Water Quality Report Card

Microcystins in Klamath River

Regional Water Board: North Coast, Region 1

Beneficial Uses Affected: REC-1

STATUS Improvement Needed

Implemented Through: Klamath River TMDLs Addressing Temperature, Dissolved Oxygen, Nutrient, and Microcystin Impairments

Pollutant Type: Nonpoint Source

Pollutant Source: Unknown, logging

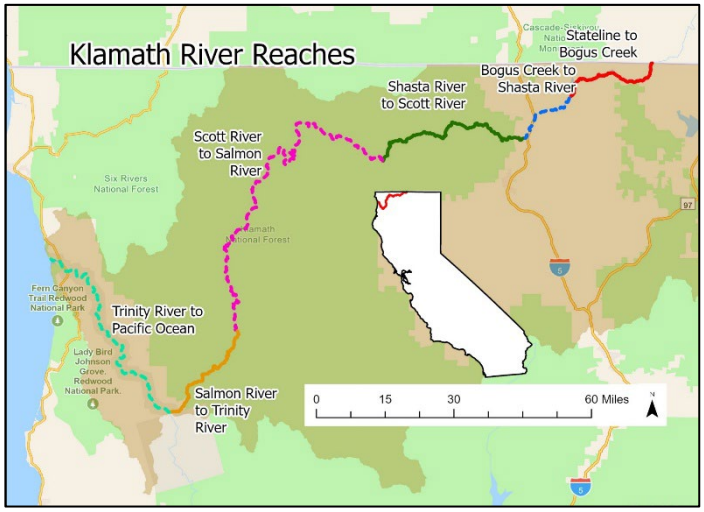
Effective Date: December 28, 2010

Attainment Date: Based on PacifiCorp implementation plan

Water Quality Improvement Strategy

The Klamath River originates in Oregon and then flows through California before reaching the Pacific Ocean. This report addressed the Water Contact Recreation (REC-1) beneficial use. Microcystins largely originated in Copco and Iron Gate reservoirs, which were removed in 2024. A TMDL and action plan were implemented in 2010. For more information, please visit https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/tmdls/klamath_river/.

Klamath River Map



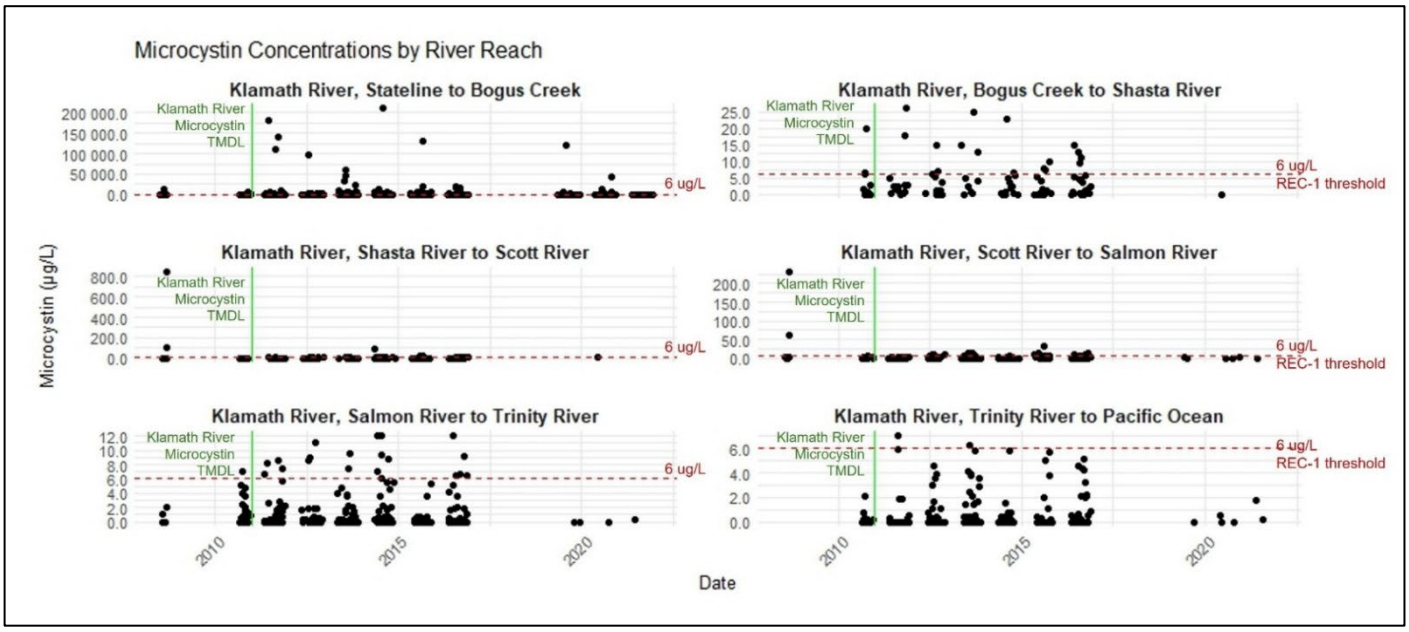
TMDL Waste Load Allocations/Load Allocations

The TMDL does not specify waste load allocations and load allocations for microcystins; rather, microcystins are assessed through nitrogen and phosphorus loads and hydrologic restoration [dam removal].

Water Quality Outcomes

Microcystin trends are slightly decreasing. The TMDL action plan will continue to be implemented, and the dam removals are expected to allow for ongoing flushing of stored nutrients.

Water Quality



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