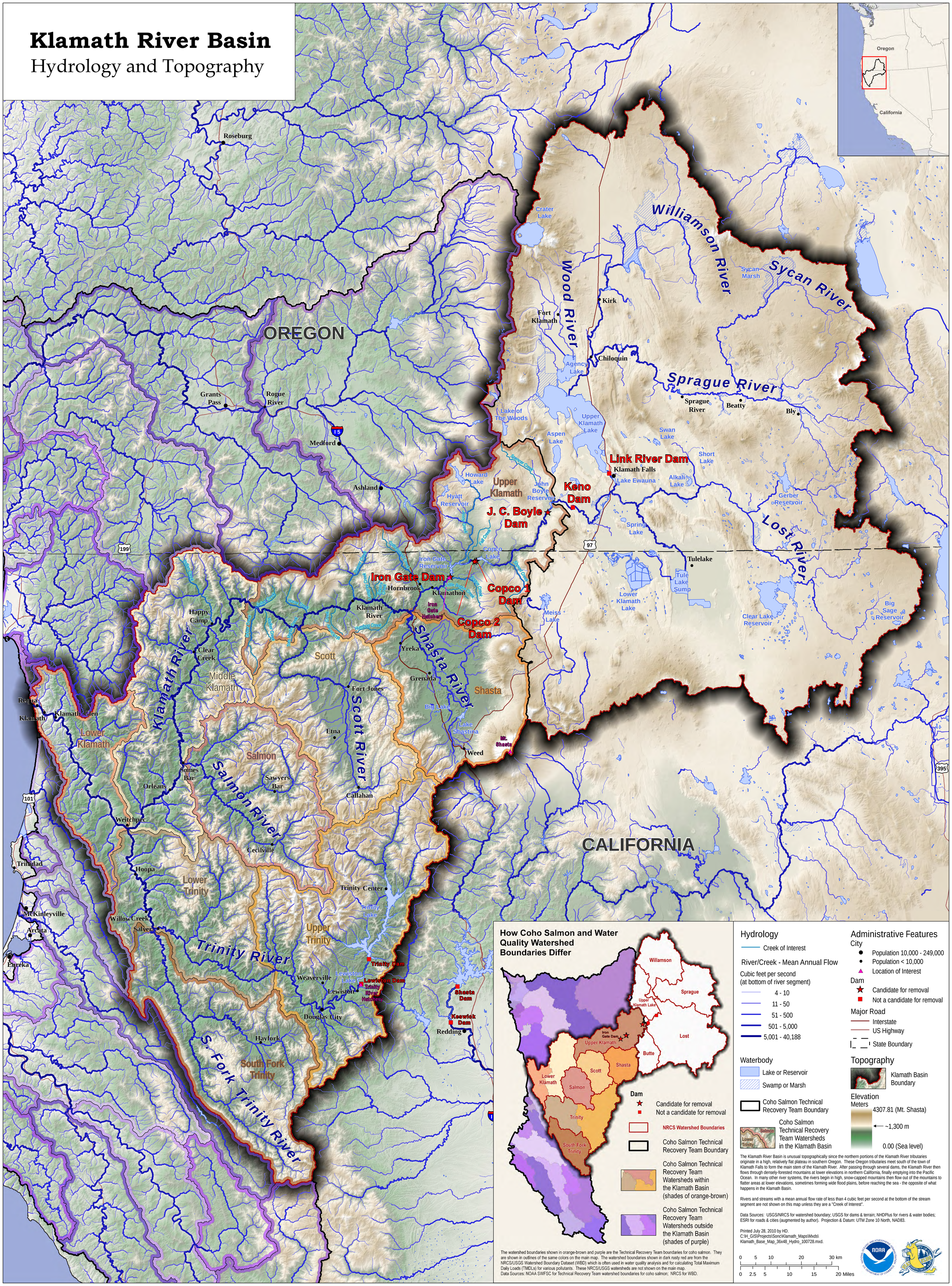
Klamath River Basin

Hydrology and Topography



The watershed boundaries shown in orange-brown and purple are the Technical Recovery Team boundaries for coho salmon. They are shown in outlines of the same colors on the main map. The watershed boundaries shown in dark rusty red are from the NRCS/USGS Watershed Boundary Dataset (WBD) which is often used in water quality analysis and for calculating Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for various pollutants. These NRCS/USGS watersheds are not shown on the main map.
Data Sources: NOAA SWFSC for Technical Recovery Team watershed boundaries for coho salmon; NRCS for WBD.

The Klamath River Basin is unusual topographically since the northern portions of the Klamath River tributaries originate in a high, relatively flat plateau in southern Oregon. These Oregon tributaries meet south of the town of Klamath Falls to form the main stem of the Klamath River. After passing through several dams, the Klamath River then flows through densely-forested mountains at lower elevations in northern California, finally emptying into the Pacific Ocean. In many other river systems, the rivers begin in high, snow-capped mountains then flow out of the mountains to flatter areas at lower elevations, sometimes forming wide flood plains, before reaching the sea - the opposite of what happens in the Klamath Basin.

Rivers and streams with a mean annual flow rate of less than 4 cubic feet per second at the bottom of the stream segment are not shown on this map unless they are a "Creek of Interest".

Data Sources: USGS/NRCS for watershed boundary; USGS for dams & terrain; NHDPlus for rivers & water bodies; ESRI for roads & cities (augmented by author). Projection & Datum: UTM Zone 10 North, NAD83.

Printed July 28, 2010 by HD.
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