

# Project will help keep tabs on water supply

Watershed viewer to be unveiled soon

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Imagine a resource that would allow you to see how much precipitation the Klamath Basin has received, how much water is in the region's reservoirs, where the water diversions are and who has water rights.

That's what North Dakota-based Houston Engineering will unveil for Klamath County in the coming months.

The engineering firm hired by Klamath County has spent months developing what it calls an online watershed viewer. It's also working

on a viewer that would display restoration projects occurring throughout the watershed in Oregon and California.

## The watershed viewer

Mark Deutschman, the firm's vice president, told the county's Natural Resources Advisory Committee last week that the watershed viewer would inform and educate residents about the management of water resources in the Basin, using data from other government agencies and sources.

The two projects are an offshoot of a broader project Houston Engineering is working on for the county called Klamath Map.

That project would provide an online map of various data about the county, from where school district bound-

aries are to zoning and ownership of land. That resource should be available to residents in about two months.

## Water data

The watershed viewer also would be in the form of a map, but would focus strictly on water-related data. It would have a schematic showing how all the streams, rivers, lakes and reservoirs are related and used, and provide a host of other information.

Information would be culled from online sources such as the Natural Resource Conservation Service and Oregon Water Resources Department, Deutschman said. The connections would allow viewers to go to the original sources.

A related project, a restoration projects

## Meeting postponed

Klamath County's Natural Resources Advisory Committee will meet with five groups involved in water issues and the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement in January.

Conflicts with the schedules of Klamath County commissioners prompted the meeting be postponed from its original Nov. 30 date. The county has yet schedule January's meeting date.

viewer that is further from completion, would pull information from five government agency databases to show where restoration projects, from improving fish passage to restoring wetlands, are taking place throughout the watershed in Oregon

and California.

## Some data unavailable

Some data on restoration projects wouldn't be available, such as the owner of the project land, but Stephanie Johnson of Houston Engineering said the firm is looking for a way to allow communities to provide information of their own.

"This could potentially be used to find future restoration projects," she said.

Committee members had concerns and questions. Committee member Andrea Rabé pointed out that a schematic of the Basin's rivers and reservoirs incorrectly showed Crater Lake as the source of the Wood River.

Committee liaison Lani Hickey said that's why the county wants committee members to test the viewers before they're presented to the public.