



The Klamath is also complicated as far as water rights, case law, fishing allocations, and politics. In 2001 the Bush administration decide to use the Klamath in it's push to undo the Endangered Species Act after farmers hosted a large protests call the Bucket Brigade. They overrode a Biological Opinion meant to protect coho salmon and endangered sucker fish, which limited the farmers water deliveries. The next year a fish kill of up to 64,000 on the Yurok reservation devastated the local community and the fishing industry. Since then juvenile fish kills have occurred many years and adult fish kills have been narrowly avoided due to Trinity River water releases.



The Klamath is also complicated as far as Tribes and Tribal rights. The Yurok, Hoopa Valley, Karuk, Shasta, Quartz Valley, and Resighini Tribes call the basin their home. Some of these Tribes are federally recognised, some have reservations, some have been terminated and had their reservations taken, and some have rancherias. The Yurok Tribe has established fishing rights due to a case that went to the Supreme Court. The Hoopa Tribe also has fishing rights. The Klamath Tribe has an adjudicated water right won after about 30 years and two 9th circuit court of appeals cases, which helped establish important case law.



The Klamath is also undergoing a FERC relicensing, which has led to an agreement to take down four dams. The campaign to take down the dams, which was led by Tribes, used science, the law, negotiations and direct action to accomplish its goal of dam removal. The fish kill was a catalyst for this movement.

