



# Klamath Basin Monitoring Program (North Coast Region)

## What is it?

The Klamath Basin Monitoring Program (KBMP), formally known as the Klamath Basin Water Quality Monitoring Coordination Group, is an organization comprised of groups either conducting water quality monitoring or interested in water quality issues within the Klamath Basin. The mission of the KBMP is to implement, coordinate and collaborate on water quality monitoring and research throughout the Klamath Basin. The KBMP provides guidance and technical support for monitoring activities, and promotes the sharing of high quality data to inform resource management within the basin. Its efforts support the stewardship, protection and restoration of all beneficial uses within the Klamath River watershed, with the ultimate goal of restoring water quality.

The North Coast Regional Water Board has participated in the KBMP as both an active member and by providing grant funding through the Nonpoint Source Program to facilitate the development of a coordinated monitoring and assessment plan for the Klamath Basin. The Klamath Basin Water Quality Monitoring Plan goals are to:

- Develop and maintain a coordinated long-term monitoring network of sites that capture status and trends of selected indicators throughout the Klamath Basin over time and space;
- Coordinate monitoring activities to assist with the development of Total Maximum Daily Loads and implement action plans.
- Frame monitoring objectives in terms of supporting beneficial uses and improving the understanding of the ecology of the Klamath Basin;
- Strive for a consistent quality assurance program for all monitoring activities; provide accessible data in a timely manner to better inform regulatory agencies, organizations, tribal community and the public;
- Identify and document the effects of climate change, collect data to support climate change models and enhance the understanding of future impacts on water quality within the Klamath Basin.

The plan is not intended to replace individual water quality monitoring efforts or autonomy, but to expand coordinated monitoring in a way that benefits long-term coordination and collaboration among organizations.

### **Why is it important to the State?**

California has placed the portions of the Klamath River within its jurisdiction on the 303(d) list for impaired waters due to elevated water temperatures, elevated nutrients, and organic enrichment/low dissolved oxygen. In addition, the portion of the Klamath River watershed downstream of the Trinity River, partially within the Yurok Reservation, is listed for sedimentation/siltation impairment. And in March 2008, the U.S. EPA added the reach of the Klamath River that incorporates Copco 1 and 2 and Iron Gate Reservoirs to the 303(d) List for the blue-green algae toxin microcystin. The KBMP plays an essential role in providing monitoring data to evaluate the condition of the Klamath River watershed as improvement and restoration actions are implemented.

### **Why is it important to me?**

The Klamath River basin is of vital economic and cultural importance to the states of Oregon and California, as well as the Klamath Tribes in Oregon; the Hoopa, Karuk, and Yurok Tribes in California; the Quartz Valley Indian Reservation in California, and the Resighini Rancheria in California. It provides fertile lands for a rich agricultural economy in the upper basin. Irrigation facilities known as the Klamath Project owned by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation support this economy as does hydroelectric power provided via a system of five dams operated by PacifiCorp. The basin is the home spawning grounds of a once vast Tribal, sport, and commercial fishery and provides other aquatic resources of cultural significance to the local Indian Tribes. The watershed supports an active recreational industry, including activities that are specific to the Wild and Scenic portions of the river designated by both the state and federal governments in both Oregon and California. Finally, the watershed continues to support what were once historically significant mining and timber industries.

For those interested in learning more about the environmental condition of the Klamath River basin, the KBMP provides data through links on its website and via the California Environmental Data Exchange (CEDEN) website. This allows local residents and other interested parties find out where the waters are safe and healthy and where more effort is needed to keep them clean, contributing to an informed citizenry and more effective advocacy for clean water.



## How will this data be used?

The datasets generated by KBMP members are used by multiple organizations to investigate water quality concerns, monitor progress of restoration actions, and make management decisions in the Klamath Basin. Many member groups collect data to answer specific questions related to their particular area or concern. The KBMP allows members to share their data with other interested parties and to utilize data collected by other groups to inform their studies. The data are also uploaded to CEDEN, making them available to a wider audience.

**Partners:** Our current partners include:

1. Aquatic Ecosystem Sciences,
2. Bureau of Land Management,
3. California Department of Fish & Game,
4. California Department of Water Resources,
5. California Environmental Protection Agency,
6. California State Coastal Conservancy,
7. CalTrout, French Creek Watershed Advisory Group, Hoopa Valley Tribal EPA,
8. Humboldt State, University Jefferson Fish Society,
9. Karuk Tribe,
10. Kier Associates,
11. Klamath Bird Observatory,
12. Klamath I & M Network,
13. Klamath National Forest,
14. Klamath River Compact Commission,
15. Klamath Riverkeeper,
16. Klamath Tribes,
17. Klamath Watershed Partnership,
18. Mid Klamath Watershed Council,
19. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,
20. National Park Service,
21. North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality,
22. Oregon State University,
23. Oregon University School of Law,
24. Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations,
25. PacifiCorp, Quartz Valley Indian Reservation,
26. Redwood Sciences Lab, Resighini Rancheria,
27. Salmon River Restoration Council,
28. Scott River Watershed Council,
29. Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District,
30. Siskiyou County Public Health, Siskiyou Resource Conservation District,
31. Southern Oregon University,
32. Sprague Watershed Council,
33. State Water Resources Control Board,
34. Stillwater Sciences,
35. The Nature Conservancy,
36. Timber Products Company,
37. Trinity County Resource Conservation District,
38. Trinity River Restoration Program,
39. U. S. Bureau of Reclamation,
40. U. S. Department of Agriculture,
41. U. S. Environmental Protection Agency,
42. U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
43. U. S. Forest Service,
44. U. S. Geological Survey,
45. UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences,
46. University of California Berkeley,
47. University of California Santa Cruz,
48. University of Oregon,
49. Upper Mid Klamath Watershed Council,
50. Watercourse Engineering,
51. Watershed Initiatives,
52. Watershed Research and Training Center, and
53. Yurok Tribal Environmental Program.

*Click here to learn more about KBMP*