



Data Management Plan

Klamath Inventory and Monitoring Network

Natural Resource Report NPS/KLMN/NRR—2007/012



ON THE COVER

Collage of photographs in the Klamath Network including Landbird Database (top left), Image Database (top right), Intertidal Protocol (bottom left) by Sean Mohren, botany field crew (bottom center) by Daniel Sarr, and park resources (bottom right) by Laura Bridy

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Executive Summary

The overall mission of the U.S. National Park Service is to conserve natural resources in a manner that leaves them unimpaired for future generations. To help meet this goal, park managers need to have the most up-to-date scientific information available about the status and trends of natural resources within the parks. The interactions among natural resources create a complex ecosystem that is difficult to track and monitor. Abiotic, biotic, and dynamic influences that span spatial and temporal scales make it complicated to predict the overall effect that activities within and outside the parks may be having on those resources. The overriding objective of the Inventory and Monitoring Program is to select key resources within the parks and monitor those resources to make available status and trend information to park managers. Providing high quality information about natural resources will help park managers meet their goals and support the overall mission of the National Park Service.

A solid and comprehensive data management program that takes into account the complexities of long-term natural resource monitoring is essential to accession, storage, and dissemination of quality information to support the management of park ecosystems. The main objective of the Klamath Inventory and Monitoring Network's (KLMN) Data Management Program is to incorporate practical and sound data management methods into the Network's projects so we can provide quality information over time. Long-term data management must take into account changing technology, developing field methodologies, and most importantly, turnover in personnel. Developing a data management program where every employee understands the roles and responsibilities he or she has towards data management throughout all phases of a project is essential to obtaining quality information. We developed the KLMN Data Management Plan to provide guidance on how data and information will be managed for the foreseeable future. The overall goals of this Data Management Plan are to ensure:

- Every individual working for the Network understands his or her responsibilities towards data management.
- Data managed by the Network are of high quality, easily accessible, well documented, and secure not only for the duration of a project, but also for future generations that may utilize the information.
- Direction is provided on integrating proper data management practices throughout all phases of a short or long-term project from planning through archiving.
- Collaboration occurs at all levels of the agency and with external cooperators on data management issues.

The Klamath Network Data Management Plan is not intended to provide all the details on how to manage data for every task we implement. The Data Management Plan is a comprehensive document outlining the processes and guidelines the KLMN will follow to provide high quality, useable natural resource information over time. The KLMN implements the Data Management Plan, standard operating procedures, protocols, and guidance documents to provide all the details on how the Network collects and manages natural resource information. This document describes:

- The goals and objectives of the KLMN Data Management Program.

- The roles and responsibilities each member of the Network has towards data management throughout each phase of a project.
- How KLMN personnel will prioritize our time and funding towards data management activities based on information needs outlined in monitoring protocols and inventory projects.
- Details of the infrastructure the Network will utilize to create, store, maintain, and disseminate data and information.
- The methods the KLMN will follow to manage data throughout all phases of the data lifecycle.