Thursday, July 9, 2020

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. - Secretary of Interior David Bernhardt met with water users, tribal leaders, elected officials, Reclamation’s Klamath Basin Area Office staff, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Geological Survey, to find solutions for the Klamath Project. Joined by Reclamation’s Commissioner Brenda Burman, Regional Director Ernest Conant, Deputy Regional Director Jeff Payne and Klamath Basin Area Manager Jeff Nettleton, Secretary Bernhardt offered a collaborative, science-based approach to lead Reclamation’s work on the Klamath Project.

Congressman Greg Walden from Oregon and Congressman Doug LaMalfa from California also took part in discussions. Local community leaders expressed diverse water needs and welcomed the Secretary’s unified support as the Klamath Project endures severe drought conditions that have led to the most serious water shortage since 2010.

The Klamath Project delivers water to approximately 230,000 acres in southern Oregon and northern California. Reclamation is on schedule to deliver approximately 147,000 acre-feet of water to the Klamath Project from Upper Klamath Lake in 2020. Secretary Bernhardt and Commissioner Burman are committed to begin implementing long-term solutions that more reliably meet the needs of the Klamath Basin.