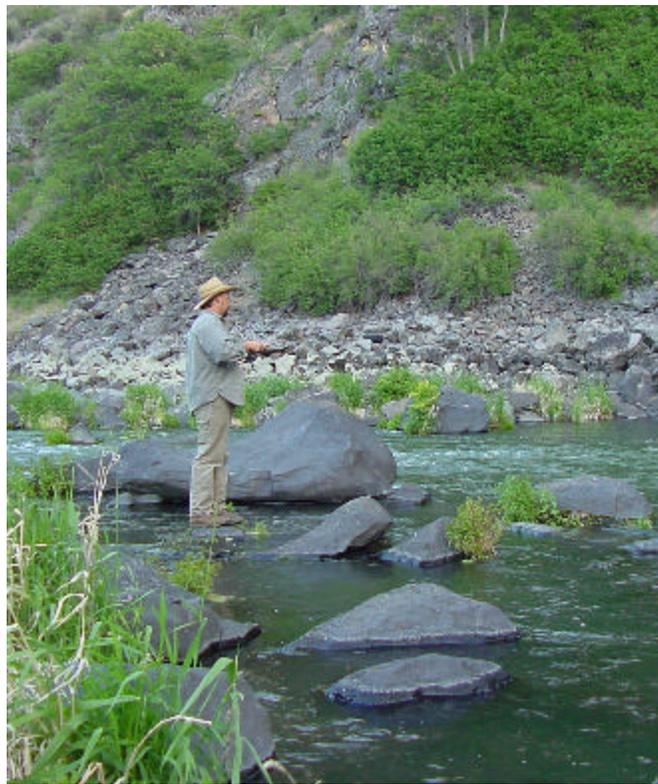


# Scoping Document for the Klamath River Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

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Revised November 2001



**KLAMATH RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
**PUBLIC SCOPING DOCUMENT**

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## DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The proposed Klamath River Management planning area is from the John C. Boyle Dam (in Oregon) to the slack water of Copco Reservoir in California. The Oregon portion of the plan is about 13 miles long and encompasses about 5,950 acres of public lands. The California River segment is about 5 miles in length and encompasses about 200 acres of public lands.

The proposed project is within Klamath County, Oregon, and Siskiyou County, California. The project is about 25 miles southwest of Klamath Falls, Oregon. For the purposes of this planning effort this river has been divided into three segments.

River Segment #	Description	Designations	Miles
1	from JC Boyle Dam to powerhouse	none	2
2	from powerhouse to OR/CA line	ACEC (rim to rim) OR State Scenic Waterway (1/4m)* Wild & Scenic River (1/4 m)*	11
3	from OR/CA to slack water of Copco	Found to be eligible and suitable for inclusion into the WSR system. No designation but under interim WSR Mgt.	5

