Klamath Basin Water Quality Monitoring Coordination Group

http://www.humboldt.edu/~kwi/

Klamath Basin Water Quality Monitoring Coordination Group (KBWQMCG) is a partnership formed to enhance water quality throughout the Klamath River Basin. The group has gone thru various iterations, primarily serving as a place for the wide range of entities within the Klamath River Basin to share data and findings, and later, to organize and better utilize limited resources in assessing conditions for various management questions. In 2008, the Group reconvened, partnering with the Klamath Watershed Institute at Humboldt State and North Coast RWQCB SWAMP thru a grant from the Non-point Source Program at the State Board, with 5 specific goals:

1. Convene/facilitate regular meetings of the group and its subcommittees.
2. Establish a transparent and an efficient process for communication among the group and the general public.
3. Develop a draft long-term monitoring plan including key management questions and monitoring objectives.
4. Develop a centralized Internet-based clearinghouse for monitoring data.
5. Identify and assess options for establishing a sustainable institution for coordination and funding of monitoring activities.

This group has a wide range of partners, including both State and Federal entities, Tribal governments, Citizen Monitoring groups, private and public companies, and others; addressing a variety of questions such as Salmon Restoration, dam removals, protecting Tribal community needs, fish disease research, and blue-green algae. There are several impaired water body issues and subsequent TMDL questions to be answered as well. Each of these questions are challenging in themselves, but combined they make a daunting task. The partners felt a larger basin-wide approach would provide the information and relationships necessary to have a more sustainable long-term proactive management plan.

The next steps are to finalize the 2010 Basin-wide Monitoring Plan, provide a newsletter informing group members and the public of activities within the Klamath River Basin, and launch the database to store that monitoring data. This data management system will connect with the larger CEDEN system, making that data available for management decisions and to the public.