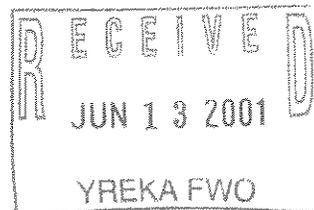


Middle Klamath River Sub-basin Planning

Final Report

**US Fish and Wildlife Service
Cooperative Agreement # 14-48-11333G013
ID #2000-PC-07**



Prepared by

**Karuk Tribe of California
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 282
Orleans, CA 95556**

Date Submitted: June 13, 2001

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ABSTRACT

The objective of the Middle Klamath Sub-basin Planning program is to contribute to the restoration of anadromous fish stocks in the Klamath River by implementing components outlined in the Draft Phase I Middle Klamath Plan. These components are education, communication, and community based restoration. The education component was directed primarily at the public school system. The communication and community based restoration components were directed at both the general public and at special interest groups. These efforts are steps to empower Middle Klamath residents with the knowledge and tools to assist in the systematic recovery of the anadromous fishery.

INTRODUCTION

The Klamath River historically supported large runs of salmon, steelhead, pacific lamprey and sturgeon. These runs have been steadily declining for decades due to increased anthropogenic disturbance and subsequent loss of quality habitat. These fish are an important contribution to the subsistence, sport, and commercial fishery in Northern California and Southern Oregon. Native Americans, including the Karuk Tribe, continue to harvest these fish today and therefore are major stakeholders in the Klamath Basin.

The Karuk Tribe, with funding from the Klamath Task Force, hired a Middle Klamath River Sub-basin Coordinator to implement the Middle Klamath Sub-basin Planning program objectives. The Klamath Task Force, in their Long Range Klamath Plan, identified public involvement and education as important mechanisms in achieving restoration goals in the Klamath Basin. The coordinator began an intensive effort to increase public involvement and education using fiscal year 1999 Task Force funding. The coordinator, again utilizing elements outlined in the Draft Phase I Middle Klamath Plan, continued to implement education, communication and community based restoration.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AREA

The Mid-Klamath Sub-basin includes the Klamath River and its minor tributaries from Iron Gate Dam down river to the confluence with the Trinity River. The sub-basin covers approximately 1524 square miles and is one of the larger sub-basins in the Klamath Basin. The Klamath National Forest and the Six Rivers National Forest comprise a large portion of the land base except for the privately owned areas east of the Shasta River confluence. Small patches of private and tribal trust land are scattered throughout the sub-basin. The population of the sub-basin is roughly three thousand people spread out in small rural communities along the river. The principal land uses in this sub-basin are timber, mining, agriculture and recreation. Although agriculture is limited to privately owned areas and special use permit areas managed by the Forest Service. The main-stem Klamath River is included in the California and Federal Wild and Scenic River Systems. The sub-basin encompasses seven "key" watersheds designated the 1993 President's Forest Plan, the highest concentration in any other Klamath River sub-basin. Four wilderness areas (Marble Mountains, Trinity Alps, Red Buttes and Siskiyou Mountains) from two different National Forests comprise a large portion of high elevation headwater area.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

Methods are outlined in the Phase I Middle Klamath River Sub-Basin Plan Draft, developed by the Karuk Tribe in January of 1999. The key methods employed for this planning project include education, communication, and public involvement. They are similar to methods used for the fiscal year 1999 planning project. The coordinator assisted elementary school watershed education programs by participating in fieldtrips and providing useful information to teachers regarding salmonids and their environmental requirements. Students participated in aquatic monitoring using scientific techniques relevant to other monitoring programs in the Klamath Basin.

