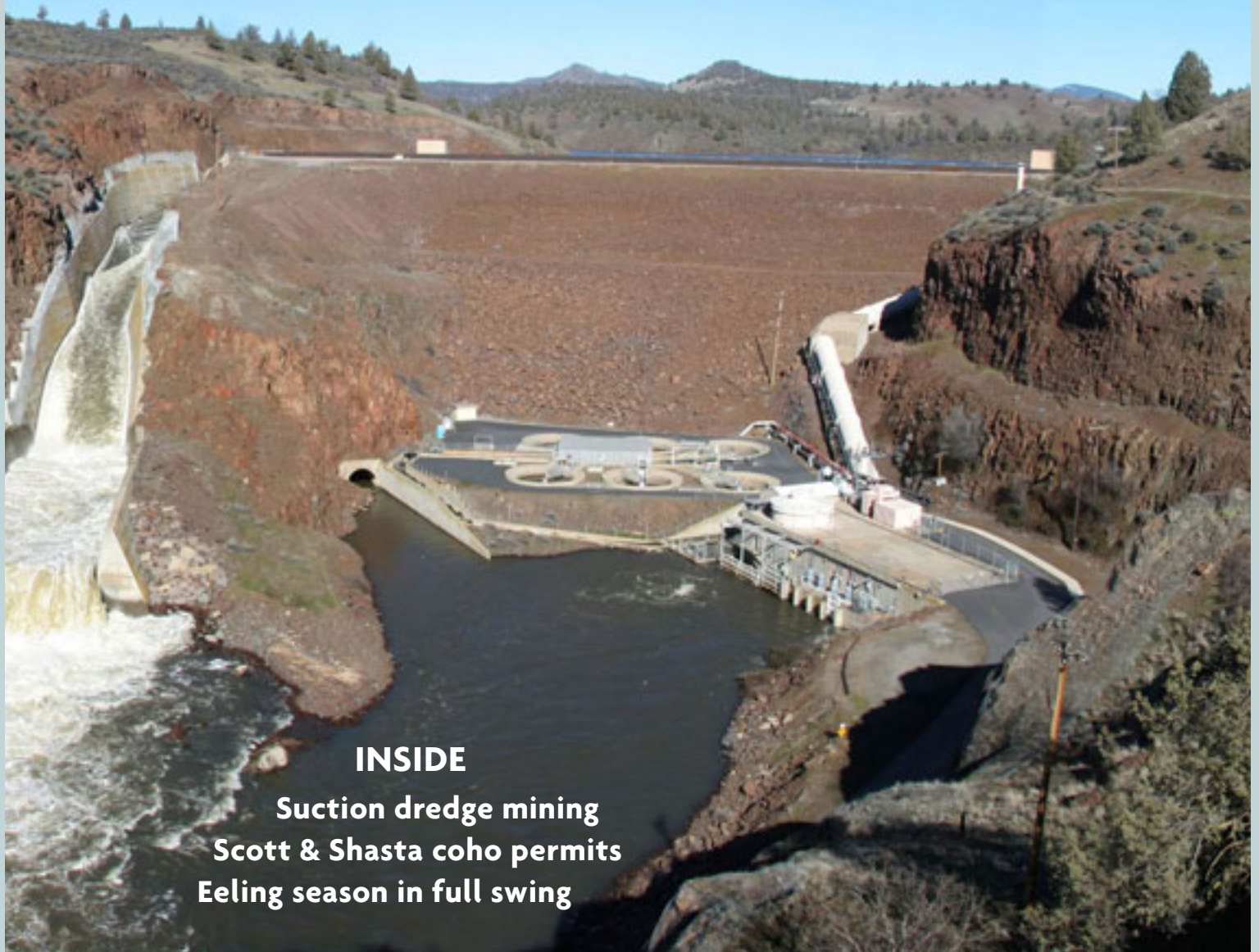


It ain't over till it's over

Challenged by citizens in the streets, badgered in the media, and cornered by the courts and public agencies, PacifiCorp finally started a dam removal deal.

Now, how do we make that deal better?



INSIDE

Suction dredge mining
Scott & Shasta coho permits
Eeling season in full swing

“The task at hand here is to reassert clean, abundant water and fisheries as human rights.”



Klamath Riverkeeper Erica Terence guides Gloria Cheung and her crew from Asia Television Limited up the Klamath. Photo by Thomas Dunklin.

NEW RIVERKEEPER, NEW PERSPECTIVE

Thanks Regina!

This fall, Klamath Riverkeeper transitioned from one very talented Riverkeeper to another. We wholeheartedly thank former Riverkeeper Regina Chichizola, who did such an impressive job at getting us off the ground and establishing Klamath Riverkeeper as a powerful force in the struggle to protect and restore the Klamath River.

We urge everyone to express their appreciation to Regina for her service to Klamath Riverkeeper and the River itself. We would not have made it this far without her hard work and devotion!

Likewise, we invite the KRK community to welcome Erica Terence as the new Klamath Riverkeeper. Born and raised among river advocates on the Klamath's Salmon River, Erica brings a homegrown dedication to restoring our river, and our rural, salmon-based economy. We're pleased to begin the next phase of KRK with such a diplomatic and spirited Riverkeeper! See more staff updates on page 10.

IT'S JUST BARELY POSSIBLE TO TRAVEL FROM THE headwaters of the Klamath River to its mouth in four days. After guiding a Hong Kong-based television news crew through the basin in January, I should know. Observing the Klamath through the eyes of our Chinese visitors enabled me to peel back many of the geographical, political and cultural assumptions we make every day about our watershed.

What became clear?

Our river system and its rural culture have suffered chronic losses of fisheries and the livelihoods they support. Gill disease, high water temperatures, and parasites have afflicted Klamath River fish, while toxic algae brewing behind the dams poisons our fish, people, and dogs.

Two of our main pollution sources - nutrient-intensive agriculture and dams - originate in the mid to uppermost reaches of our river, tainting the hundreds of river-miles downstream to the ocean. Even worse, people - whether individuals or corporations - have profited off the destruction of the Klamath River without consequence for more than a century.

We are blessed, however, to live in a place where industrial pollution is only a distant relative to the daily reality it has become in coal-dependent China. That reality has driven the Chinese government to raise giant dams at an alarming rate, displacing many millions of people and relegating fish there to a faint memory to satisfy critics that the country is moving towards “cleaner” energy forms.

