United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Klamath Basin Area Office
6600 Washburn Way
Klamath Falls, Oregon 97603-9365

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IN REPLY REFER TO:
KO-400 (JBirri)
RES-3.10

JAN 13 2009

Dear Interested Party:

Subject: 2009 Klamath Basin Water Supply Enhancement Study (WSES)

The 2000 Klamath Basin Water Supply Enhancement Act authorized the Bureau of Reclamation to study various aspects of water development and marketing in the Klamath Basin. In 2008, Reclamation began working with the Klamath Water and Power Authority (KWAPA) to evaluate the ability of transferring a portion of the activities of this study to KWAPA. Under this authority, Reclamation or its designated agent may acquire water in 2009 for use during the irrigation season to supplement agricultural water demands.

Due to unforeseen administrative delays in fully implementing the KWAPA study, Reclamation is currently soliciting bids for the groundwater substitution options and storage programs for the WSES. Reclamation will not be soliciting bids for the dryland operation program for the 2009 irrigation season. Enclosed for your use is an instruction and application packet as well as a summary of the previous years bidding information.

For groundwater substitution options, Reclamation is accepting applications from individuals, groups of individuals, partnerships, and companies willing to alternate between surface water irrigation and groundwater irrigation during the 2009 irrigation season at Reclamation's specific request. Payment will be based on the documented quantity of groundwater pumped. It is possible Reclamation may not make a request for groundwater substitution at any time during the irrigation season, in which case no payment will be made. Oregon landowners must provide documentation of a Supplemental Water Right for the groundwater sources and fields in this program, as it is unknown whether drought permits will be issued this year.

For water storage, Reclamation is accepting applications from individuals, groups of individuals, partnerships, and companies willing and able to store at least 1,500 acre-feet of water. The participant will then be responsible for pumping the water off at Reclamation's specific request, which will occur no later than June 30, 2009. Participants are responsible for all pumping and storage costs. Payment will be based on the documented quantity of water pumped from the enrolled field units.

Participation in the WSES is open to all users of surface water above Keno Dam, except lands above Harpold Dam, Federal lease lands, and lands under temporary surplus water contracts ("C lands"). Only complete field units of at least 20 contiguous acres are eligible.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to contact the Klamath Basin Area Office for details on the Program. Starting January 15, 2009, you may make an appointment with one of the contacts listed below to discuss your particular operational situation prior to submittal of your final bid. Please note that Reclamation will be closed January 19, 2009, for the observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

Completed and signed applications and all documentation must be submitted to the Klamath Basin Area Office, 6600 Washburn Way, Klamath Falls, OR 97603, by 4 p.m. on Thursday, February 12, 2009, for consideration.

For additional information, please contact Jennifer Birri, Mike Neuman, or Melissa Neubert of Reclamation's Klamath Basin Area Office, at 541-883-6935, or by email at jbirri@mp.usbr.gov, mneuman@usbr.gov, or mneubert@mp.usbr.gov. Program information, an application form, and a sample contract are available on the Klamath Basin Area Office website at: http://www.usbr.gov/mp/kbao.

Sincerely,

Christine D. Karas
FOR Acting Area Manager

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