

# **Joint Biological and Conference Opinion on the Proposed Removal of Four Dams on the Klamath River**

## ***About the Document***

**Title:** Interim Work Product: Joint Biological and Conference Opinion on the Proposed Removal of Four Dams on the Klamath River

**Subject and Purpose:** This document is an Interim Work Product of a biological opinion jointly written by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service. The Interim Work Product is based on our review of the proposed Removal of Four Dams on the Klamath River for the Bureau of Reclamation, pursuant to the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement, and located in Jackson, Lake, and Klamath Counties in Oregon, and Siskiyou, Modoc, Trinity, Humboldt and Del Norte Counties in California. At this time, the dissemination date of the final biological opinion is unknown.

**Importance of Scientific Information:** This Interim Work Product includes scientific information about multiple FWS listed species (Lost River and shortnose suckers, bull trout, northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet) and provides the rationale to support a finding of no jeopardy or adverse modification.

## ***About the Peer Review Process***

**Type of review:** Individual contacts.

**Number of reviewers:** The Service contracted Atkins North America to select 3 expert reviewers and conduct an independent peer review of the Interim Work Product entitled Joint Biological and Conference Opinion on the Proposed Removal of Four Dams on the Klamath River.

**Reviewer Expertise:** Western lake-sucker and bull trout biology, genetics, conservation, and ecology; biology and ecology of salmonids; biology and ecology of northern spotted owls and marbled murrelets.

**Selection of Peer Reviewer:** Atkins North America selected peer reviewers based on their expertise with the subject matter.

**Management and Timing of Peer Reviewer:** The contract was managed by the FWS, and the peer review was managed by Atkins North America. The peer review began on approximately February 7, 2012, and a final report containing the results of the peer review was sent by Atkins North America to the Arcata Fish and Wildlife Office on February 27, 2012.

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