

Are sediments behind the Klamath dams toxic? Will their release cause flooding, danger, or decreased property values?



Will dam removal hurt private property owners by decreasing property values around the reservoirs?

“We worried about having a shoreline full of brambles and brush, a mosquito factory, all of that. I had to say I was wrong, it was the cleanliness of the water over time, the freshness, the sounds of the gurgling water as opposed to the big flat impoundment.”
- George Viles, waterfront homeowner on Maine’s Kennebec River, restored with the removal of Edwards Dam

Does dam removal take out a clean, green and cheap energy source? Will dams be replaced by foreign oil?



Science indicates sediments are safe, won't cause floods

- Sediments behind the dams have been tested and analyzed by global experts on dam construction and removal. These studies were commissioned by government agencies.
- The scientists say: *“The toxicity of the sediment in the four lowermost dams is very low and will not affect method or cost of decommissioning.”*
- They also say: *“Dioxin levels in these sediments are not alarming and since the sediments are expected to rapidly pass the Klamath system to the ocean, noticeable effects to fishery resources should not be expected from exposure to dioxins in the sediments if these dams are removed.”*
- They also say *“sediment transport ... would be unlikely to cause flooding,”* and conclude that most of the silt and sediment from dam removal may flush through the system in as little as six months.
- Siskiyou Supervisors disregard the conclusions of this study, preferring to lift phrases out of context to support lies.
- These studies are available online at: <http://www.klamathriver.org/Klamath-Dam-Links.html>
- Comprehensive sediment and flood analyses will be performed and publicly reviewed in compliance with state and federal laws before the dams are removed.

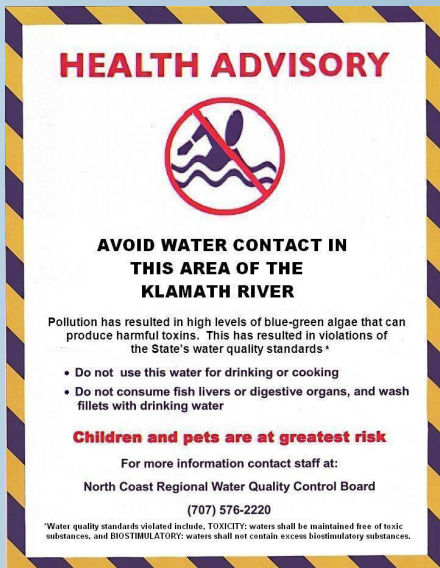
Dam removal is likely to increase property values

- A 2008 peer-reviewed economic study showed that dam removal and river restoration was linked to rising property values on the Kennebec River in Maine. This is the first economic study done comparing actual property values from before and after a major dam removal project.
- Iron Gate and Copco Reservoirs have been posted as hazardous to human contact for the last five years due to toxic algae blooms caused when nutrient-rich water stagnates behind the dams. Reservoir game fish (like yellow perch) are inedible due to toxic algae contamination. The Water Board has stated that dam removal may be the only way to solve the worsening algae problem.
- Where would you rather buy property: Next to a toxic reservoir with toxic fish and extinct wild salmon runs? Or, next to a restored, free-flowing river with a healthy recreation fishing and boating economy.

Outdated dams can be replaced with true renewables

- The Klamath dams are inefficient power producers and rarely meet their rated capacity of 170 megawatts (Compare with the Snake River dams with a rated capacity of 3,033 mW). They are so outdated they also require hundreds of millions of dollars in upgrades to obtain a new operating license
- The Klamath Basin is a natural fit for truly renewable energy industries like wind, solar, and geothermal power. The power provided by the dams could be replaced with renewables at the same or less cost than it would take to upgrade the dams for relicensing.
- The impacts of the dams are so numerous, and so devastating for commercial fishermen, recreational businesses and Native tribes, they are not considered green. The dams block fish from half the watershed, cause dangerous toxic algae blooms, and create bad water quality conditions in the lower river which fuel the spread of the fish disease *C. shasta*.
- There is no talk of replacing Klamath hydro power with foreign energy sources. Virtually all power in the US is derived from US sources. However, there is a proposed liquefied natural gas pipeline that would use eminent domain to bring the nation’s first overseas natural gas across the Klamath Basin. Learn more at <http://www.klamathriver.org/LNG>

Can't we just get fish around the dams with a fish bypass?



Will dam removal shut down water diversions?

If I boat/ski/swim in Iron Gate/ Copco and I'm fine doesn't that mean there's not a problem?



Will dam removal ruin Siskiyou County's recreational economy?



Dam removal is the cheapest option that solves fish passage and water quality issues

- Both federal and state economic studies have shown that engineering fish passage around the dams would cost hundreds of millions of dollars more than simply removing the dams and buying replacement power. This does not count money required to remediate water quality impacts of the dams, which may not even be possible.
- Creating fish passage does not solve the toxic algae, fish disease, or water pollution problems the dams create. The dams trap nutrient-rich water in warm, stagnant reservoirs, creating hazardous blooms of toxic algae and forcing officials to post warning signs around Copco and Iron Gate Reservoirs. The dams have changed stream temperatures, gravel movement and flow cycles in a way that fuels the fish disease *Ceratomyxa shasta*. Unnatural temperatures caused by the Klamath dams are a documented hazard to young fish.

Klamath dam removal is supported by irrigators

- The Klamath dams slated for removal do not supply any agricultural water diversions.
- Upper basin irrigators support dam removal and the companion Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement.
- Commercial fishermen feed America too, and their industry has been devastated by the Klamath's 90% reduction in salmon.

Klamath dams' toxic algae is a severe public health problem

- Toxic algae behind the dams has been measured at levels 4000 times what the World Health Organization considers a moderate risk to human health.
- Recreational exposure to toxic blue-green algae can cause eye irritation, allergic skin rash, mouth ulcer, vomiting, diarrhea, cold and flu-like symptoms, tingling, headaches, numbness and shaking. Liver failure, nerve damage and death have occurred in rare situations where large amounts of contaminated water were directly ingested.
- Because of their small size, children and pets are at greatest risk of fatality and sickness. There have been reports of dogs and deer dying after contacting severe algae blooms.

Klamath dam removal will boost the local recreation-based economy

- Klamath dam removal will create one of the longest continuous whitewater stretches in the Lower 48.
- Dam removal is expected to help reverse startling declines in the Klamath's salmon and steelhead fishery. It's estimated that every sport-hooked Chinook brings \$200 into the local economy.
- Poor water quality caused in part by the dams has kept the Klamath from developing a major boating industry like the Rogue and Sacramento Rivers. Restored water quality and long whitewater runs will boost business for local guides and restore the Klamath's status as a nationally recognized destination for boating and fishing.
- Water skiing and bass/perch fishing are vastly outweighed economically by a healthy salmon and steelhead fishery. Warm water game fish can still be caught at the nearby Shasta Valley Wildlife Area.