\* 1/4 mile each side of the river's normal high water mark

### Segment 1

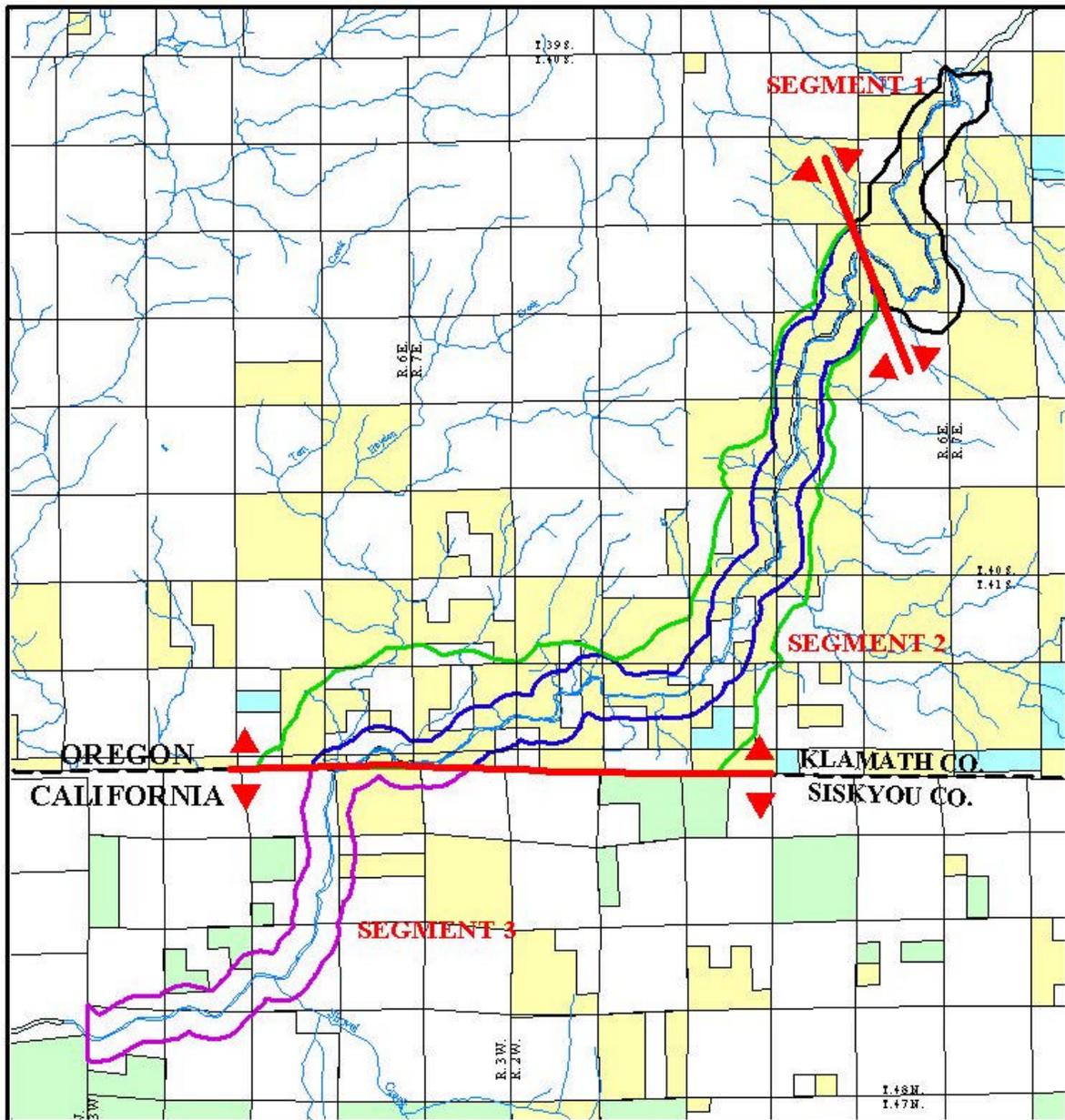
This segment was found not to be eligible or suitable for inclusion into the wild and scenic river system. However, This segment does possess recreation, wildlife, fishery, and visuals quality aspects that need to be considered in the overall planning of the river system.

### Segment 2

This segment of the river has similar values associated with the three designations (mentioned in table above). These important values are: Recreation, wildlife, fish, prehistoric, historic, scenic, and Native American tradition use. These values need to be protected or enhanced when considering land management practices or resource activities. The resource values are significant beyond the 1/4 mile boundaries. Therefore this plan will analyze these values from rim-to-rim within the river canyon.

### Segment 3

A 1990 river study found this segment to be eligible and suitable for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic River System. Congress has the authority to make determination on whether this river segment should be included into the national wild and scenic river system. No



**KLAMATH RIVER PLAN**  
 PUBLIC SCOPING MAP  
 DECEMBER 2000

1:100000

Universal Transverse Mercator  
 Zone 10, Spheroid Clarke 1866, NAD 1927

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Segment 1   | BLM         |
| Seg. 2 - ACEC   | USFS        |
| Seg. 2 - Or. State Scenic Waterway<br>Wild & scenic river is 1/4 mile each side of river. | PVT         |
| Seg. 3 Eligible and Suitable WSR  | State Lakes |
|   | Townships   |
|   | Sections    |

No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of those data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet national map accuracy standards. This product was compiled through digital means and may be updated without notification.

designation has been made at the time of this scoping document. This river segment is under interim management until a decision on designation is made.

The public comments from the 1990 Final Eligibility and Suitability Report for the Upper Klamath Wild and Scenic River Study stated that the river's values do not stop at the border but rather continue to Copco Reservoir. This study identified the following outstandingly remarkable values for this segment: recreation, wildlife, fish, historic, and scenic. These values are to be protected or enhanced when considering land management practices or resource activities.

