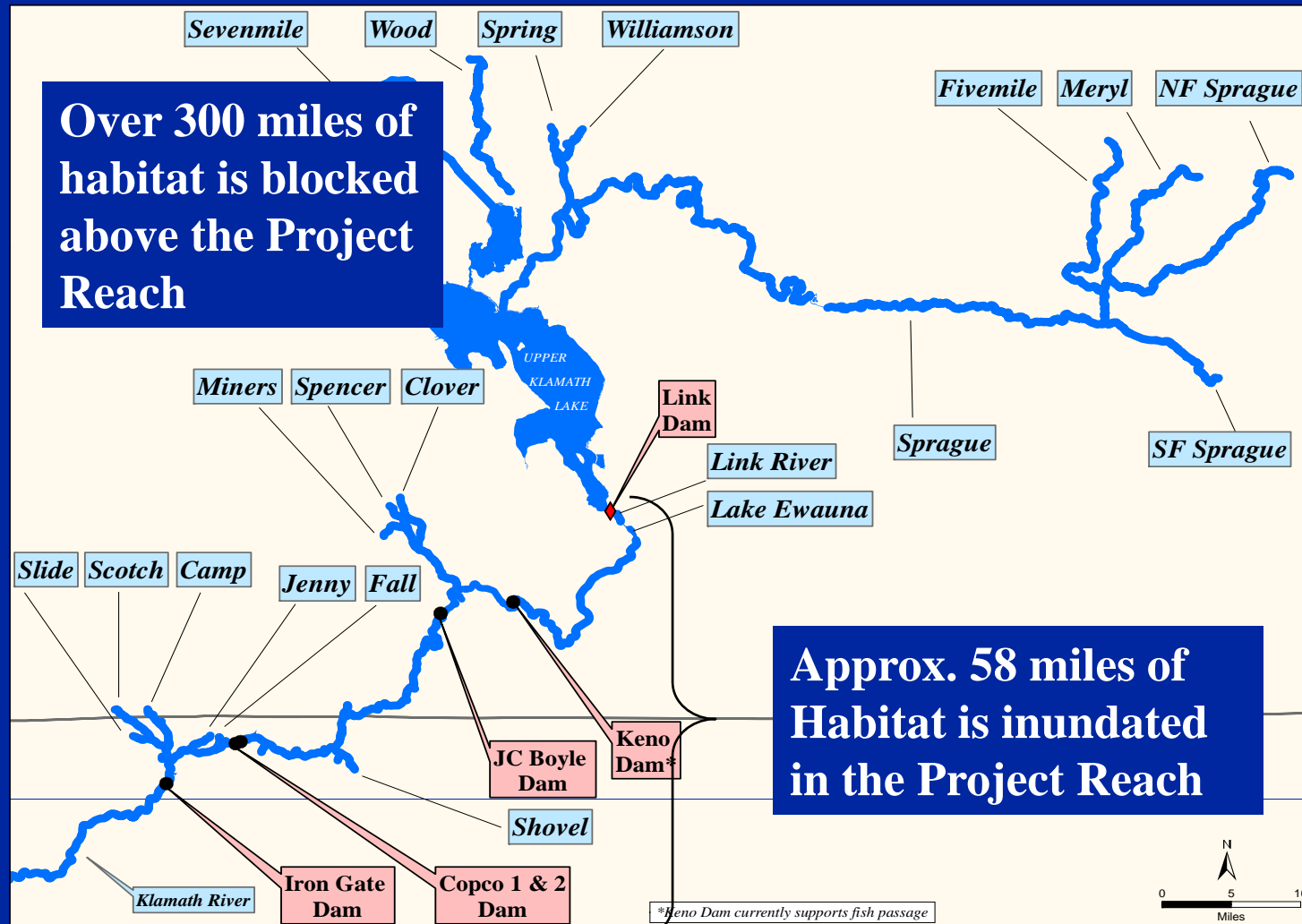
- ◆ Interim water bank
- ◆ Permanent increase for fish management
  - 100,000 acre feet in low water years
- ◆ Upper Klamath Basin Water Program
  - 30,000 acre feet from voluntary program
- ◆ Additional water supply, conservation, storage
  - Breaching levees and reconnecting wetlands would add 60,000 acre feet of water

# Water for Fish and Wildlife

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- ◆ Protection of additional water
- ◆ Management of Environmental Water
- ◆ No adverse effects from ground water use
- ◆ Allocations for wildlife refuges
- ◆ Climate Change Plan
- ◆ Monitoring program
- ◆ Implementation process

# Dam Removal



# Implementation and Funding

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- ◆ New governance structure
  - Facilitate coordination and accountability
  - Advice to Federal agencies
- ◆ Dispute resolution
  - Process to resolve issues among the parties
- ◆ Funding
  - Ten-year average: \$40 million in new funding for a total of \$96 million per year

# Next Steps

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- ◆ Hydroelectric Agreement
  - Discussions with PacifiCorp are continuing
  - Hydro agreement would be part of the final Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement
- ◆ Develop draft legislation to implement the Agreement
- ◆ Finalize the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement
- ◆ Seek support for implementation