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Mid-Pacific Region, Klamath Project

History

The Secretary of the Interior authorized development of the Klamath Project on May 15, 1905. Construction of the project began in 1906 with the building of the "A" Canal and water was first made available on May 22, 1907. This initial construction was followed by the completion of Clear Lake Dam in 1910, the Lost River Diversion Dam and many of the distribution structures in 1912, and the Lower Lost River Diversion Dam in 1921. (In 1970 the name of the Lower Lost River Diversion Dam was officially changed to Anderson-Rose Diversion Dam.) The Malone Diversion Dam on Lost River was built in 1923 to divert water to Langell Valley. The Gerber Dam on Miller Creek was completed in 1925; the Miller Diversion Dam was built in 1924 to divert water released from Gerber Dam.



Clear Lake Dam and Reservoir

A contract executed February 24, 1917, between the California-Oregon Power Company (now the Pacific Power and Light

Company) and the United States authorized the company to construct Link River Dam for the benefit of the project and for the company's use, and in particular extended to the water users of the Klamath Project certain preferential power rates. These rights have since expired and were not renewed. The dam was completed in 1921.

The irrigable lands of the Project are in South-Central Oregon (62 percent) and North-Central California (38 percent). The Project delivers water to approximately 210,000 acres of cropland. There are two main sources of supply water for the project: Upper Klamath Lake and the Klamath River on the West Side and Clear Lake Reservoir, Gerber Reservoir, and Lost River on the East Side, which are located in a closed basin.

The Klamath Project's main features include:

Clear Lake Dam and Reservoir

Clear Lake Dam and Reservoir on the Lost River in California about 19 miles southeast of Malin, Oregon, provide storage for irrigation and reduces flows into the reclaimed portion of Tule Lake and the restricted Tule Lake Sumps in Tulelake National Wildlife Refuge. The dam is a roller-compacted concrete dam. The old earth and rockfill dam finished in 1910 was breached in 2002 upon completion of the new dam structure. The reservoir has a capacity of 527,000 acre-feet.

Gerber Dam and Reservoir

Gerber Dam and Reservoir, on Miller Creek, 14 miles east of Bonanza, Oregon, provide storage for irrigation and reduces flow into the reclaimed portions of Tule Lake and the restricted Tule Lake Sumps in the Tulelake National Wildlife Refuge. The dam is a concrete arch structure, and the reservoir capacity is 94,300 acre-feet.



The Gerber Dam and Reservoir

Link River Dam

The facility was constructed from 1947 to 1954. Upper Klamath Lake is the principal source of water for the project. Link River Dam, at the outlet of Upper Klamath Lake, serves as the headwaters for the Link River which flow into Lake Ewauna then transitions into the Klamath River. The dam is a reinforced concrete slab structure. Upper Klamath Lake has a maximum capacity of about 873,000 acre-feet. It is owned by Reclamation but operated by the Pacific Power and Light Company, subject to Klamath Project rights.



Link River Dam

Lost River Diversion Dam

Lost River Diversion Dam is on Lost River about four miles south of Olene, Oregon. The dam diverts excess water from the Lost River to the Klamath River through the Lost River Diversion Channel. This dam acts in conjunction with Clear Lake and Gerber Dams to reduce flows into the reclaimed portions of Tule Lake and the restricted Tule Lake Sumps in the Tulelake National Wildlife Refuge. It is a horseshoe shaped multiple-arch concrete structure with earth embankment wings.



Lost River Diversion Dam on the Lost River about 4 miles below Olene, Oregon

Anderson-Rose Diversion Dam

Anderson-Rose Diversion Dam (formerly Lower Lost River Diversion Dam), on Lost River about three miles Southeast of Merrill, Oregon, diverts water to serve the lands reclaimed from the bed of Tule Lake. The dam is a reinforced concrete slab and buttress structure with a height of 23 feet and a crest length of 324 feet.

Malone Diversion Dam

Malone Diversion Dam, on Lost River about 11 miles downstream from Clear Lake Dam, diverts water to serve lands in Langell Valley. This dam, an earth embankment with a concrete gate structure, has a height of 32 feet and a crest length of 515 feet.

Miller Division Dam

Miller Diversion Dam, on Miller Creek eight miles South of Gerber Dam, diverts water to serve lands in Langell Valley. The dam is a concrete weir, removable crest, and earth embankment wing structure with a height of 10 feet and a crest length of 290 feet.

Canals, Laterals, and Drains

There are 19 canals that total 185 miles and have diversion capacities ranging from 35 to 1,150 cubic feet per second (cfs). Laterals total 490 miles and drains 545 miles.

Pumping Plants

There are five major pumping plants with capacities from 60 to 388 cfs, and approximately 33 pumping plants of less than 50 cfs.



Pumping plant E and EE on the Klamath Straits Drain

Tule Lake Tunnel

Tule Lake Tunnel, a concrete-lined structure 6,600 feet in length with a capacity of 250 cfs, conveys drainage water from Tule Lake restricted sumps on the Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge to the Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge.

"A" Canal Tunnel

This 3,300-foot tunnel, a part of the "A" Canal, has a capacity of 1,150 cfs and conveys irrigation water from Upper Klamath Lake to serve approximately 63,000 acres.

C-Drop Powerplant

Completed in 2012, the C-Drop hydroelectric facility uses the force of water dropping 22 feet from the A Canal to the C Canal to generate up to 1.1 megawatts. The facility does not change diversions or timing of irrigation flows and doesn't impact fish or wildlife.



The C-drop hydroelectric facility

Klamath Straits Drain

The drain conveys drainage water from the Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge (LKLNR) and irrigated land which has been reclaimed from Lower Klamath Lake to the Klamath River. The drain begins at the State Line Road outlet of LKLNR and extends approximately 20 miles north-westerly to the Klamath River. The drain transports excess winter flows and the drainage from this lower closed basin to the Klamath River. The drain's capacity was increased from 300 to 600 cfs in 1981.



Klamath Straits Drain

Operating Agencies

Clear Lake Dam, Gerber Dam, and the Lost River Diversion Dam are operated by the Bureau of Reclamation. The Link River Dam is owned by Reclamation but is currently operated by the Pacific Power and Light Company in accordance with project needs. The Anderson-Rose Diversion Dam is operated by the Tulelake Irrigation District, and the Langell Valley Irrigation District operates the Malone and Miller Diversion Dams. The canals and pumping plants are operated by the various irrigation districts.