activities being conducted by Federal, Tribal, and State governments and agencies, fish disease research activities, continued implementation of Reclamation’s Pilot Water Bank Program, and programs to improve fish passage and screen irrigation diversions.

New programs that may be established by the KBRA include a Fisheries Restoration Plan, Fisheries Reintroduction Plan, Fisheries Monitoring Plan, Water Diversion Limitation and Pumping Plan, Water Rights Purchase Plan, Drought Plan, Environmental Water Plan, Counties’ Impacts-Mitigation and Benefits Program, Tribal Programs, establishment of wildlife refuge water allocation, and additional water conservation and storage actions.

The KHSA lays out the process for additional studies, environmental review, and a decision by the Secretary regarding whether removal of four dams owned by PacifiCorp: (1) Will advance the restoration of the salmonid fisheries of the Klamath Basin, and (2) is in the public interest, which includes, but is not limited to, consideration of potential impacts on affected local communities and tribes.

Purpose and Need and Proposed Action

The purpose of the proposed Federal action is to advance restoration of the salmonid fisheries in the Klamath Basin that is in the public interest, and is consistent with the KHSA and the KBRA. Pursuant to the KHSA, the Secretary needs to make a determination whether to proceed with the removal of the four PacifiCorp Dams on the Klamath River. The proposed action is to make a determination, pursuant to the KHSA, as to whether removal of the four lower dams on the Klamath River to achieve a free-flowing condition and allow full volitional passage of fish is in the public interest, will advance restoration of the salmonid fishery and is consistent with statutory obligations and tribal rights. The potential impacts of any connected actions, including any such actions under the KBRA, will be analyzed.

Environmental Issues and Resources To Be Examined

The EIS/EIR will be used to inform the Secretary when making his decision regarding implementation of the KHSA and any potential follow-on programs that may be implemented as part of the KBRA. If, pursuant to the KHSA, the Secretary’s decision is affirmative, the EIS/EIR will be used by the Governors of the States of California and Oregon to inform each whether to concur in that determination. The EIS/EIR will include analysis and disclosures of the effects on the quality of the human and physical environment that may occur as a result of implementation of the KHSA and any potential follow-on programs including those programs in the KBRA.

Issues to be addressed may include, but are not limited to, impacts on biological resources, historic and archaeological resources, geomorphology, hydrology, water quality, air quality, safety, hazardous materials and waste, visual resources, socioeconomics, including real estate, and environmental justice.

Public Scoping Sessions

The Department and CDFG will hold six public information and scoping meetings according to the dates and locations listed below. Oral and written comments will be accepted at the public meetings.

Dated: June 7, 2010.

Dennis Lynch,
Program Manager, Klamath Basin Secretarial Determination.

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