

## Klamath Basin

### Description

The Klamath Basin is a broad, relatively flat valley extending from the eastern foothills of the Cascade Range and Oregon's portion of the Northern Great Basin into the Modoc Plateau in California. The climate is characterized by hot, dry summers and wet, cold winters. About half the basin is publicly owned. The Oregon Forest Legacy Assessment showed this basin having one of the highest historical losses of forests in Oregon (second only to the Willamette), mostly declines in Ponderosa pine habitats.

Upper Klamath Lake, Oregon's largest lake, is one remnant of a vast expanse of lakes and marshes that once covered the basin. Although most of the basin's historic wetlands have been drained for use as agricultural land, many lakes and wetlands still dot the basin along the Klamath, Sycan, Sprague, Williamson, and Wood rivers. Anadromous fish are blocked from the Upper Klamath Basin by dams on the mainstem Klamath River. The basin contains a number of endemic fish species.

Some of Oregon's most important wildlife habitats are located in the Klamath basin. Situated at the convergence of the migratory routes of numerous bird species, the basin is a critical component of the Pacific Flyway and is recognized as supporting one of the largest concentrations of waterfowl, and the largest wintering population of bald eagles, in North America. Most of the at-risk species in the basin – both terrestrial and aquatic – are associated with wetland and riparian habitats. The extensive list of priority invertebrates reflects the large number of small, isolated springs containing numerous endemic species of snails.

In recent years a number of major wetland restoration projects have been initiated in the basin involving federal, state, non-profit and private partners.

### Priority Ecological Systems

- Alkaline wetlands
- Aquatic bed
- Freshwater emergent marsh
- Klamath mixed oak-evergreen woodland
- Lowland riparian woodland and shrubland
- Oak woodland
- Ponderosa pine woodland
- Silver sagebrush steppe
- Subalpine or montane wet meadow
- Vernal pool

### Rare or At-Risk Plant Communities

- Arroyo willow - creek dogwood

Basin big sagebrush / basin wildrye  
Basin wildrye bottomlands  
Bitterbrush / Idaho fescue - (bluebunch wheatgrass)  
Cascade downingia - least navarretia vernal pool  
Chinquapin  
Coyote willow - Pacific willow  
Greenleaf manzanita - cherry - bitterbrush chaparral  
Ponderosa pine - Oregon white oak / arrowleaf balsamroot  
Sandberg bluegrass - Lemmon alkaligrass  
Scouler willow  
Tufted hairgrass - Douglas' sedge alkaline prairie  
White oak / blue wildrye  
White oak / bluebunch wheatgrass  
Wyoming big sagebrush / needle-and-thread

Klamath Basin – Priority Species

<i>Fish</i>	<i>Birds</i>	<i>Mammals</i>	<i>Amphibians and Reptiles</i>	<i>Invertebrates</i>	<i>Plants</i>
Inland Redband Trout Bull Trout Lost River Sucker Shortnose Sucker	American Bittern Bald Eagle (nest and roost sites only) Greater Sandhill Crane Green Heron Lewis's Woodpecker Loggerhead Shrike Swainson's Hawk Tricolored Blackbird Trumpeter Swan Willet Yellow Rail Yellow Warbler	California Kangaroo Rat Pallid Bat Ringtail Townsend's Big- Eared Bat White-Tailed Jackrabbit	Northwestern Pond Turtle Oregon Spotted Frog	See Separate Sheet	<i>Astragalus applegatei</i> (Applegate's Milk-Vetch) <i>Perideridia erythrorhiza</i> (Red- Root Yampah) <i>Thelypodium howellii</i> ssp. <i>howellii</i> (Howell's Thelypody)

## Klamath Basin Priority Invertebrates

*Amnicola* sp. 5 (Klamath Dusksnail)  
*Amnicola* sp. 7 (Mare's Egg Dusksnail)  
*Amnicola* sp 8 (Nodose Dusksnail)  
*Flumicola* Sp 11 (Nerite Pebblesnail)  
*Flumicola* Sp 12 (Odessa Pebblesnail)  
*Flumicola* Sp 13 (Ouxy Spring Pebblesnail)  
*Flumicola* Sp 14 (Tall Pebblesnail)  
*Flumicola* Sp 15 (Tiger Lily Pebblesnail)  
*Flumicola* Sp 16 (Toothed Pebblesnail)  
*Flumicola* Sp 18 (Wood River Pebblesnail)  
*Flumicola* Sp 2 (Casebeer Pebblesnail)  
*Flumicola* Sp 20 (Crooked Creek Pebblesnail)  
*Flumicola* Sp 3 (Diminutive Pebblesnail)  
*Flumicola* Sp 4 (Fall Creek Pebblesnail)  
*Flumicola* Sp 5 (Klamath Pebblesnail)  
*Flumicola* Sp 6 (Klamath Rim Pebblesnail)  
*Flumicola* Sp 7 (Lake Of The Woods Pebblesnail)  
*Flumicola* Sp 8 (Lost River Pebblesnail)  
*Helisoma newberryi* (Great Basin ramshorn)  
*Lanx klamathensis* (Scale Lanx – Snail)  
*Pisidium ultrmontanum* (Montane Peaclam)  
*Pyrgulopsis archimedis* (Archimedes Springsnail)  
*Pyrgulopsis* Sp 7 (Lost River Springsnail)  
*Pyrgulopsis* Sp 9 (Klamath Lake Springsnail)  
*Vespericola sierranus* (Siskiyou Hesperian (Snail))  
*Vorticifex klamathensis* (Ramshorn (Snail))