Some 80,000 dams block China's rivers, our visitors reported. These travelers from dam-happy China came seeking lessons and advice from our country—a nation that has started to re-evaluate the net societal worth of dams and slowly but surely deconstruct them. The Klamath River, especially, stands out as a clear candidate for dam removal.

Significant strides have been made in the right direction for Klamath dam removal and river renewal. Applying legal and regulatory leverage as well as direct action tactics, Klamath Riverkeeper and its allies pressured dam owner PacifiCorp to publicly propose dam

removal last November. The allies include several Indian tribes whose diets, public health, and culture have been hammered by the crash of fish populations caused by the dams.

Now the deal negotiators need to honor the people who will live with the toxic legacy of those dams by fixing the flaws in the agreement. The final agreement must empower water quality regulators, and it must offer a more definite path towards dam removal by nixing many of its off-ramps. The agreement needs to limit immunity for PacifiCorp to the act of dam removal and any impacts that follow. And lastly, Klamath dam removal cannot be funded at the expense of other rivers or ecosystems in California.

If these changes aren't made, the 401 clean water permitting process, which PacifiCorp has stalled, should resume.

Meanwhile, the California regional water board has started in earnest to move pollution regulation towards completion. Stringent TMDL budgets would set high standards for complying with the Clean Water Act.

So what does the Klamath have to teach to a delegation from the other side of the world? Look around. We are fortunate to still have fish to protect and the opportunity to end a cultural genocide before salmon people go extinct. As Gloria Cheung of Asia Television Limited reminded an interviewee discussing water rights in Klamath Falls, “At least you have human rights.” The task at hand here is to reassert clean, abundant water and fisheries as human rights.

We've built one of the strongest cases for dam removal anywhere in the world and a bold legal strategy and grassroots campaign to back it up. More importantly, alternate solutions such as solar and wind power, organic agriculture, drought-hardy crops and more efficient irrigation methods already exist.

Now we need your support, whether by writing a letter or writing a check, to maintain the momentum. We need your help to put one more crack in the great twentieth-century lie that dams represent progress in the form of clean energy, and to do it in a way that truly works for the river.

Erica Terence
Klamath Riverkeeper

Setting Limits on Suction Dredge Mining

Are gas-powered hobby miners taking a toll on the Klamath's imperiled salmon?

Story by Scott Harding



EVERY SUMMER, AN INCREASING NUMBER of recreational miners descend upon the Klamath in search of gold. While some use low-impact methods such as panning and metal detecting, many others are using ecologically harmful suction dredges. On a busy summer day there may be 200 suction dredges operating in the Klamath River and its tributaries like the Trinity, Salmon, and Scott Rivers, and Thompson, Elk, and Indian Creeks. We have received reports of sixteen dredges operating within a single mile of the Klamath River.

Suction dredge mining is a form of recreational gold mining that takes place directly in the river and side streams. Miners use a powerful, gas- or diesel-powered vacuum to suck silt, sand, and rocks from the river bottom and then pass them through a motorized sluice box on a floating dredge platform.

Any gold present is trapped in the box while gravel and rocks are dumped back into the river. The finer silt and mud that is sucked up is spit back into the river in the form of long, murky plumes that often extend hundreds of feet downriver.



Suction dredgers (above) use a gas-powered engine to suck the river bottom up, sift it for gold, and spew sediment into the water column (above top). Photos by Scott Harding and Mid Klamath Watershed Council.

Cool pool competition

Suction dredging happens in the summer at the same time that low water levels and high temperatures stress the Klamath's coho, Chinook, steelhead, trout, lamprey, and sturgeon. These fish survive by staying in the relatively few pools of cool, clear water—mostly at the mouths of cold-water side streams. Gold is often found in these same pools, setting up a conflict between gold mining and fish survival.

In addition to driving fish away from essen-

tial cold water habitats, suction dredging can directly kill aquatic organisms living in the riverbed. Lamprey, whose young live in the river bottom for five to seven years before migrating to the ocean, are especially at risk (see page 7). Slow-moving larvae are unlikely to survive being sucked through a suction dredge and sluiced along with gravel and rock. Mussels and bottom-dwelling aquatic macroinvertebrates (stone, caddis, and may flies) that fish depend on for food are also directly in harm's way.

In last century's gold mines, mercury was used to separate gold from ore and the leftover mercury was often dumped into the Klamath. This mercury—like gold—has settled to the bottom of the riverbed. Long since buried by gravel and rock, this mercury becomes an active part of the aquatic food chain once it is vacuumed up by suction dredgers and spit back on top of the riverbed.

Other impacts of suction dredging include gas and oil spills directly into the river and erosion along streamside trails to mining claims. Suction dredges are also very loud and their operation creates conflicts with other river users including swimmers, fishermen, and whitewater paddlers.

Where are the rules?

Current suction dredge mining regulations were enacted before coho were listed as an endangered species in 1997 and don't comply with the Endangered Species Act. The Karuk Tribe successfully sued the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) to update the regulations but the agency has failed to meet a court order to enact new rules. CDFG Di-

rector Don Koch refuses to implement temporary restrictions on suction dredging while the old rules are being updated, despite closure of the commercial fishery for two out of the past three years and a documented 73% decline in coho populations in that same time.

There is also virtually no enforcement of suction dredge mining rules in the Klamath Watershed: suction dredging degrades our rivers without regard to the law.

A taxpayer-subsidized hobby

Every year CDFG issues approximately 3,000 permits to individual suction dredge miners. These permit sales generate about \$175,000 annually when CDFG spends over \$1.25 million each year to operate its suction dredge mining program. That means that California taxpayers are paying about \$1 million each year to support 3,000 hobby miners during a fiscal crisis in California.

In contrast, over 2.4 million Californians buy fishing licenses each year. The recreational fishing industry employs 43,000 Californians and generates \$1.3 billion in wages and salaries each year and an additional \$2.4 billion in equipment sales. It is difficult to justify spending taxpayer money to subsidize a small group of hobby miners that, in turn, negatively impact California's economically important fishing industry.