## PURPOSE AND NEED FOR PROPOSED PLAN

This planning effort is being undertaken because the current recreation plan is almost 20 years old (completed in 1983) and is outdated. There are now overlapping jurisdictions and designations to contend with. At the conclusion of this planning effort there will be one EIS and management plan that will coordinate all activities along the river.

PacifiCorp is beginning the FERC relicensing process for their Klamath River projects (Big Bend #2082 - which includes the John C. Boyle Dam/power plant) and the new plan will be included in their application process. This plan will identify resource needs or concerns that need to be considered during the relicensing process. The proposed river plan is anticipating completion by 2002 and the FERC relicensing completed in 2005.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Klamath Falls Resource Area (KFRA) administers federally owned BLM lands within the Klamath River Canyon from John C. Boyle Dam to Copco Lake, California. Management of the California section is by Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the BLM Redding Field Office (dated 10/05/94). An additional MOU, affirming a policy of cooperation and coordination among the BLM, landowners and other public agencies is currently in place (dated 4/25/91). The agreement is with Pacific Power and Light, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Department of Fish and Game, Weyerhaeuser Company (as assigned to U.S. Timberlands Services Co. LLC) and the BLM. It establishes a mechanism for coordinating land management programs and planning among cooperating parties. The KFRA, BLM manages several recreation sites, and issues and monitors special recreation permits for commercial whitewater rafting along this section of the river.

The above mentioned existing management plans, rules, laws, and guidelines will continue to provide management direction for the upper Klamath River until a new river management plan is developed to address specific resource concerns.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Significant Actions Related to the Klamath River</u>
1969	The Oregon Scenic Waterways Act (ORS 390.805 to 390.925), administered under the authority of the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD), is a state-wide law for river conservation that was established by a vote in 1969. The Oregon Scenic Waterways System was established through the Scenic Waterways Act.
1983	BLM developed guidance for management of recreation resources in the Recreation Area Management Plan for the Klamath River Special Recreation Management Area.
1988	In October 1988, the Oregon Omnibus Rivers Act directed the BLM to complete an Eligibility and Suitability Report for the Upper Klamath Wild and Scenic River Study Report for possible inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. This report was completed in 1990. This report identified an 11 mile segment in Oregon and 5 mile segment in California as eligible and suitable for inclusion into the national wild and scenic river system.
1988	In November 1988, Ballot Measure 7 was passed in Oregon, adding, among other rivers, the upper Klamath River from the John C. Boyle Dam Powerhouse to the Oregon-California state line and 1/4 mile from the ordinary high water mark on each bank, to the Oregon Scenic Waterways System. OPRD has primary administrative responsibility for Oregon Scenic Waterways and explicit authority to regulate land use. OPRD has adopted general rules of land management applicable to all scenic waterways. Specific rules are adopted for individual scenic waterways. There are currently no specific rules set forth for the upper Klamath Scenic Waterway.
1994	In response to a request by Oregon Governor Barbara Roberts to designate the Klamath River under Section 2 (a) (ii) of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the National Park Service undertook a Klamath Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Report and Environmental Assessment. The recommendations from this report were forwarded to Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt. In September, 1994, the Upper Klamath River (11 mile segment) from the John C Boyle Powerhouse to the Oregon-California state line was designated as a state-administered component of the National Wild and Scenic River system pursuant to Section 2 (a)(ii) of the National Wild and Scenic River Act.
1995	The federal lands along upper Klamath River are currently managed under the KFRA Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (1995). The RMP designated an 11 mile segment of the river (rim to rim along the river corridor) from John C Boyle powerhouse to the Oregon-California state line as an ACEC.

## PLANNING PROCESS

An interdisciplinary team (IDT) has been established consisting of a team leader, wildlife, fisheries, botany, archaeology, recreation, hydrology, and planning specialists. An interagency Review Committee comprised of representatives from county, state, and federal agencies has been created to ensure that the project complies with regulatory processes in California and Oregon. The Upper Klamath Basin Subcommittee of the Klamath Provincial Advisory Committee was created to provide advice and assist the IDT by gathering information from private river users, local private landowners and other interested parties to be used throughout the river planning process. (See graphic of "River Plan Process").

