

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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NEW REPORT: KLAMATH AGREEMENTS OFFER SIGNIFICANT BOOST TO SAGGING SISKIYOU COUNTY ECONOMY

- **Siskiyou County business revenue would be higher by \$20.68 million on an annual basis and average employment would increase by 298 full- and part-time jobs**
- **A "Yes" vote on Measure G supports this much-needed boost to economy**

Yreka, CA – A new independent study analyzing the economic benefits of the Klamath Settlement Agreements concludes that local counties will see significant increases in jobs and business revenues. The study focuses on activities associated with implementation of the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement (KBRA) and Klamath Hydro Settlement Agreement (KHSA) including the removal of four aging hydropower dams on the Klamath River. Although the Agreements have been signed by over 30 parties, including irrigation districts, tribes, conservation groups, along with state and federal agencies, implementation must wait until environmental reviews are completed and a public interest determination is made by the Secretary of Interior.

Local economies stand to experience significant benefits. “Siskiyou County would experience an increase in business revenues averaging \$20.68 million over the eleven years of KBRA restoration, irrigation improvement projects, and hydroelectric dam removal,” said the economic report’s author, Dr David Gallo Professor Emeritus at California State University, Chico. “On an annual basis, Siskiyou County income would be higher by \$16.58 million and average employment would increase by 298 full- and part-time jobs.”

This would more than replace the 210 construction jobs lost in Siskiyou County since the recession hit in 2008 and decrease the county unemployment rate by one and a half percent.

Many of the jobs created could be filled from the local labor force. Job categories include truckers, construction equipment operators, landscapers, fence installers, and a number of other categories involving minimal additional training, but a willingness to work in an outdoor environment

The study examined major categories of benefits that include the impacts of construction, restoration, monitoring, and reintroduction activities associated with dam removal and the implementation of the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement. Additional increases in revenues and jobs will also stem from expected improvements in the salmon fishery. Stabilizing agricultural production in the Klamath Basin has major economic implications as well. These benefits will be the topic of a future study focused specifically on the agricultural sector.

“The Klamath Settlement Agreements serve as one of the biggest and most promising economic development plans Siskiyou County has ever seen. We should support this proactive approach to solving long standing water conflicts and boosting our economy” said Jim Hardy, retired school administrator and Klamath Agreement supporter.

As a result of the KBRA, Siskiyou County is slated to receive a special \$20 million economic development fund. The report says the impact of this major investment depends on how it is used, “the largest impact would arise from the use of the fund to leverage private money in order to assist startups or expand existing local small businesses.” Proponents of the Agreements urge local business leaders to get involved with the effort early so that Siskiyou County can take maximum advantage of the opportunity.

“Siskiyou County has suffered more than most during the current recession. Here is an opportunity to bring water security to farmers and invest in construction and restoration jobs. I have not seen any alternative ideas or that come close to the major economic benefits that the Klamath Agreements offer. We should not think twice about voting ‘Yes’ on Measure G on November 2,” said Tule Lake farmer Steve Kandra.

The report mentions that there are other expected economic benefits of the Klamath Agreements that were not measured in this study including regional tourism and economic effects of the Klamath wildlife refuges and investments in renewable energy. Some of these benefits may be analyzed in future reports.

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California Trout is California leading fisheries conservation organization
PROSPER is the Partnership to Restore Stability and Prosperity to the Region

A copy of the report is available at
http://www.klamathriverrestoration.org/images/stories/Gallo_Klamath_Final_Report_Rev.pdf

More information is available online at <http://www.kbraequalsjobs.com/>

Note to editors/producers: Interviews with economic report author Dr. David Gallo are available upon request