

# Upper Klamath Lake Subbasin

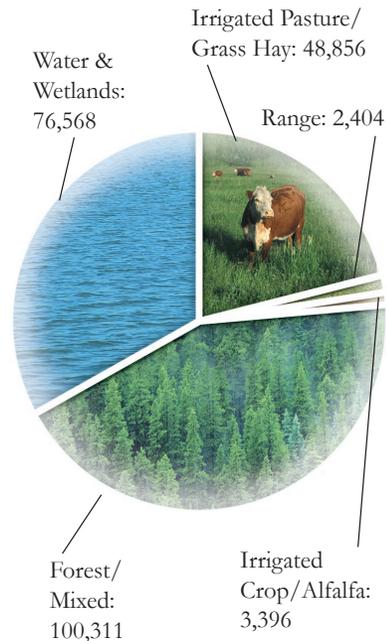
The Upper Klamath Lake Subbasin covers 465,300 acres from Crater Lake to the outlet of Upper Klamath Lake into the Link River. Historically, some 43,000 acres of wetlands surrounded Agency and Upper Klamath Lake. Today, 17,000 acres have been preserved as part of the Upper Klamath Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Another 11,000 acres have been acquired for restoration.

Irrigated agriculture is primarily pasture. Livestock are generally stocker cattle, who graze between April and November. Pasture condition is generally fair. Most livestock obtain water from streams and ditches. Irrigation water is diverted from streams or pumped from the lake. Most diversions do not have fish screens or devices to measure water. Although overall irrigation application efficiency is low, the additional water raises the water table and subirrigated pastures. Some acreages of hay and cereal crops are grown, and irrigation efficiencies are higher than for pasture. However, most require maintenance and re-leveling.

Forestlands are primarily pine and mixed fir and hemlock. Most private lands in the subbasin are forest or rangelands, with approximately 80 percent used for grazing. More than half of the forest stands are significantly overstocked with trees.

Wildlife habitat varies in condition. Of 70 total miles, 21 miles of streamside riparian areas are in good condition and another 12 miles are being restored.

**Upper Klamath Lake Subbasin**  
Agricultural Land Use/Cover



# Upper Klamath Lake Subbasin

## Land Ownership

Private Lands	235,100
Public Lands	<u>230,200</u>
<b>Total Land Area:</b>	<b>465,300</b>

## Irrigated Acres

USBR Project:	0
Non-USBR:	<u>52,300</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>52,300</b>

## Resource Concerns

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Water quality in the Upper Klamath Lake is a major resource concern, affecting subbasin fish survival, with phosphorus loading as the greatest factor.

The loss of wetland vegetation around the lake has also been linked to lower survival rates for endangered suckers. The lower reaches of the Wood River and Sevenmile Creek provide some rearing habitat for larval and juvenile suckers.

The Wood River, Sevenmile Creek and their tributaries support populations of bull and interior redband trout. A highly valued “catch and release” sport fishery occurs on the Wood River and several of its tributaries. There is significant interest in enhancing riparian habitat along these streams to protect and promote these fisheries.

## Conservation Accomplishments

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In the Upper Klamath Lake Subbasin during the last two years, some conservation progress has been made. With assistance from NRCS and local conservation districts, land managers have improved 12 acres of grazing lands and improved water quality and quantity on 12 acres of irrigated land.

Several thousand more acres of wetland restoration are in the process of being planned or implemented around Upper Klamath Lake.

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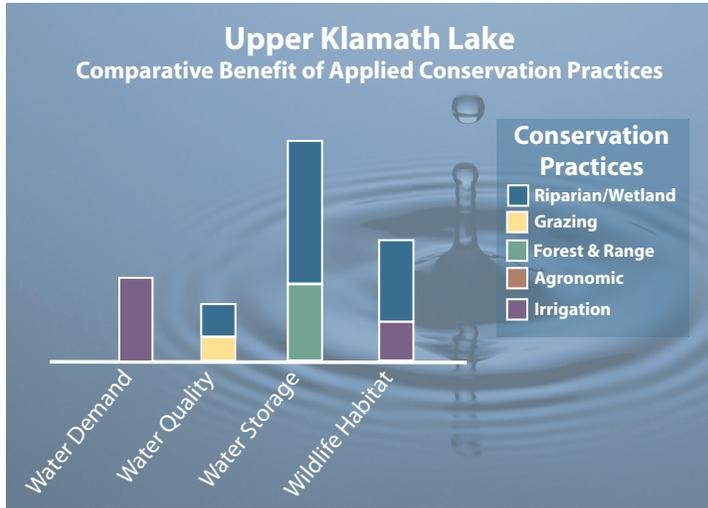
## Priority Conservation Opportunities

**Water Quality:** The most effective conservation includes practices that restore riparian areas, improve grazing management and increase irrigation efficiency. This can be accomplished by either converting pastures to permanent wildlife habitat or by creating riparian pastures.

While most pastures are being inefficiently irrigated, conditions do not warrant extensive changes from current flood irrigation systems since water is reused or enters the soil profile

**Water Storage:** In the Upper Klamath Lake Subbasin, the potential for non-traditional water storage presents a unique conservation opportunity.

Restoring drained wetlands, still farmed around Upper Klamath Lake, could produce positive benefits for all four resource concerns. By actively managing areas for both seasonal wetlands and farming, water can be both filtered to improve water quality and stored in wetland areas for future use.



## Conservation Investment

### Projected Conservation Acres to be Treated\*

Irrigated Land.....	42,500
Range & Forestland ...	36,300
Wildlife Habitat.....	2,900

### Estimated Installation Cost

Irrigated Land	.....	\$10,462,000
Range & Forestland	.....	\$7,254,000
Wildlife Habitat	.....	\$4,113,000

### Estimated Annual Operation, Maintenance & Management Cost

Irrigated Land	.....	\$2,017,000
Range & Forestland	.....	\$308,000
Wildlife Habitat	.....	\$130,000

\*Based on conservation need and projected participation rates.