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is a cooperative agency in the preparation of this document. Other cooperating agencies are the BLM/Redding Field Office in California. The



proposed project is for the BLM/Klamath Falls Resource Area to prepare an ACEC/River Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Klamath River project area. For this River Management Plan and EIS, the State of Oregon will prepare a chapter in the EIS document that will be the management plan for the State Scenic Waterway.

#### Definition of Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

The BLM regulations define an ACEC as an area “within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards”.

#### Definition of Outstanding Remarkable Values (ORV)

Values among those listed in Section 1(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act: “Scenic, recreational, geological, fish and wildlife, historical, cultural, or similar values. Other similar values may include ecological, biological, paleontological, hydrological, scientific, or research.

### **PRELIMINARY GOALS/OBJECTIVE OF PLANNING PROCESS**

Protect or enhance relevant and important values (wildlife, fisheries, historic and pre-historic cultural sites, scenic values, recreation, and native american traditional uses) while allowing compatible resource uses.

### **PROPOSED ISSUES**

#### Scenic Resources:

One of the ORVs identified is for the river scenic qualities. The consideration of new recreational facilities, prescribe fire, utility development, and roads could impact visual resources.

#### Recreation Use:

A primary recreational use is white water rafting below the John C. Boyle Dam. The white water rafting opportunities are dependent on the timing and amount of river flow. This outstandingly remarkable value was identified because of the current flow regime, if that regime was to change significantly the recreational opportunities could be reduced.

Other recreational use (both on/off river use) along the Klamath River could increase the number of access points to the river which could damage riparian, upland habitat used by fish or wildlife, and significant cultural sites.

#### Recreational Carrying Capacity:

Due to the many white water rafting permit requests received and concerns regarding the carrying capacity on the Upper Klamath River, the BLM issued a moratorium in 1996, freezing the number of river permits issued. This was an effort to reduce potential impacts to the resources. There is also concern regarding the increased number of other recreation uses within the river corridor.

This river plan will evaluate the carrying capacity relative to the outstandingly remarkable values.

#### **Roads:**

There are numerous roads within the river canyon. BLM has closed a number of these roads via barriers, but many have been breached. OHV activity has led to some increased erosion and sedimentation into the river. Road location could also contribute to increased erosion which could be corrected. These are continuing problems that will need to be evaluated and addressed in the plan.

#### **Facility Development:**

Associated with the carrying capacity issue is the improvement and construction of recreational facilities along the river. Some of these new projects could affect the integrity of cultural resources. Proposed trails could lead to increased use within the river corridor. Recreational structures and vegetation are also experiencing increased vandalism.

#### **Land Tenure Adjustments:**

Based on informal discussions, PacifiCorp may be interested in exchanging land parcels within the river corridor to consolidate their operations of power generation. For example they would consider exchanging PacifiCorp lands with recreational/cultural interests for those BLM parcels with powerlines or operation facilities. The river plan will identify proposed land exchanges or acquisitions. To date, no specific parcels have been identified.

#### **Pre-Historic/Historic Sites:**

The Klamath River banks have many cultural sites. These locations also receive extensive recreation use which has led to damage to these sites. The river plan will identify ways to reduce recreation/cultural use conflicts.

#### **Native American traditional Use:**

The canyon has continued use by Native Americans for thousands of years. The canyon is considered to sacred and of immeasurable spiritual significance. Some recreation, land management practice or project activities could impact these areas.

#### **Fisheries:**

There is evidence that the water peaking (increase flows), which is necessary to generate power from J.C. Boyle's Dam, impacts the aquatic habitat for fisheries on the stretches analyzed under this plan. There may be opportunities to improve fish habitat. Fisheries is one of the outstandingly remarkable values (ORV) for which the Klamath River was designated a wild and scenic river. Section two of the Klamath River has been identified by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as a wild rainbow trout stream since 1978, while section three has been identified by California Department of Fish and Game as a wild rainbow trout area since 1974. There are threatened and endangered (T&E) suckers that use the river. This stretch of river is within the historic range of at least one listed and one proposed anadromous salmonid species.

