Un-Dam the Klamath and
LET THE JOBS FLOW!

INSIDE
Scott & Shasta River campaign update
Dam removal powers forward
IT HAS BEEN AN EXCEPTIONALLY WET and productive year on the Klamath. Salmon counts and way up. Environmental analysis by the federal government found that dam removal would spawn over 6,000 jobs and 81% more Chinook salmon in the Klamath. Meanwhile, the media and regulators are finally looking seriously at how to resolve in-stream flow and fisheries problems in the Scott and Shasta watersheds.

But as mid-Klamath business owner Mark Dupont said at a dam removal hearing recently: “We have dodged the [extinction] bullet for now, with these past few wet years.” But to put the recent water bump in perspective, he recalled 20 fish- guiding guides in the area when he moved here, contrasted with the two local guides today.

We cannot afford to rest now. We need your help to leverage these encouraging developments into landscape level changes we can pass on to future generations. We need to convert our recent traction into a favorable Secretarial Finding for Klamath dam removal in March of 2012 (take action with us on page 5!). We need compliance with existing laws that already give CDFG the authority to regulate in-stream flows and existing laws that already give CDFG the authority to regulate in-stream flows and habitat to ATV track in early September of this year; juvenile coho stranded and then killed on Patterson Creek this July; an aerial shot of Kidder Creek taken in September. Photos by Erica Terence and Malcolm Terence with assistance from LightHawk.

For the Klamath, Erica Terence, Conservation Director/Executive Director

SoCkRiver TributarIes Fan ouT

Across Scott Valley, many of them reduced to long gravel washes as dry as nearby Highway 3 by late July, even in a relatively wet year like 2011. These dewatered streambeds offer a convenient transportation corridor, and ATV’s speed through to tend to their owners’ third and fourth crops of alfalfa.

Where the channel once wandered as it wished across the floodplain, professional hay growers and beef producers now occupy the landscape, their lush green fields showing the riv- er and creeks - already altered by extensive watersheds logging and mining - out of the way or just diverting their flow using ditches and pumps until the water has literally vanished.

2011 Fish Kill Triggerrr Investigations

In late July, KRK documented hundreds of stranded, and later dead, juvenile coho salmon in the Scott’s Patterson Creek (see photo at right). Reports about the depleted flows and dead ESA-listed fish triggered a cursory investigation by a California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Warden, who scoped out the three different areas upstream. A similar large-scale federal investigation of a separate endangered fish killed related to actions taken by a nearby ranch touched off rural rumor mills, and became the topic of conversation at dinner tables in the little town of Enna nestled along the western edge of Scott Valley. At the same time, KRK staff and volunteers continued weekly monitoring of in-stream flow and fish conditions throughout the summer and into the fall to keep the pressure on regulators and landowners.

Our photos of the baby coho cut out from all escape routes captured media attention throughout the region and the state, prompting CDFG to take two other steps toward restoring in-stream flows to the Scott River. In August, the agency held an unprecedented meeting to ask local Scott Valley landowners to reduce water diversions in reaches of stream that offer high-priority habitat for coho. Now, CDFG is forging ahead with a long-overdue in-stream flow study to determine how much water salmon actually need in the Scott River.

Fish Have Water Rights Too!

Even as CDFG begins to look at in-stream flow needs of the Scott and Shasta Rivers, the agency still defends a fatally flawed permitting program for coho-killing diversions (via an appeal of our successful lawsuit to end the program - see page 7) and other agricultural practices in both watersheds. However, the agency has recently suggested it is willing to explore whether our objections to the program could be resolved through a settlement.

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Meanwhile, as Siskiyou County stails a state-man- dated groundwater study, the Karuk Tribe has taken the ini- tiative to complete its own study focusing on interactions between surface flows and groundwater use in Scott Val- ley. The results of both studies are expected in 2012.

As scientific and regulatory fixes move ahead, KRK and al- lies continue to press for more stringent enforcement of the state and federal Endangered Species Acts, the Clean Water Act and state Codes designed to protect the environment in the Scott and Shasta River watersheds.

At an informational hearing held by the California Legislature’s Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture in August, KRK presented a list of recommended actions to help Scott River salmon populations rebound. At the top of that list enforce existing laws that already give CDFG the authority to regulate in-stream flows and even groundwater pumping.

The demand for in-stream flows in the Scott River from a coalition lead by KRK gained significant traction (more on page 7) in 2011. Now we need to leverage that traction into lasting improvements in the health of the Scott River and its fisheries.

Join this crucial movement to re-water Klamath River tributaries by becoming a member of Kla- math Riverkeeper!

Young tribal members join a rally for dam removal at federal dam removal hearings in Yreka this fall, driving home the point that Klamath dam removal, in addition to being a job-creating economic boon for the region, is also a vital environmental justice issue. From left, Critter Moon, Sarah Torres, Kristie Moon and Jacquelyn Dyer. Photo by Konrad Fisher/Klamath Riverkeeper.

Re-Watering the Scott & Shasta

Poor farming and ranching practices face increased public scrutiny...
Rural Americans rally for dam removal as bills head to Congress

Let the jobs flow!