Help KRK reduce suction mining impacts

KRK sees the need for coordinated scientific, legal, and enforcement work that will minimize the damage done by suction dredging. In 2009 we'll work on spawning Klamath-specific research on the impacts of suction dredging, improving state regulations on mining, and organizing volunteers to monitor and report the activities of suction dredgers. Contact us if you'd like to be a part of the program or monitor and report the activities of suction dredgers.

It ain't over till it

Challenged by citizens in the streets, badgered in the media, and cornered by agencies, PacifiCorp finally negotiated the beginnings of a dam removal deal.

Now, how do we make that deal better?

THIS NOVEMBER, many of us tuned into a live webcast in which Gov. Schwarzenegger and other dignitaries signed a draft deal to remove the Klamath dams.

What was lost in the soundbite circus that followed was the story of how grassroots pressure had taken dam removal out of the realm of pipe dreams and into the governor's office in the first place. Even worse, while many decried the pitfalls of the agreement, no one countered with a workable alternative.

HOW THE DEAL WENT DOWN

The Agreement in Principle to remove four dams on the Klamath River is the result of considerable coalition building, community organizing, and grassroots activism. Out of work fishermen, conservation organizations, and Native people struggling to hang onto a salmon-based way of life gathered momentum and pressured a giant power corporation owned by the world's richest man into publicly proposing to remove the dams.

After years of rallies on the streets of Edinburgh, Omaha, and Portland, messy court cases over the dams' toxic algae releases, and a 401 clean water permit fight that had PacifiCorp in a checkmate, the corporation re-engaged in negotiations. This time, the negotiations were not about whether to take the dams out, but how and when to take the dams out, and what to do for fish until then.

MAKING A FLAWED DEAL BETTER

True to form, PacifiCorp managed to eek out a deal that runs in total opposition to clean water law, takes little responsibility for the public health impacts of the dams' toxic algae, and relies on a funding scheme that ties dam removal to bad environmental projects in California.

Undoubtedly, these issues need changing, and California's 401 permit process is one point of leverage where we can - and will - push for changes (see sidebar).

PacifiCorp claiming publicly that dam removal is in the best interest of its ratepayers is a huge step, and to the extent we can, we should build

on this success, rather than tear it down. However, if it does turn out we can't get the changes we need before the deal is finalized in June '09, it'll be time to scratch the deal and return to the regulatory checkmate.

HOW SHOULD WE CHANGE THE DEAL?

First, state water quality regulators must be fully empowered to enforce the Clean Water Act in the 12-year interim between now and dam removal without triggering a right of withdrawal from the agreement. No exceptions.

Second, PacifiCorp should be offered immunity *solely for the act of dam removal*, not for water quality and public health violations related to the tumor-promoting toxic algae pollution that flows from PacifiCorp's reservoirs.

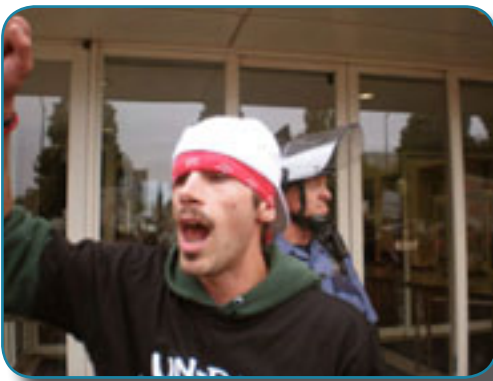
Third, a number of off-ramps that steal certainty from the agreement must be eliminated. We can't afford to wait until 2020 only to find that PacifiCorp has jumped ship on dam removal. Rebooting the regulatory process at that point could mean waiting another 20 years until the dams come down - almost certainly too long for struggling salmon runs

to survive.

Finally, payment for dam removal cannot be tied to a California bond that would fund new dams or a peripheral canal at the expense of the other rivers around the state. Some costs can be recouped through a capped ratehike in Oregon - after all, ratepayers would have to pay more to cover upgrades associated with relicensing the dams. But if remaining costs can't come from a responsible source in California, PacifiCorp should be a good corporate citizen and pay out of the last half-century of profits that brought one of America's greatest rivers to its knees.

A CALL TO ACTION

The burden of meeting the river's needs and upholding the public's rights in a final dam deal rests on PacifiCorp, the states of California and Oregon, the federal government and several tribal governments. But the burden of pressuring them to make the necessary changes rests squarely with us, all the people who care about the river and its fish.



Photos from the September 2008 Day of Action at PacifiCorp's corporate headquarters. From top: Chook-Chook Hillman rallies in front of riot cops, a school of "salmon" finally topple the "Klamath dams"; Oregon commercial fisherman Jim Allen observes the rally from the dory he drove in to Portland from the coast; Klamath Riverkeeper Community Organizer Georgiana Myers revs up the crowd with her pledge to return every year until the dams are out.

t's over

d by the courts and public
deal.

Extremists on both sides of the debate are trying to drag the deal down. But the clean water, habitat and fisheries benefits scientists say will flow from dam removal are too important to reject the deal and return to a protracted relicensing process that has only once - in hundreds of similar proceedings - resulted in dam removal.

Besides, the sovereign tribes, commercial fishermen, and farming communities most directly affected by over-allocation and mismanagement of water in the basin deserve a chance to rewrite their own destiny in a way that works for them.

Restoring the Klamath is up to us. If we stay organized and active, we can shape a solution that truly benefits the Klamath and the rural communities that depend on it.

DAM REMOVAL action center

1. Sign up for the KRK eNews on our website, and receive one-click action alerts twice per month. The playing field is always changing, and the target is always shifting; we need folks who can stay with the fight and send letters to FERC, the Water Board, our elected officials, and others. We set it up, all you have to do is click and send...

2. Send an advocate to Omaha. Be a part of the 2009 Un-Dam the Klamath extravaganza at Warren Buffett's shareholders meeting with a tax-deductible sponsorship. With your help, we can keep the pressure on PacifiCorp and Buffett in Omaha. Contact us for more info.

3. Become a member of KRK. We can't do our work without your help. Join the movement that's bringing down the Klamath dams! www.klamathriver.org/JoinUs.html

4. Support our Facebook cause. With relatively low population and income levels in the Klamath basin, we depend on a broad network of support to achieve our goals. Look for the Un-Dam the Klamath! "cause" on Facebook, and tell your "friends."

