

Klamath RCPP



Water Quality and Quantity in the Klamath Basin

Start Date: September 2016

End Date: December 2019

Objectives

1. Improve water quality in the Upper Klamath Basin
2. Increase water quantity flowing into Upper Klamath Lake and into the mainstem Klamath River
3. Increase drought resilience of producers and natural systems in the Upper Klamath Basin
4. Improve instream, wetland and riparian habitat for federally listed species

Specific Goals

- 1148 acres in Wetland Reserve Easements
- Riparian protection along 20 miles of streams, encompassing 400 acres
- 1600 acres in improved grazing management
- 5 miles of irrigation pipe conserving 6cfs of flow instream
- Irrigation efficiency improvements to conserve 100AF per year

Funding Total \$7.6m

Direct Assistance to Landowners: \$5.8m

Technical Assistance: \$550k

Assistance to NRCS: \$1.2m

Accomplishments as of February 2017

- Five landowner applications for EQIP water conservation projects (piping and irrigation efficiency), 1250 acres total
- One landowner application for wetland conservation (Wetland Reserve Easements), 1300 acres total
- Project development in progress for one additional irrigation piping project and three riparian protection projects



Future site of irrigation piping to increase conveyance efficiency and reduce water withdrawals (installation of pipe planned for 2017)



Example of degraded riparian area to be enrolled in EQIP for fencing, planting, and grazing management

Project Spotlight: Sun Creek Irrigation Piping

In association with a large habitat restoration project on Sun Creek, Trout Unlimited had partnered with the Sun Creek water users to install at least 4000' of irrigation piping to the ranches. This piping will reduce ditch loss in the irrigation conveyance ditch, and will allow the water users to irrigate more efficiently and reliably, all while retaining more water instream for ecological flows. In addition to RCPP funding, match funding has been secured from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. The project will benefit the Sun Creek bull trout (one of the few remaining populations of federally threatened bull trout in the Upper Klamath Basin), as well as native redband trout and recently listed Oregon spotted frog.



Current unregulated diversion on Sun Creek. Once piping is installed, the water users will be able to shut off the diversion point when water is not needed, and thereby increase instream flows

Sun Creek Piping Quick Project Specs

Pipe length: 4000' to 10,300'
(depending on final design decisions)
Maximum Irrigation Diversion: 15.5 cfs
Estimated Cost: \$660,000
Estimated Water Savings: 1.8 cfs
Acres of pasture affected: 850 acres