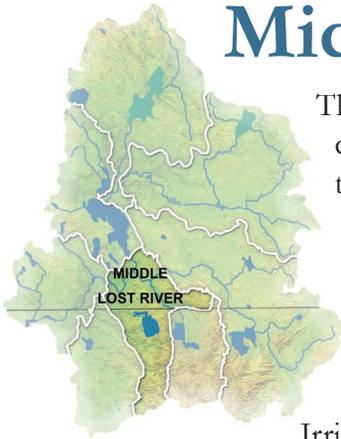


Middle Lost River Subbasin



The Middle Lost River Subbasin covers 454,500 acres and is the center of the USBR Klamath Project. Farms near Klamath Falls tend to be smaller, indicating part-time or hobby operations.

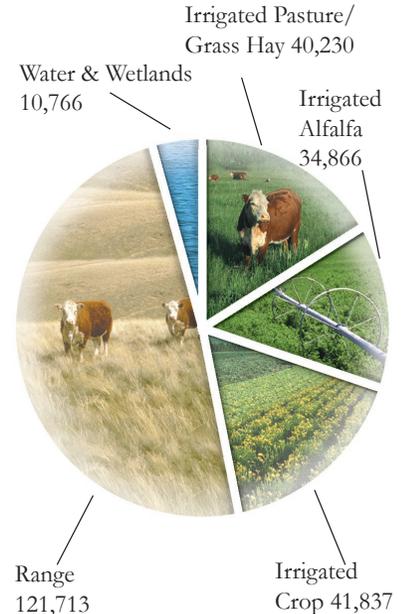
The area includes 12 irrigation districts and leased lands on the Lower Klamath Wildlife Refuge that receive water supplied by the USBR Klamath Project. Public lands include the refuge, and parts of Modoc and Klamath national forests.

Irrigated agriculture includes pasture, alfalfa, cereal grain, potatoes, onions and mint. Roughly 70 percent is irrigated with USBR-supplied water; the rest is obtained from groundwater, individual surface water rights or special USBR contracts. Many fields are either flood or sprinkler irrigated depending on the year and crop. Most farm irrigation diversions lack a means to measure water delivery.

Livestock operations include several dairies and cattle feeding operations. Substantial range acreage is used for livestock grazing. Pasture condition is fair and most pastures have not been renovated or re-leveled for some time. Pastures associated with smaller livestock operations in and around Klamath Falls appear to be in the most need of improved pastures and irrigation systems.

Wildlife habitat: Ten river miles are in relatively good riparian condition given the river is used for conveying irrigation water. Some 13 miles of stream lack adequate riparian vegetation and streambank protection.

Middle Lost River Subbasin Agricultural Land Use/Cover



Middle Lost River Subbasin

Land Ownership

Private Lands	272,900
Public Lands	<u>181,600</u>
Total Land Area:	454,500

Irrigated Acres

USBR Project:	84,700
Non-USBR:	<u>32,300</u>
Total:	117,000

Resource Concerns

The primary concern is maintaining a reliable water supply that meets the needs of all users. Drought conditions and increased competition for available water have increased economic, social, political and environmental concerns and uncertainty over the future.

Habitat and water quality are two additional major resource concerns in the subbasin. High water temperatures are usually linked to lack of shade, irrigation return flow or other warm water inputs.

As measured by total phosphorus, water quality appears to be gradually improving. Agriculture is the dominant land use in this subbasin, but other pollutant sources exist.

While the river had significant historic fish runs, it currently supports only a small sucker population.

Conservation Accomplishments

In the last two years, the Middle Lost River Subbasin has seen significant conservation progress. With assistance from NRCS and local conservation districts, land managers have improved the condition of natural resources on 489 acres of cropland and 3,521 grazing land acres.

In addition, 564 acres of riparian and wetland areas have been restored, and water use efficiency has been increased on 3,731 acres of irrigated lands.

Priority Conservation Opportunities

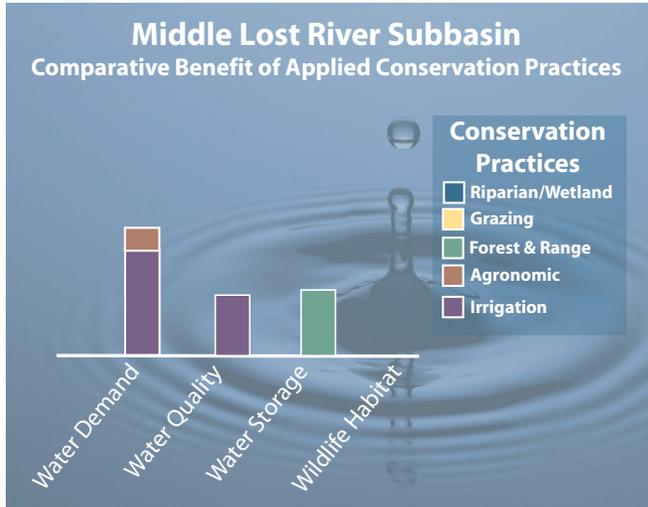
Water Demand: Providing irrigators with water measurement tools and training on irrigation scheduling would improve their ability to apply irrigation water more efficiently.

Highly effective conservation measures on headwaters and cropland should focus on updating existing irrigation systems and improving irrigation water management.

Water Quality: The use of grazing systems that rotate livestock through smaller pastures will increase forage production, reduce soil compaction and improve water quality.

While fishery benefits from restoring riparian areas are minimal, streamside buffers will improve water quality and provide habitat for other wildlife.

On cropland, integrated pest management, irrigation scheduling, increasing crop residue or installing filter strips will minimize risks associated with some pesticides used on cereal grains, potatoes, onions and other crops.



Conservation Investment

Projected Conservation Acres to be Treated*

Irrigated Land.....	80,400
Range & Forestland ...	85,200
Wildlife Habitat.....	400

Estimated Installation Cost

Irrigated Land	
.....	\$18,859,000
Range & Forestland	
.....	\$6,797,000
Wildlife Habitat	
.....	\$195,000

Estimated Annual Operation, Maintenance & Management Cost

Irrigated Land	
.....	\$5,585,000
Range & Forestland	
.....	\$902,000
Wildlife Habitat	
.....	\$8,000

*Based on conservation need and projected participation rates.