5. Volunteer your time or skills. Spend time in our Orleans or Ashland offices helping out, or sign up to help out with events, tours, or monitoring.

More at www.klamathriver.org

What's the 401?

Why California's clean water permit matters



A dam removal agreement without strong clean water regulation is a little like a fish without water. Here's a couple common questions about clean water - and its regulation - above and below the Klamath dams.

Q: What's a 401 permit, and what does it have to do with dam removal?

A: In order to relicense its dams, PacifiCorp first has to obtain a 401 "clean water" permit from Oregon and California. When PacifiCorp realized the water quality impacts stemming from its dams made the issuance of this permit unlikely at best, it opted to negotiate a dam removal deal.

In its first draft, the terms of the dam removal deal require the California Water Board to ignore PacifiCorp's heinous water quality violations and suspend the 401 permitting process. In fact, if the 401 process is re-started, PacifiCorp reserves the right to renege on the deal! This means the dams' water quality impacts would continue until the proposed dam removal date of 2020 without any regulation, and potentially longer if PacifiCorp backs out via any of the other off-ramps it has designed into the deal.

Predictably, neither Klamath Riverkeeper nor the Water Board are happy with this scenario. Along with a delegation of Klamath activists and tribal members, **KRK is now urging the Water Board to demand that the deal be rewritten to include clean water regulation, or else to reinstate the 401 process** - even if it kills the dam removal deal. Join us in pushing for these changes at www.klamathriver.org.

Q: How do PacifiCorp's dams change water quality on the Klamath?

A: PacifiCorp's dams cause very specific and very serious water quality problems. First, the dams change a free-flowing, turbulent system into a placid lake environment with warm and stagnant water. This allows toxic algae to flourish at levels unheard of on our continent, and results in summer and fall releases of water brimming with toxic algae, and with illegally high pH and low dissolved oxygen - lethal conditions for fish. Scientists have shown that the high temperatures associated with these releases can also limit salmon spawning success and egg survival. Ironically, the dams cause spring releases that are unusually cold and have been shown to slow the growth rate of juvenile salmon, making them less likely to survive to maturity and spawn.

PacifiCorp's dams also alter the shape and flow characteristics of the river downstream, which creates another set of problems. Before the Klamath was dammed, the growth of aquatic vegetation was kept in check by periodic high flows turning gravels and "roughing up" the riverbed. Sediment and gravels are now trapped behind the dams, and flows are managed for the production of power. With small gravels long since washed downstream, and no flows large enough to turn the remaining boulders and scour the riverbed, algae and aquatic plants grow to unusually high densities. These rich algae beds create the perfect habitat for the worms that host the deadly fish parasites associated with Klamath River fish kills.

Increased water temperatures, high pH, and low dissolved oxygen combine with increased habitat for parasite hosts to create a deadly cocktail for Klamath salmon, while toxic algae releases threaten humans. Science points to removal of PacifiCorp's Klamath River dams as the best solution to these problems.



eeling season

Interview by Georgiana Myers

Lamprey harvest a cultural and biological legacy on the Klamath

On a rainy day in Klamath, California three young Klamath River men took a few minutes off from eeling to answer some of my questions. Armed with only their eel hooks and lights eelers sometimes stay on the beach for days to hook some yummy eels! January is the height of eeling season for Yuroks. Cody Bates is a 16 year old Yurok man active in his ceremonial Jump Dance, which takes place along the Klamath River. Gregg Reardon is a 19 year old Yurok man who is active with Klamath River issues. Sean O'Neill attends Klamath River Early College of the Redwoods and is a traditional Yurok singer.



Georgiana Myers (GM): Why are eels important to you?

Sean O'Neill (SO): Because Yurok people have been eating eels for centuries and centuries.

Cody Bates (CB): because its food for summer!

Greg Rearden (GR): I can give them to my elders.

GM: How do you hook them? (note: there are many styles of "hooking" eels)

SO: I look at [an eel] and use my hook that I made. It's the only one I always use.

CB: I hook them with my eel hook. I prefer to go at night. I use all kinds of hooks, I made them all.

GR: I hook them in the head and then swing them around so they don't fall off my hook.

GM: Who taught you how to eel?

SO: I watched everybody else and just tried it for myself.

GM: Why do you go eeling? After all, it's dangerous, lives have been lost.

SO: Because it's fun! And I do it to feed my people.

CB: Because it's in my blood.

GR: Because it's important to me. I like it.

GM: Tell me a favorite memory of eeling.

SO: The time I finally talked my dad into going with me! It was so much fun to be there eeling with my dad.

GR: The first time I hooked an eel! Best time ever.

GM: What do eels taste like?

SO: They are good! Greasy and good!

GM: What is your favorite way to cook and eat them?

CB: Start a fire and cook them right there on the beach!

GR: You have got to try them! I like mine smoked and canned.

GM: What is your favorite part of eeling?

CB: Just being on the beach.

GM: How old were you when you first went eeling?

CB: I was 4 or 5. I was just a little guy.

GR: 6 or 7, I think.

GM: Anything else you would like to add?

SO: Un-Dam the Klamath. Bring the Salmon home!

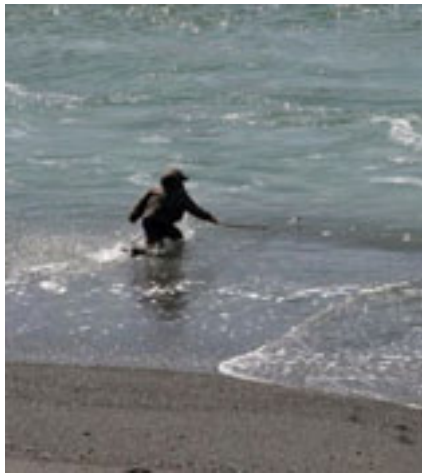
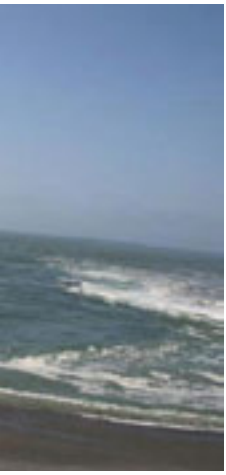
GM: I would like to thank these very polite and outstanding young Yurok men.

