

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Summary of Klamath Project March 2012 Operations

During the month of March, the elevation of Upper Klamath Lake (UKL) rose more than a foot from 4,141.83 feet on March 1st to a high of 4,142.89 feet on March 31st. This March 31, 2012 UKL elevation is 0.21 feet lower than the end of March elevation in 2011. Total net inflows to UKL for the month of March were 119 Thousand Acre Feet (TAF), which is 59% of the Natural Resource Conservation Service average of 201 TAF. Releases from Link River Dam generally increased throughout March from 281 cfs to 1,000 cfs, with an average of 414 cfs.

Iron Gate Dam releases averaged 1,394 cfs during March with the lowest flows of 1,290 cfs occurring in the first half of the month, and the maximum flow of 1,900 cfs occurring on March 31st. Consistent with the Variable Base Flow Procedure (VBF), releases downstream of Iron Gate Dam were increased on March 29, 2012 when the trajectory of UKL indicated that the March 31st elevation may exceed the VBF threshold elevation of 4,142.9 feet. March VBF threshold releases totaled approximately 2 TAF.

Reclamation is dedicated to managing, developing, and protecting water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Reclamation, and Klamath Project stakeholders are working together to manage available water to provide benefits to basin irrigators while protecting Endangered Species Act-listed fish.