**Fire:**

There are heavy fuel loads existing in forested lands in the river canyon. Historically, lightning occurrence is high in this area and, given the steep terrain, any fire occurrence could become a forest stand replacing event. Past examples are the Big Bend and J.C. Boyle fires. This plan would address needs for effective fuel reduction treatments. The potential loss of river canyon scenic characteristics to wildfire would be evaluated in this plan.

**Wildlife:**

There are T&E (ie. bald eagle, peregrine falcon) and special status species (western pond turtle, Townsend big-eared bat, white headed woodpecker) that use the river corridor. This plan would also address unique wildlife habitat such as big game winter habitat and oak woodlands. This plan would also address impacts from wildlife habitat enhancement projects to scenic values and impacts to wildlife from other resource management practices.

**Noxious Weeds:**

There are invasive weeds (like star thistle) that are existing within the river corridors. These weeds compete with native vegetation and habitat for animals and plants.

**POINTS OF CONTACT:**

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**SCHEDULE FOR RIVER PLAN**

<b>Klamath River ACEC/River Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement Post-Scoping Phase Timeframe for Completion</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Item</b>
<b>April, 2001</b>	Draft EIS Outline
<b>May, 2001</b>	Analysis of the Management Situation
<b>May, 2001</b>	Finalize Alternative Framework
<b>May-June, 2001</b>	Brief Redding, Medford Offices on PacifiCorp Land Tenure
<b>June-August, 2001</b>	Brief Klamath Falls Resource Area (KFRA) ID Team and District Office
<b>July, 2001</b>	Revision of Pre-Plan, Submitted to OSO, Redding RA
<b>July, 2001</b>	Brief PAC Sub-Committee on Pre-Plan
<b>July-August, 2001</b>	Meet County Commissioners if not at June PAC Sub-Committee Meeting to update on plan
<b>July -August, 2001</b>	Field Data Collection, identification of Alternative Actions
<b>July-August, 2001</b>	Field trips, river trips or meetings with KFRA ID Team, PAC Sub-Committee, Interagency Review Group
<b>August, 2001</b>	Brief Interagency Review Group (In conjunction with FERC Interagency Group)
<b>August, 2001</b>	Newsletter/Update to Public (Redding RA reviews prior to mailing)
<b>September, 2001</b>	Finalize Details of Alternatives
<b>September, 2001</b>	Brief Redding RA & OR and CA State Offices on River Plan on Alternatives (esp. Land Tenure)
<b>October-December, 2001</b>	Prepare ACEC/River Plan (Pre-) DEIS (includes monitoring plan)
<b>January, 2002</b>	Brief California Delegation – Herger’s Staff, Siskiyou County Farm Bureau, etc. on river plan
<b>January, 2002</b>	Klamath Falls and Redding Resource Area Review of Pre-DEIS
<b>February, 2002</b>	Interagency Review Group and PAC Subcommittee Review of Pre-DEIS
<b>February, 2002</b>	PAC Sub-Committee & Oregon and California State Office Briefing on River Plan
<b>February-March, 2002</b>	OR & CA State Office review of ACEC/River Plan Pre-DEIS
<b>April, 2002</b>	Revise DEIS
<b>April, 2002</b>	Prepare contract for printing of DEIS
<b>April, 2002</b>	Prepare Federal Register Notice regarding DEIS available for public review
<b>May, 2002</b>	DRAFT EIS Published, sent to public for 90 day review period
<b>Summer, 2002</b>	Public meetings & Field Reviews on DEIS in Klamath Falls, OR and Yreka, CA.

<b>August, 2002</b>	DRAFT Comment Period Ends
<b>September, 2002</b>	Evaluate Public Comments
<b>October-December, 2002</b>	Prepare FEIS
<b>November, 2002</b>	PAC Sub-Committee and Interagency Review Group meetings on FEIS
<b>December, 2002</b>	Newsletter/Update to Public
<b>January, 2003</b>	BLM State Office and KFRA review of ACEC/River Plan Pre-FEIS
<b>January-February, 2003</b>	Finalize EIS w/Response to Comments
<b>March, 2003</b>	OR and CA BLM State Office Review of Final EIS
<b>March, 2003</b>	Prepare Federal Register Notice for FEIS notice for public review
<b>March, 2003</b>	Contract issued for printing of FEIS
<b>April, 2003</b>	Final EIS Published and distributed for public comment