Community members were invited to participate in restoration-focused workshops and meetings through a variety of mediums. Notices were posted at local bulletin boards and business locations. Local newsletters were distributed informing the public of upcoming meetings and the coordinator invited individual community members through personal interface. The Coordinator planned and attended specific neighborhood meetings to address local restoration needs. A localized strategy was employed to boost involvement of people who otherwise, would not attend large public meetings. Meeting notes were recorded to track progress and identify restoration priorities expressed by community members. The coordinator informed community members about current restoration projects and funding sources for potential projects. Upon request, community members were given requests for proposals from funding agencies. Methods described above were intended to stimulate the development of community based watershed and anadromous fishery restoration projects.

ACTIONS DISCUSSION

COMMUNICATION ACTIONS

The coordinator planned and attended meetings with special interest groups to discuss habitat protection, restoration efforts, and opportunities in the Middle Klamath River Sub-basin. Special interest groups include; The Mid-Klamath/ Salmon River Anglers Group, People for the USA, Klamath Forest Alliance, Ti Bar Roads Association, Salmon River Restoration Council, Siskiyou Resource Conservation District, Klamath Institute, Lomakatsi Restoration Project, Middle Klamath Watershed Council, Orleans Volunteer Fire Department, Orleans/Somes Bar Fire Safe Council and individual landowner groups throughout the sub-basin.

• Creation of the Orleans/Somes Bar Fire Safe Council

The coordinator, working with community members, founded the Orleans/Somes Bar Fire Safe Council. The coordinator posted announcements, contacted agencies, and interfaced with sub-basin residents to organize the council. The council has met every three weeks since first meeting in April of 2001. The Karuk Tribe has hosted all meeting at the Tribal Community Center in Orleans. The Tribe's Department of Natural Resources office provided GIS maps of all private lands in the Orleans and Somes Bar area. Landowners received private property aerial photograph maps to assist them in identifying hazard fuel accumulation on their property and adjacent lands. Community members are using the maps to identify areas that threaten human or fisheries resources. The coordinator recorded meeting notes and distributed them to participants after each meeting. Comments from the meetings will be used for planning and prioritizing hazard fuels treatment sites in the sub-basin. The coordinator also presented the Middle Klamath River Sub-basin Planning project to meeting participants and informed them of restoration project funding opportunities concerning hazard fuels reduction in the sub-basin.

• Communicating with Public on Fisheries Related Issues

As part of the communication element of this planning program, the coordinator provided special interest groups with information about current fisheries issues in the sub-basin. Current chinook and steelhead population numbers were provided to members of the Mid-Klamath/Salmon River Anglers Group. The coordinator also recorded the comments and suggestions of local anglers to the proposed changes for the upcoming 2002 Fishing Season. These comments were then delivered to the Happy Camp Fish & Game Warden for public input to the regional Fish & Game office in Sacramento.

After returning from a week-long fish kill response training, the coordinator developed a fish kill awareness flyer for community members. Working in cooperation with the Yurok Tribe, CDFG and USFWS, the flyer was posted at bulletins and businesses throughout the sub-basin. It provided the public with information on how to report fish kills in the Klamath River. The coordinator also asked local rafting and mining outfitters to distribute copies of the newsletter to river users.

• Formation of the Middle Klamath Watershed Council

The coordinator was instrumental in the development of the newly formed Middle Klamath Watershed Council (MKWC). Most of the council participants had previously attended public meeting and neighborhood meetings sponsored by the coordinator early in the 2000 sub-basin planning project or during the 1999 sub-basin planning project. The group consists of landowners and community members who want to be involved in restoration activities in the sub-basin. The group expressed interest in participating with fisheries monitoring, assessment, and other projects underway in the sub-basin. In response to this request, the coordinator contacted fisheries restoration professionals from the California Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Salmon River Restoration Council (SRRC), Yurok and Karuk

Attention: Community Members of the Klamath River!

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Report to the phone numbers provided below.

We would greatly appreciate assistance from local citizens, organizations, and other state agencies to report any fish kill. Fish kills typically occur in short periods of time and result in high numbers of sick and dead fish. The likely areas to observe sick and dead fish during a fish kill event are at creek mouths and other coldwater refugia areas where fish congregate during stressful periods.

