



— BUREAU OF —  
RECLAMATION

## Increased December flows through Link River Dam



*Link River Dam Dec. 3, 2021*

Dec. 6, 2021

Reclamation, effective December 1, 2021, will be increasing flows through Link River Dam to initiate refilling of PacifiCorp's Copco and Iron Gate reservoirs.

In August 2021, Reclamation, in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and along with support from Tulelake Irrigation District, took action to prevent a wildlife die-off in Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

Reclamation requested PacifiCorp use water from Copco and Iron Gate reservoirs to meet Klamath River flow requirements, allowing for water deliveries to Tule Lake Sump 1B. Over the course of 4½ weeks, Reclamation delivered approximately 9,300 acre-feet of water to Sump 1B, which supplemented groundwater being pumped into the sump by Tulelake

Irrigation District that both sustained an adequate depth for endangered suckers and prevented an avian botulism outbreak.

The August 2021 water delivery to Tulelake Sump 1B will now essentially need to be “paid back;” to ensure required Klamath River flows below Iron Gate Dam can be met during the current fall/winter operational period. The payback will occur through an immediate delivery of water to PacifiCorp dams from Upper Klamath Lake and a separate reduction in Klamath Project deliveries. Reductions are expected to occur over a longer period than the immediate deliveries from Upper Klamath Lake and will occur until supplies presently being delivered to PacifiCorp have been restored in Upper Klamath Lake.

With respect to the immediate delivery of supplies to PacifiCorp, approximately 9,300 acre-foot of water is being delivered to PacifiCorp to refill their reservoirs. The flows seen at Link River Dam now, will be the highest magnitude relative to the remainder of the payback schedule, which will ramp down as we approach our delivery target.

Flows through Link River Dam are anticipated to return to normal operations in early January. Releases are within live flow limits as determined by Oregon Water Resources Department and scheduled to decrease throughout the month of December unless there is a significant storm event.

Reductions in Klamath Project deliveries are presently being scheduled with affected parties, including Klamath Drainage District, Lower Klamath Wildlife Refuge, and Tulelake Irrigation District. These actions are anticipated to reduce both fall/winter supplies on the Klamath River and Lost River supplies. Lost River supplies were offered to Reclamation by Tulelake Irrigation District, if needed, at the time of the borrow. To this end, Reclamation has directed all diversions from the Klamath River and Upper Klamath Lake to cease at the North and Ady canals.

Reclamation would like to thank PacifiCorp, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Tulelake Irrigation District as well as Klamath Basin water users and Tribes for their continued efforts to work together through difficult hydrological conditions to protect wildlife and the diverse communities of the Klamath Basin.

Learn more about the work of the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#), [Klamath Water Users Association](#) and [Tulelake Irrigation District](#) and exploring [Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge](#) and [Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge](#).

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