



Oregon Wild

Brett Cole

# Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges

## Lower Klamath and Tule Lake: for pelicans or potatoes?

As Lower Klamath Refuge turns 100, these public lands continue to face environmental challenges with valuable wetland habitat used for commercial agriculture.

### Help celebrate the refuges and create a vision for their future!

One hundred and fifty years ago early settlers in the Klamath Basin were met by a vast expanse of 350,000 acres of wetlands, shallow lakes and marshes, and a roaring, salmon rich-river winding through the countryside. Today 80% of these wetlands have been drained in the interest of commercial agriculture.

Until the introduction of the Klamath Irrigation Project in 1905, the Klamath Basin was an ecological marvel, with the third largest salmon run in the West and over seven million waterfowl visiting the Basin

wetlands each year to rest, refuel, and breed.

The year 2008 marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Theodore Roosevelt's visionary designation of 81,000 acres of Lower Klamath Lake as the first National Wildlife Refuge for waterfowl. In order to truly celebrate the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges, we need a vision for their future that creates more habitat, cleaner water, and safer havens for migratory and breeding birds and other wildlife.

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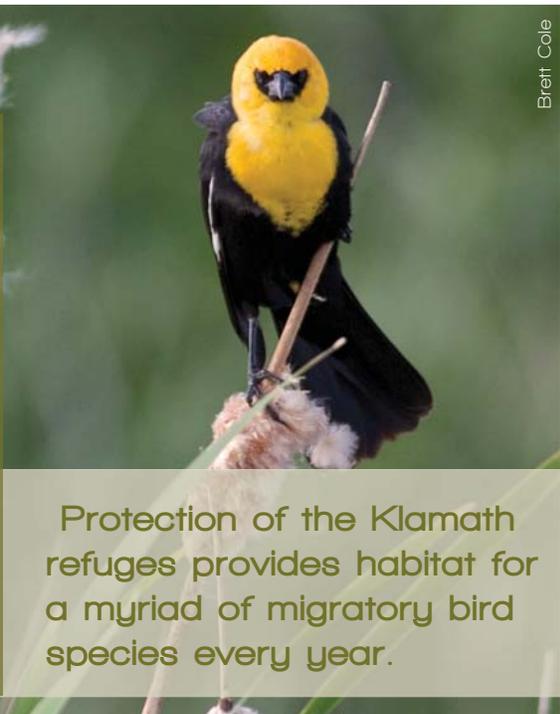
## What can you do?

### Sign a postcard or send a letter

Please consider signing an Oregon Wild postcard to Governors Kulongoski and Schwarzenegger asking for support on this issue. You may also write a letter of concern to federal lawmakers requesting their attention to these special refuges. Contact Ani at Oregon Wild with questions or support for letter campaigns.

### Become an Oregon Wild member

Our work depends on the support of members and organizations like yours. Help sustain our Klamath Campaign so that we may provide ongoing advocacy for these remarkable refuges. Become an Oregon Wild member today!



Protection of the Klamath refuges provides habitat for a myriad of migratory bird species every year.

## Fast Facts about Lower Klamath and Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuges:

- Only 20% of the original wetlands remain within the Klamath Basin
- The 1997 National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act made conservation a national refuge priority - however, over 32,000 acres of refuge land are still used for commercial, often chemical-intensive, agriculture
- Commercial farms receive water guarantees before refuges
- Over 430 wildlife species, including 263 bird species, have been observed in the basin
- Three of the 13 remaining White Pelican colonies live on the refuges

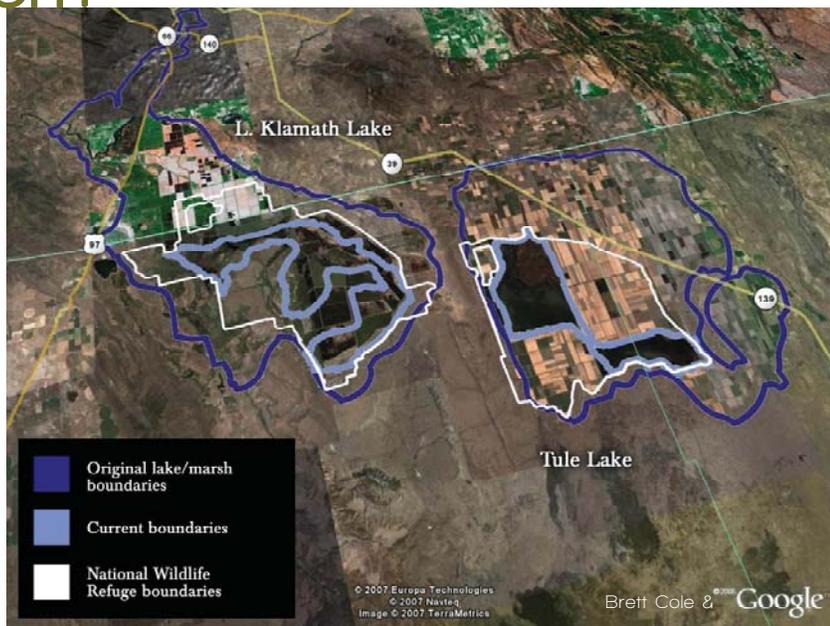
## Why provide protection?

Commercial agriculture on refuges allows for harmful pesticide and herbicide use, destroys valuable wildlife habitat, and limits the refuges' water purification and storage abilities.

The Klamath's upper-basin wetlands are nature's most efficient water filter, providing cleaner, cooler water for habitat and downstream wildlife.

Stable refuges provide habitat for 1-2 million migratory birds to rest and refuel, as well as a sanctuary for valuable breeding bird species.

We appreciate your support of our work to restore these unique ecological treasures!



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