Wok-hlaw' (thank you in Yurok).

Georgiana Myers is Klamath Riverkeeper's Community Organizer. Georgiana is a Yurok language teacher and has six brothers and sisters, all of whom are either involved in Yurok politics, or are commercial/subsistence fishermen.



From top: Sean O'Neill, Greg Rearden, Cody Bates



A young eeler uses a special hook to retrieve Klamath River lamprey from the surf near the mouth of the river. Photography by Thomas Dunklin.

EEL, LAMPREY, GAWI, KE'WEEN, KRAW...

What many Klamath people call “eels,” scientists refer to as “lamprey,” which differ in ancestry and biology from the ocean-going eels most people are familiar with. Yurok people know lamprey as *ke'ween*, and *sloyhl* after they are harvested and dried. Jeff Mitchell reports that the Klamath Tribes use the word *gawi*, and Ron Reed at the Karuk Fisheries Department says lamprey are known as *kraw* in Karuk.

The Klamath River is a center of lamprey diversity worldwide, with at least 4 species of lamprey native to the basin, and more on the way as scientists continue to study Klamath lamprey genetics. Two to three feet long as adults, Pacific lamprey are the largest of these species, and were once extremely abundant on the Pacific Coast. An integral component of Klamath indigenous people's diets, these ocean-migrating fish take the predation pressure off of salmon at the river's mouth, and along with freshwater mussels, may play an under-recognized role in the river's foodweb dynamics.

Like salmon, Pacific lamprey spawn in river gravels and are anadromous, meaning they migrate to the ocean as adults. During their 2-3 year stay in the Pacific, lamprey are parasitic on fish and whales, and in turn are prey for marine mammals and large fish. Returning to the Klamath from January through March, Pacific lamprey are favorites of birds, seals, and seal lions. They are also caught by Yurok people with hooks called *le-mo-lohl*. Further upriver, Karuk harvest the fish in special baskets when the river runs brown in winter, then target them individually as the water clears up.

Unlike salmon, lamprey young, known as "ammocoetes," remain in the river for 5-7 years, living in burrows in riverbed mud and filter-feeding algae and organic matter. This lifestyle makes the species vulnerable to water pollution, agricultural diversions, cattle trampling, suction dredging and other habitat alterations.

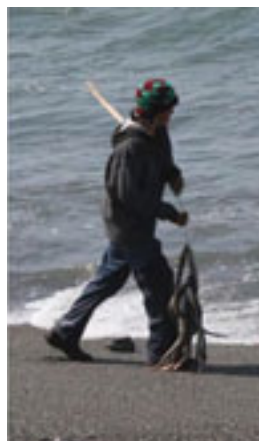


Lamprey attach their mouths to rocks in order to swim up steep riffles. The word lamprey is derived from the genus *lampetra*, Latin for “licks rocks.” Photo by Thomas Dunklin.

Lamprey are not faring well throughout their range, and their decline on the Klamath is poorly studied. Native people, like Karuk Cultural Biologist Ron Reed, note that lamprey were once a seemingly endless food supply, but have become scarce.

Lamprey are the only life-form with a backbone that lacks jaws, and their body type has remained unchanged for a phenomenal 360 million years. By comparison, salmon are the new kids on the block and have been around in their current form for only about 10 million years. Sadly, a knack for surviving through evolutionary history has not meant lamprey have been able to keep up with the unique challenges of a human-dominated era. It is possible that a species that pre-dates the rise and fall of dinosaurs may not survive the expansion of Western civilization!

In 2002, eleven organizations petitioned the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to list 4 species of lamprey as “endangered” throughout their range. At least two of these species reside in the Klamath River. USFWS has twice declined the petition, claiming a lack of funds prevents a status review on lamprey, the first step in pursuing a listing through the federal Endangered Species Act. USFWS is now pursuing a Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative and intends to have a range-wide Conservation Plan for Pacific Lamprey out by late 2009.



SB 76 funds Klamath dam removal through rate recovery

A bill to fund Klamath dam removal passed the **Oregon Senate** and moves onto the House this February. SB 76 would authorize a rate hike, and cap, for **PacifiCorp's customers** in order to create a special fund for removing the Klamath dams.

Considering ratepayers would have faced much steeper hikes to relicense the dams (mile long fish ladders aren't cheap), the bill makes sense economically as well as ecologically, and was supported by the **Citizen's Utility Board of Oregon**, a ratepayer advocacy group. Next up is procuring California's share of the deal's pricetag - some \$250,000 - without supporting additional dam building or a peripheral canal from the Sacramento Delta, as a general water bond is likely to propose.

Controversial, confusing & convoluted: CDFG pushes "watershed-wide" permits for coho-killing

The **California Department of Fish and Game** is reviewing comments on a controversial program that could strip important endangered species protections from Shasta and Scott River coho. The "watershed-wide permitting program" would allow landowners to forego obtaining individual Incidental Take Permits (ITPs) for coho, in exchange for an overarching permit handled by the **Siskiyou and Shasta Valley Resource Conservation Districts**. ITPs authorize and track the killing of threatened coho by irrigation diversions or other private property features.

As confusing as it is convoluted, CDFG's proposal would put enforcement of the Endangered Species Act in the hands of local

RCDs, who do not have the capacity or the inclination to bring the law down on friends and neighbors.

Further, the watershed-wide permits would rubber stamp existing dams, diversions, and any proposed upgrades without any public process. In watersheds like the Scott and Shasta, where water quantity is a critical issue for endangered fish, the program does nothing to evaluate or regulate coho take due to groundwater pumping or irrigation diversions. Klamath Riverkeeper submitted detailed comments opposing this program in November, and will continue tracking its progress as we work to protect water and fish in the Scott and Shasta sub-basins.

Sewage problems overflow in Siskiyou County

What do you do with 1.5 million gallons of raw sewage no one wants? If you're **Siskiyou County**, you leave it in an unlined, unpermitted pit outside Montague, and hope the world forgets about it.

California's **North Coast Regional Water Board** hasn't quite forgotten about it, and suggested this winter that the County close the pit - where residents pay to haul septic waste from full tanks - or face "a huge liability" if groundwater becomes contaminated. The County mulled this over, and directed staff to come up with a plan to move the "septage," which is the technical term for partially treated waste from septic ponds and port-o-potties.

