



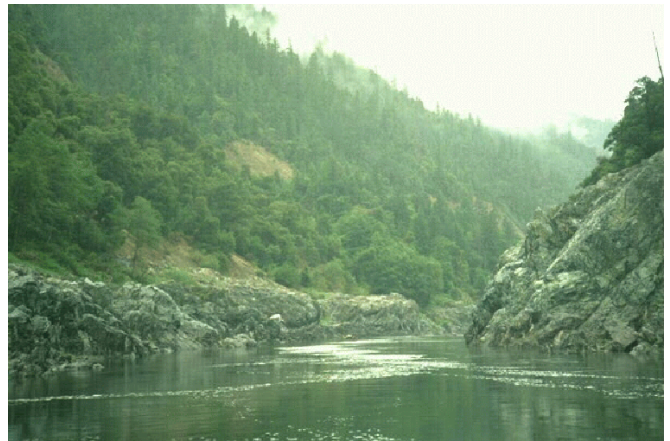
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## Fisheries and Ecosystem Restoration

# Klamath River Fish Habitat Restoration Program

### Background

- The Klamath River was historically the third largest salmon-producing watershed on the west coast.
- Chinook and coho salmon, steelhead, green and white sturgeon, and Pacific lamprey contribute to important subsistence, sport, and commercial fisheries.
- To respond to declines in fish abundance, a scientifically credible, comprehensive study was initiated to identify habitat related factors limiting fish production.
- The premature die-off of nearly 34,000 salmon in the lower river in 2002 underscores the need for a science-based evaluation of flows and associated habitat conditions.
- This collaborative study is critical to resolving conflicts in water management in the Klamath Basin.
- Despite recent declines in fish numbers, there is great potential for recovery.



### Program Design

- Technical expertise and local knowledge has been provided by the Klamath Flow Study Technical Advisory Group.
- The Advisory Group, representing Federal, State, and County agencies and Tribal, Watershed Councils, and Agriculture Interests was tasked with developing study priorities.
- The Service administers funds and provides oversight and technical assistance for on-the-ground projects.
- Program accomplishments are providing critical data needed to identify and contributing to the decline of Klamath River fish populations and are guiding current and future fisheries restoration efforts.

### Accomplishments to Date

- Status and trend monitoring for mainstem Chinook salmon production,
- water quality monitoring network,
- fish die-off quick response program,
- habitat inventories and fish habitat use assessments,
- juvenile fish health monitoring,
- modeling and validation of in-river fish production, and
- hydrologic monitoring

### Status

- In 2006, priorities focused on water quality and juvenile fish health, with similar priorities slated for 2007.
- The program is sponsoring local Watershed Councils to develop habitat assessment plans for the Shasta and Scott River sub basins.
- The Klamath River Fish Habitat Restoration Program (Flow Study) was scoped at \$4.5M annually over 5 years. To date, the study has been funded at \$750K/year. Completion of the study continues to rely on annual prioritization of study efforts and ongoing coordination and collaboration with partner agencies and stakeholders.



For more information, visit our website at: <http://arcata.fws.gov/>  
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