

WHAT IS THE WATER SUPPLY THIS YEAR? WHAT PROGRAMS EXIST?

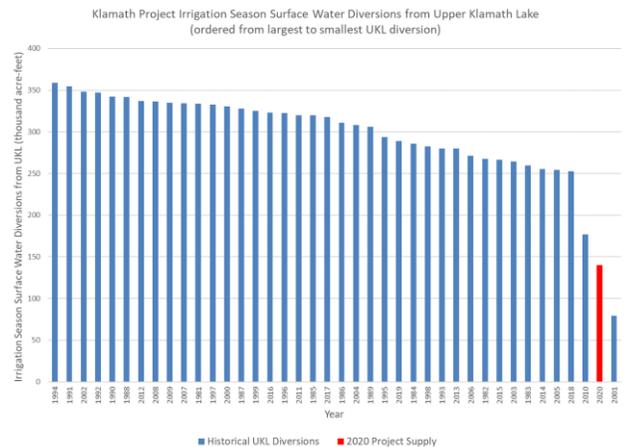
There are rumors and uncertainty about water supply for irrigation in the Klamath Project in 2020. **Here is what we know on April 21, 2020.**

The bottom line right now: there are several important uncertainties. But we know these things for certain:

- (1) **This year is worse than any year in history other than 2001¹;**
- (2) **Unless there is a very large number of unirrigated acres, there is a great risk of running out of water altogether mid-season.**

PROJECT SUPPLY

- “Project Supply” means the quantity of water available for irrigation from Upper Klamath Lake and the Klamath River between March and October.
- There has been no formal announcement of Project Supply for 2020; we anticipate an announcement on April 22.
- Based on the plan that the Bureau of Reclamation has proposed, and that we assume it will adopt, the Project Supply for 2020 will be approximately **140,000 acre-feet**. This is about 40 percent of what is needed to provide full irrigation. There are no present limitations on timing of diversion or delivery.
- The anticipated Project Supply is worse than 2010 and worse than 2015.
- Today, and assuming 140,000 acre-feet as the Project Supply, we anticipate that Reclamation may direct that there be an initial allocation of one-quarter acre-foot per-acre, for “Warren Act” contractors (sometimes called “B” contractors). That allocation could increase or decrease. We presently have no facts that indicate that it is likely to increase.
- The 140,000 acre-feet Project Supply is not sufficient to meet demand of all “A” contract land if all those lands are irrigated. However, there will be groundwater pumping in the Project that will increase overall water availability, and if there are unirrigated acres, this will reduce demand.



¹ We expect there will be sufficient water for the land on the “east side” of the Klamath Project (Langell Valley and Horsefly Irrigation Districts). The information in this paper is related to land served from Upper Klamath Lake and the Klamath River.

- There are current and potential litigation matters that could, directly or indirectly, affect 2020 Project Supply or timing of delivery of the limited water that will be available. The effect could be positive or negative. Our planning and monitoring is currently based on the assumption of 140,000 acre-feet Project Supply, but we cannot give assurances that there will be no change.

DROUGHT RESPONSE AGENCY PROGRAMS

- The Klamath Project Drought Response Agency (DRA) currently has some money in hand that it can provide for groundwater pumping and non-irrigated land programs. There is a reasonable potential the funding availability to the DRA will increase.
- As a hypothetical example, if the DRA ultimately earns \$10 million to spend on its programs, and assuming \$2.5 million is needed for groundwater pumping, and assuming 30,000 acres are not irrigated and approved for the land program, the payment per acre would be \$250 per acre on average. This, and any other example, depends on the degree of participation and the amount of funding.
- The greater the amount of land from “A” districts that can forego irrigation this year, the lesser the likelihood of severe Project-wide shortages and early shut-off.
- The DRA has, subject to receiving funding and its decisions on the ultimate mix of programs, approved the concept of a “partial season” program, which may be particularly suited for areas such as Klamath Drainage District.
- Any DRA full-season non-irrigated lands program will require non-irrigation from November 1, 2019 through October 31, 2020. Any partial season program will require non-irrigation from March 1, 2020 through October 31, 2020.
- You can contact the DRA at 541-630-0752 or info@klamathwaterbank.com. Also, program information can be found on www.klamathwaterbank.com.

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