Problem is, sewage treatment facilities in **Yreka, Weed, and Lake Shastina** are already maxed out. In fact, a blocked pipe in Yreka's system caused a 2500 gallon raw sewage spill into Yreka Creek last July. The scene at Lake Shastina is no better, and the Regional Water Board is currently waiting for stakeholders around the lake to come up with a plan for bringing Shastina into compliance with clean water rules on the Shasta River.

Meanwhile, in the 26 years the pit has been operational, no one has left any record of monitoring for ground or surface water contamination from the pit. Is it dirtying well water with *E. coli*? Is it contaminating groundwater with nutrient pollution? No one knows.

Klamath Riverkeeper, who is not in the business of forgetting about potential pollutants, will be reviewing public records at all of Siskiyou

County's sewage facilities this spring. If Siskiyou County fails to begin taking clean water regulations seriously, KRK will take action accordingly.

LNG terminal and pipeline face stiff opposition across Oregon

Klamath Riverkeeper joined other organizations, state agencies, and even **Oregon's Governor** this winter in filing comments against a proposed liquefied natural gas terminal in **Coos Bay** and its associated pipeline that would drill through the **Umpqua, Rogue and Klamath Rivers** on its way to service California.

In addition to using eminent domain to devalue property and farmlands, the proposed "Pacific Connector" pipeline would require a hazardous drilling under the mainstem Klamath River just south of **Klamath Falls**, and would also cross directly through the headwaters of **Spencer Creek**, a known refugia for redband trout. The heavy construction and clearing of streamside vegetation associated with the pipeline could also create longterm sediment issues in Spencer Creek, which will be important habitat for re-introduced spring Chinook and even coho salmon.

Widely criticized for its proposed violations of clean water law and threats to endangered species, the ultimate deal breaker could be the fact that the proposed LNG project is not needed in the first place! The **Oregon Department of Energy** noted that the state can get natural gas from domestic sources more readily and efficiently than foreign sourced gas which must be shipped across the Pacific, then reliquified. Get more info at: www.Ingpollutes.org

Dam removal deal could boost basinwide water quality monitoring

Always looking out for number one, **PacifiCorp** was quick to draft its own plan to spend some \$500,000 in water quality funding outlined in the draft dam removal deal released this winter. Fortunately, the **Cal. Water Board** and **Oregon Department of Environmental Quality** had a better idea: let's have the 40+ water quality scientists already working on the Klamath supply a monitoring plan, rather than the single largest polluter in the basin!

Enter the **Klamath Basin Water Quality Monitoring Control Group (KBWQMC-G)**. The king of all acronyms, the KBWQMC-G refers to the group of Klamath scientists who coordinate their efforts across sub-basins in order to eliminate redundancy and identify gaps in our understanding of water quality on the Klamath. Representing Tribes, agencies, and watershed councils, these scientists were already drafting a basinwide water quality monitoring plan when the dam removal deal went down.



Siskiyou County received a warning this winter from the California Water Board regarding this unlined - and unregulated - pit for the storage of raw sewage.



The new Klamath Knot currency being traded on the mid-Klamath. Photo by Scott Harding.

So, instead of getting the agency rubber stamp it's used to, PacifiCorp submitted to a total reworking of its plan by the KBWQM-CG, who will take the reins entirely in 2010, when the Klamath's first ever basinwide water quality monitoring plan is unveiled, and likely supported by PacifiCorp and the dam removal deal. More info on the KBWQMCG is at <http://www.humboldt.edu/~kwi>

Klamath currency for a sustainable society

Concerned with the doom and gloom economic outcast? Maybe it's time to go local with our money. A group of citizens on the Mid-Klamath have done just that with the new **Klamath Knot**, a form of currency intended to bolster local economic self-reliance in the heart of the Klamath watershed. Each coin is minted with an ounce of silver and is worth 10 "Klamath Knots." The coins feature a jumping salmon on one side, and read "for a sustainable society" on the other. For more

information on the coins, send an email to mail@sandybar.com.

Record lows for returning California salmon

Just 66,000 adult Chinook salmon returned to the **Sacramento River** this fall, roughly a third of what the Pacific Fishery Management Council expected, and the smallest returning population ever recorded in the history of the Sacramento. Klamath numbers were also low, but were slightly higher than the record low that closed the commercial fishery two years ago. Either way, fishermen face closures for the third year in a row, which means another year of economic hardship on the coast.

While all Pacific salmon are impacted by climatic shifts that alter the oceanic food web, Sacramento and San Joaquin salmon must also contend with the Delta's fish-killing maze of diversions, dams and pumps. The San Francisco

Chronicle reported that in 2004 and 2005, the years the 2008 Chinook were born and traveled to the ocean, the federal Central Valley Project and the State Water Project exported record amounts of Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta water to urban and agricultural customers throughout the state.

Final recommendations on fishing limits will be released in April.

Want more news? Sign up for the Klamath Riverkeeper eNews at www.klamathriver.org

TMDL stands for *Clean Water*

Q: How does the Clean Water Act impact the Klamath River?

A: Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act requires that states create pollution limits—called a Total Maximum Daily Load or TMDL—when they judge a water body to be "impaired" by pollutants. States must also periodically evaluate water bodies to determine their pollution status. This has resulted in many sections of the Klamath and its tributaries being "listed" as impaired. State agencies are now developing and/or implementing TMDLs to address these impairments, as well as proposing new 303(d) listings altogether. KRK is actively reviewing these studies and supports rigorous pollution standards throughout our 16,000 square mile watershed.

Q: When will we see TMDLs address agriculture in Oregon?

A: Oregon's new pollution limits for the mainstem Klamath are due out this spring and we expect to see tough new standards aimed at reducing nutrient, pH, dissolved oxygen, and temperature pollution in the upper half of the Klamath watershed. The pressure is on for the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, because Oregon must meet California's TMDLs at the state line, where water pollution is now contributing to dangerous toxic algae pollution.

Q: What's going on with TMDLs on the California Klamath?