During the summer months of the year 2000, a massive fish kill of juvenile salmonids, along with a variety of other fish species, took place on the Klamath River from Seiad Valley to the mid-lower Klamath River Basin. As a result, USFWS, CDFG, USGS, and Klamath Tribal Organizations have assembled a Fish Kill Task Force to assess and monitor water quality in the Klamath River and its tributaries.

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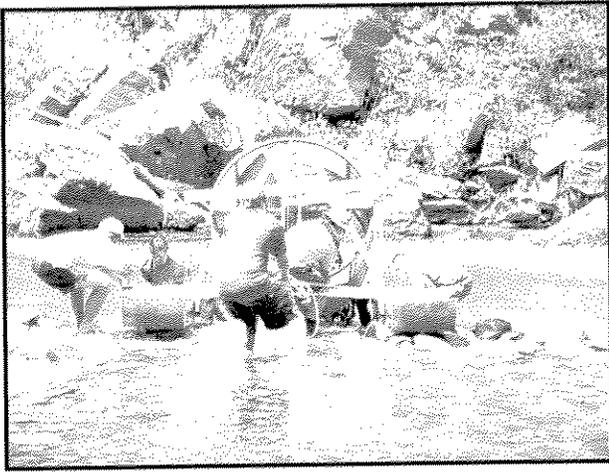
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Fish Kill Awareness Flyer



MKWC volunteers improving fish access at the mouth of Sandy Bar Creek



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Community members assisting Karuk Department of Natural Resource fisheries staff in moving the Salmon River outmigrant rotary screw trap.

MKWC volunteer projects include:

- Cold water refugia access assessment and improvement workday
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The cold water refugia access assessment workday, was a direct result of MKWC members deciding that fish access to cold water refugia was a priority in restoration efforts. This priority was also expressed during public meetings held during fiscal year 1999 planning project.

The coordinator, working with MKWC, is planning to continue monthly workdays as part of on-the-ground volunteer restoration efforts. Future MKWC plans include: river clean up, summer low flow monitoring, cold water refugia monitoring, photo point monitoring, spring chinook/ summer steelhead surveys, riparian planting at road restoration sites. Rodgers Creek culvert removal site has been prioritized as a good place to start a riparian planting project. The need for a native seed bank and an upland/riparian nursery has been identified. It would supply seed and seedling trees for planting sites.



MKWC group photo after a long workday

• **Spring Steelhead Spawning Survey**

During the spring of 2001 the coordinator, in cooperation with SRRC, organized and implemented a volunteer effort to conduct steelhead spawning surveys on Middle Klamath River and Salmon River tributaries. The steelhead spawning survey was a cooperative effort that involved community members, CDFG, SRRC, USFS, Americorps, and the Karuk Tribe. The coordinator was responsible for planning survey reaches, distributing equipment and safety gear to participants, organizing the data collection process, training participants, recruiting volunteers, and leading the weekly surveys. Data management and photo cataloging were also duties performed by the coordinator.

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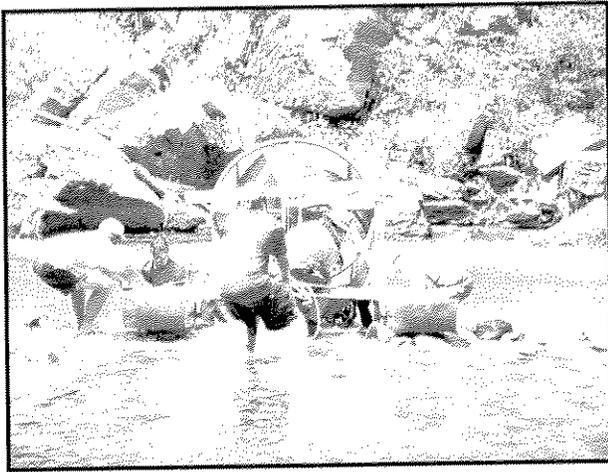
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