

Questions about the restoration program?

For more information, to get involved, or to send your ideas, contact KRRC at info@klamathrenewal.org or contact RES, the restoration contractor, at klamathinfo@res.us.

Local restoration jobs

KRRC's direct activities in the Klamath Basin, including dam deconstruction and restoration work, created a few hundred jobs in the Klamath Basin. Restoration work includes seed collection, plant propagation, and non-native plant control in the near term, as well as plant maintenance, propagation, and replacement after dam removal.

Public recreation along restored reservoirs

PacifiCorp owned the land underneath the reservoirs. Under the terms of the KHSA, ownership transferred to KRRC who will transfer the lands to California and Oregon, or other entities designated by the States. KRRC expects renewed public interest in boating, fishing, and recreation on the free-flowing river. Numerous studies indicate dam removal and habitat restoration will improve water quality and increase the abundance of several fish species.



Copco Reservoir area pre-dam, 1910. (Photo: George Crowe Photos)



Copco Reservoir 2017 (Photo: River Design Group)



Dam removal will create opportunities for new recreational activities on the Klamath River, including steelhead fishing. (Photo: Momentum River Expeditions)

We want to hear from you!

Do you have a question about KRRC's activities or how dam decommissioning and river restoration will impact your community? Would you like to share information with us? Please email info@klamathrenewal.org. Sign up for our e-newsletter at www.klamathrenewal.org/contact/

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Klamath River Renewal Project

Restoring Habitat on the Klamath River



Klamath River prior to Iron Gate Dam construction, 1960. (Photo: Morrison Knudsen)

KRRC's River Restoration Work

KRRC's reservoir area restoration efforts focus on restoring native vegetation and natural river function. These efforts will restore wildlife and fish habitats, so that the river and floodplain perform similarly to how they did before the dams were installed.



Restoration revegetation in the reservoir footprint. (Photo: Dan Chase, Resource Environmental Solutions)

Comprehensive

KRRC is restoring formerly inundated lands beneath the reservoirs and other lands in the project area. The goal is to promote natural, sustainable river and floodplain ecosystems.

Research-Based

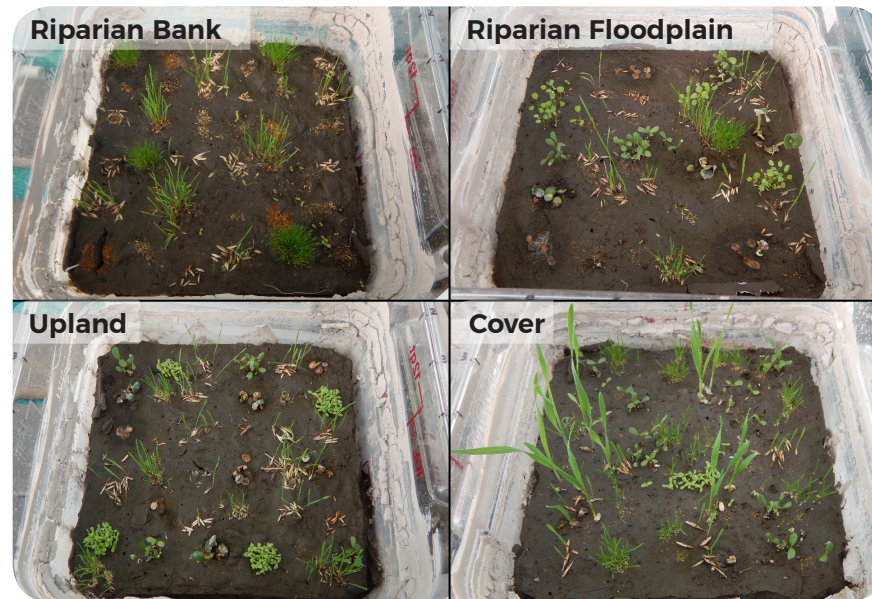
KRRC is combining site-based analysis with research and lessons learned from restoration to create a thorough plan. For example, KRRC performed grow tests using actual reservoir sediment and likely seed mixes. These tests identified the most suitable native vegetation for successful restoration work.

Adaptive

KRRC is monitoring restoration plantings to ensure growth, assess health of new plantings, and remove invasive vegetation. Habitat improvement efforts focus on "process-based" activities to restart natural river function. Strategies are modified as necessary to ensure successful, natural restoration.