A: California has recently proposed new pollution limits aimed at addressing toxic algae, sediment, and mercury pollution in the Klamath Watershed. KRK - and the scientific record - strongly support California's proposed extension of toxic algae rules to cover the river from Copco Lake to the Trinity River confluence. This proposal completes the state's response to KRK's successful legal action in 2008 that resulted in the US EPA listing the PacifiCorp's reservoirs as impaired by toxic algae pollution, and bolsters the case for dam removal.

California is also proposing to list segments of the mid-Klamath River and some tributaries as impaired by sediment pollution from roads, logging, grazing, and suction dredge mining (see page 3). Lake Shastina, on the Shasta River, could be listed for mercury pollution, a problem first identified in 2001. Wooley Creek, a critically important cold water tributary to the Salmon River, is proposed for removal from the list of streams impaired by temperature pollution, though the stream is vulnerable after a significant portion of its watershed burned in the wildfires of 2006 and 2008.

Q: What can I do to help?

A: Please contact the Water Board and comment on their proposed listings before March 20th. Support them in expanding the microcystin toxic algae listing all the way to the Trinity confluence. Support them also in proposing listings for sediment on the mid-Klamath and its tributaries and mercury in Lake Shastina. Tell them Wooley Creek should not be de-listed due to forest fire impacts and its importance to the Salmon River. Comments can be emailed to Matt St. John at the Water Board mstjohn@waterboards.ca.gov. For more information on these points as well as information and action alerts on late-breaking comment periods on Oregon's TMDLs, check our website at www.klamathriver.org.

More info on TMDLs can be found at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/> and <http://www.deq.state.or.us/WQ/TMDLs/TMDLs.htm>



The mainstem Klamath below Iron Gate dam should be listed as polluted by toxic algae. Photo by Ken Morrish.

Keepin' up with Klamath Riverkeeper...

PACIFICORP DAY OF ACTION

Hundreds of people turned out this fall for the first annual Day of Action Against PacifiCorp at their Portland, Or headquarters. Busses bringing folks up from the river joined with commercial fishermen, members of the **Portland American Indian Movement (AIM)** and the **Rising Tide Collective** to send a message loud and clear to PacifiCorp: Un-Dam the Klamath or we'll keep coming back! The spirited yet peaceful rally culminated in a mock knocking down of the Klamath dams by a crowd of happy salmon. Several people attempted to bring jugs of algae-infested Klamath water up to PacifiCorp's office, but were blocked at the door by riot police as corporate officials looked on behind the glass.

WATER WARS & WORLD CLASS BIRDS

A great time was had by all on this fall's Upper Basin tour. With stops at **Lower Klamath Wildlife Refuge, Link River and the "A" Canal**, and the **former Chiloquin Dam**, participants got a good feel for some of the special issues and places of the Upper Basin, as well as an awe-inspiring flock of Sandhill cranes. A special thanks to **ODFW's Roger Smith, Refuge Manager Ron Cole**, and **Jon Hicks from Bureau of Reclamation** for taking time on a Saturday to meet with the public.

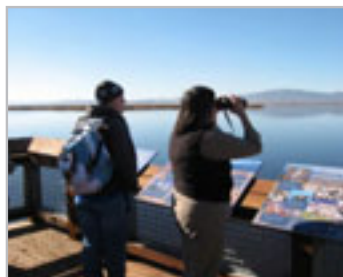
NEW KRK EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Along with our new Riverkeeper, Erica Terence, KRK has added **Scott Harding** as Executive Director. Scott oversees our organizational development and works closely with Erica to ensure our programs run smoothly. No stranger to the Klamath and its issues, Scott has lived on both the Scott and Salmon Rivers and serves on the board of directors of the **Salmon River Restoration Council** and the **Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands**

(right) Riot cops defend PacifiCorp against their own algae in PDX, (below) Water Wars tourgoers saw the Sprague River recovering nicely less than a year after Chiloquin dam removal, and still had time for bird watching at Lower Klamath NWR.



Center. He has worked as a Forest Service geologist, as a kayak instructor on the Klamath and Salmon Rivers, and continues to freelance as a professional photographer. Look to the sky to see him paragliding in his spare time.



GEORGIANA MYERS, COMMUNITY ORGANIZER

We're also pleased to announce that **Georgiana Myers** is joining us permanently as a community organizer, thanks to generous support of our environmental justice work by the Oakland, California based **Public Health Institute**. Get in touch with her at georgiana@klamathriver.org!

KRK TACKLES STRATEGIC PLANNING

KRK celebrated our second year by holding a strategic planning weekend at **Sandy Bar Ranch** in Orleans. We used this beautiful riverside backdrop to set up a 3-year plan to guide the organization through shifting political, economic, and climatic currents. Check out our strategic plan at www.klamathriver.org.



Staff

Erica Terence
Riverkeeper

Georgiana Myers
Community Organizer

Malena Marvin
Outreach & Science Director

Scott Harding
Executive Director

Evelyn Roether
Bookkeeper/Administrator

Board of Directors

Daniel Cooper
Craig Tucker, PhD
Dania Colegrove
Leaf Hillman
Stephanie Tidwell
Peter Brucker
Nathaniel Pennington
Terry O'Day

Mission

Klamath Riverkeeper restores water quality and fisheries throughout the Klamath watershed, bringing vitality and abundance back to the river and its people.

Waterkeeper Alliance

Klamath Riverkeeper is a local organization affiliated with the international Waterkeepers Alliance. A grassroots advocacy network with over 170 members, Waterkeepers Alliance connects and supports local Waterkeepers to provide a voice for waterways and their communities worldwide.

On the Klamath

Panamnik Building
38150 Hwy 96
Orleans, CA 95556
ph/fax: 530.627.3311
toll-free: 1.877.307.3311

Mailing:

PO Box 751
Somes Bar, CA 95568

In Oregon

PO Box 897
Ashland, OR 97520
ph: 541.488.3553
fax: 541.488.6212

www.klamathriver.org

Klamath River News is edited by Malena Marvin and printed on 100% post-consumer recycled Sakura paper.



UN-DAM THE KLAMATH HOODIES Get a piece of the movement that made "un-dam" a legitimate English word! These organic cotton hooded sweatshirts come in blue or brown, and feature our logo on the back. They make great gifts and you can buy them on our website or by shooting us an email.