The federal government announced in September that dam removal would benefit Klamath River communities by producing more jobs, cleaner water and more fish. The news came with a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) projecting that removal of four mainstem Klamath dams would generate at least 6,000 new jobs over 15 years, while it would eliminate only 67 jobs. The document also stated that removal of the barriers to fish passage would produce as much as 81% more Chinook salmon in the Klamath River. This DEIS is part of the multi-year federal dam removal process set in motion by the Klamath Basin Restoration and compensation Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreements in 2009.

While we’re excited to see momentum building to remove these outdated dams by 2020, our coalition recognizes the deal still isn’t done. It faces hurdles at home and in the nation’s capital, and as always, its success depends on grassroots action.

**DAM REMOVAL GETS OFFICIAL**

The next, crucial phase in the dam removal process takes place in Washington D.C. where legislation is needed to formally authorize the feds to remove the dams and fund the dam removal agreements. Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA) and Senator Denny Rehberg (D-Or) have introduced the Klamath Basin Economic Restoration Act in the House and Senate respectively. The bills have since picked up support from Senator Barbara Boxer (D-Ca), as well as 15 Congressional co-sponsors from Washington, Oregon, California and Arkansas.

Pending the success in the nation’s legislature, U.S. Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar will make a final determination in March 2012 on whether dam removal is in the best interest of fisheries and the public. Secretary Salazar will base his decision partly on the DEIS, which analyzes five alternatives, four of which propose dam removal. Other factors in the Secretarial Determination will be the favorable rulings from the Oregon and California Public Utilities Commissions. While both PUCs found dam removal presented to be the most prudent cost alternative for ratepayers earlier in 2011.

**RURAL AMERICANS WANT DAM REMOVAL!**

Federal and state agencies held a series of hearings throughout the Klamath Basin in October to collect public input on the DEIS. River residents from Chiloquin to Requa turned out en masse for these hearings, reminding the feds that their river-dependent communities care about this issue.

“When upper basin residents demand that you take ‘the rights of the people, not just the fish’ into account, remember that down here our lives are completely intertwined with the fish, and therefore the rights of the fish are the rights of the people,” said independent media activist and local outreach, our coalition is helping the people of the river tell their stories to the feds.

**Government officials thanked the community for its hospitality at the Orleans meeting, where Klamath Riverkeeper president Bob Frawley provided pizza and Kukur eri Kari Trip opened the meeting with a song, Coastal sage sedge manager Jerry McCovey summed up the sentiments of the crowd at the Arcata hearing when he described the Klamath dams as ‘net losses,’” the document stated.

“KBRA = jobs! Best thing to happen to Siskiyou County since the Gold Rush!”

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Keepin’ up with Klamath Riverkeeper...

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In California, KRK’s Office is located at 38150 Hwy 96, Orleans, CA 95556.

“KRK welcomes Konrad Fisher to KRK!”

Konrad Fisher is the new Outreach Director. Konrad has strong roots in the Klamath basin as well as fourteen years of advocacy, research and communications experience on water policy and the protection of river-dependent communities. Before setting up shop at KRK, Konrad spent the last three years coordinating water management programs in the Northeastern United States for the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission. Konrad is a strong proponent of local solutions to complex water problems. He will be based in Klamath Falls, OR 97601.

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“Klamath River News is edited by Malena Murvin.”

We want to meet you!

Come down and talk to KRK in person at one of our upcoming events. We will be in Klamath Falls, Oregon on Feb. 17-19th at the Oregon Institute of Technology’s Winter Wings Festival in Klamath Falls, OR.

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KLAMATH DAM REMOVAL: By the numbers

- Years at least one dam has entirely blocked fish passage on the Klamath River: 95
- Years since PacifiCorp first began attempting to relicense 4 outdated Klamath dams: 12
- Jobs a federal report estimates will be lost when dams are removed: 67
- Jobs the same report estimates will be gained as a result of dam removal and restoration alone, not counting sportfishing and tourism: 6,000
- Miles of habitat dam removal will re-open to migrating salmon: 420
- Percentage increase of Chinook salmon scientists estimate dam removal will produce on the Klamath: 81
- Factor by which toxic algae levels behind the dams have been measured above World Health Organization standards: 4,000
- Rank of dam removal among actions deemed necessary to solve the Klamath’s toxic algae problem: 1
- Rank of Native American tribes on the Klamath River among California’s most populous tribes: 1, 2, 3
- Pounds of salmon scientists estimate were consumed per person per year by “pre-contact” Karuk people: 450
- Pounds of salmon currently consumed per person per year by Karuk people: < 5
- Former rank of the Klamath among the West Coast’s largest salmon-producing rivers: 3
- Number of tribes, organizations, sportsmans groups, businesses, and agencies signed on to the dam-removing Klamath Basin Restoration & Hydroelectric Settlement Agreements: 45
- Net loss per year, in dollars, at which dams would operate after necessary upgrades for relicensing: 20,000,000


Join Klamath Riverkeeper!

We can’t do what we do without members like you. Become a member by sending in the envelope enclosed inside, or by visiting www.klamathriver.org/join. Thank you!