Long-term

KRRC will perform long-term monitoring and adaptive management to support restoration. Similar dam removal and restoration projects have required continued monitoring and adaptive management for 5 to 10 years.



Grow tests for Copco reservoir sediment using potential restoration seeds. (Photos: approximately 3 weeks after seed planting)



The first phase of restoration went even better than expected, with vigorous plant growth and swift use of the new habitat by pollinators and other wildlife. (Photo: Olivia Vosburg, Resource Environmental Solutions)

Restoration is a three-step process

Post-reservoir drawdown

Step 1: Initial Seeding of Newly Exposed Land

- Stabilize remaining sediment by helicopter and ground-based broadcast seeding while sediments are too soft to access with larger planting equipment
- Use invasive weed management to limit the spread of invasive exotic vegetation in restoration areas



Post-removal Restoration

Step 2: Habitat Restoration and Revegetation

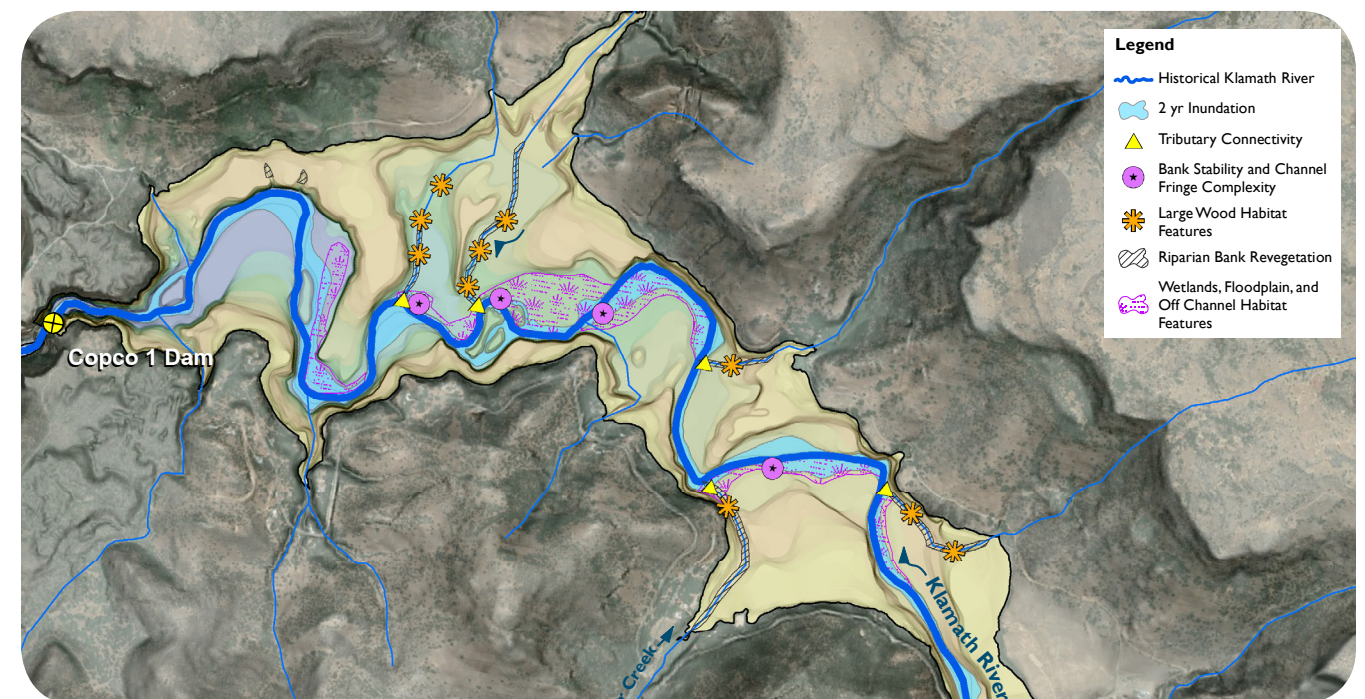
- Create habitat along river edges by planting riparian and upland plants throughout reservoir areas
- Ensure fish habitat along priority tributaries to the Klamath River with targeted grading and habitat restoration



Longer-term Adaptive Management

Step 3: Monitoring and Adaptive Management

- Monitor the revegetation and invasive weed management to ensure success and support wildlife. Adapt as needed.
- Monitor fish passage and aquatic habitat to ensure success and support fish. Adapt as needed.



Comprehensive restoration actions for Copco No. 1 reservoir area. Yellow area is the former reservoir footprint.