Fish Heroes

Klamath artists, filmmakers, photographers

Artists supply activists with compelling stories, visions, and a sense of fun and entertainment. In turn, activists can make art relevant by connecting these stories and visions with ways people can help with real issues. Neither group is in it for the money, and we depend on each other to get the word out about our respective projects. KRK is dedicated to keeping this mutually beneficial partnership thriving on the Klamath. We'd like to take the opportunity to recognize the artists, filmmakers, and photographers who are helping to tell the Klamath salmon story - these people are true fish heroes!



KLAMATH SALMON MEDIA COLLABORATIVE - River people Stormy Staats and Shawn Borque have been integral to the movement to Un-Dam the Klamath since the beginning, filming and producing the documentary SOLVING THE KLAMATH CRISIS as well as many inspiring shorts.



BEN KEMPAS, director - Ben directed and is currently touring with his documentary film UPSTREAM BATTLE, which focuses on the struggle to un-dam the Klamath from the perspective of Native people. www.upstream-battle.com



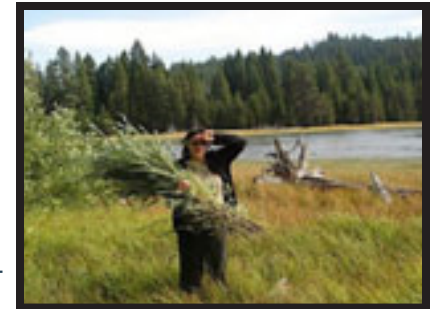
STEPHEN MOST, author and **JACK KOHLER**, actor - Stephen and Jack teamed up to create a documentary film version of Stephen's history book, RIVER OF RENEWAL. Their film focuses on dam removal from a variety of perspectives, and features amazing historical footage of Native people struggling against federal agents for their right to fish the Klamath. www.riverofrenewal.org



DIANA HARTEL and **MADRONA ARTS** - Madrona Arts' Freeing the Waters project weaves together site-based Klamath art, oral histories, and art events to benefit Klamath fish and people. www.madronaarts.com

SCOTT HARDING PHOTO - Though Scott has now joined us as Exec. Director, we are still thankful for Scott's unique library of wet and wild Klamath shots.

www.scotthardingphoto.com



THOMAS DUNKLIN - As you can see from the cover and lamprey story in our newsletter, Thomas's camera has turned up compelling images from every corner of the Klamath. His visual narratives have become indispensable to us, and we are truly thankful for his continued support of the river. www.thomasbdunklin.com

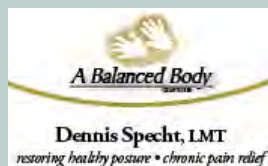
Thanks also to Amanita Mollier, Chris Adams, Allen Crockett, and all the other talented artists donating their skills to the Klamath cause!

THANK YOU!



Photo by David Lorenz Winston for Madrona Arts' Klamath River: Freeing the Waters project. www.madronaarts.com

Foundations: Public Health Institute, Common Counsel, Compton, Emmitt, Environment Now, Resource Legacy Fund, Wallis, Weeden, Patagonia, Columbia, Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund, Norcross, New World, Hundredth Monkey, Ashland Food Co-op **Friends and Volunteers:** Tom Piel, Portland AIM, Salmon River Outpost, Thomas Dunklin, Ken Morrish, Scott Harding Photo, Lawyers for Clean Water, California Coastkeepers Alliance, Sandy Bar Ranch, the Waterkeeper Alliance, Molli Jane White, Howard McConnell, Stormy Staats, Shawn Bourque, and Klamath Salmon Media Collaborative, Chris Sproul, the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, the Karuk Tribe, Black Bear Ranch, Glen Spain, Kokatat, Liz Crosson, Jack Matz, the Yurok Tribal Council, KBOO Radio, Brian Frank, Stephanie, Ant, and Rising Tide Collective, Katie Brandy, Aaron Longton, Bob Kemp, Paul Merz, Jim Allen, Glen Spain, Marc Valens, Dave Levine, Jim Bowne, John Fricker, and KRK's Amazing Board of Directors, Dan Bacher, Shop-n-Kart, Paradigm Winery



BECOME A MEMBER

The most effective way to show your support for the work of Klamath Riverkeeper is to become a member. You can donate online at www.klamathriver.org, or you can send this form with a check to the address below.

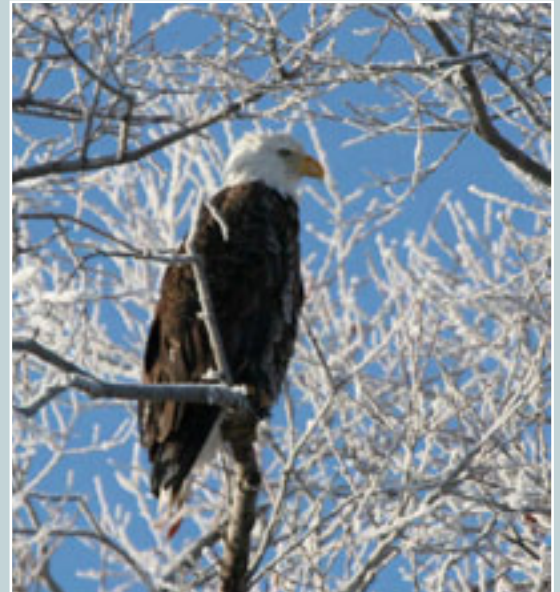
- Salmon Fry - \$25
- Half-Pounder - \$50
 - Send me a free t-shirt/totebag (circle one), my size is ____
- Steelhead - \$100
 - Send me the free book *River of Renewal*
- Spring Chinook - \$200
 - Send me a free hooded sweatshirt, my size is ____
- Green Sturgeon - \$400
 - I want to go rafting with KRK!
- Tributary - \$1000 and up

Name _____ I am enclosing a check for \$ _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____ Phone (____) _____ Today's Date _____



Klamath Bald Eagle by Thomas Dunklin. www.thomasdunklin.com

Your gift to KRK is tax-deductible.

- Please keep my donation anonymous
- Thank you, but please don't send me a free gift
- Please don't share my contact info



SAVE the DATE!

May 2008

Klamath River Film Festival

check our website for more info!

June 20-21st - Oakland, CA

Salmon Aid Festival

www.salmonaid.org

MORE EVENTS AT

www.klamathriver.org/events