

the long dry run

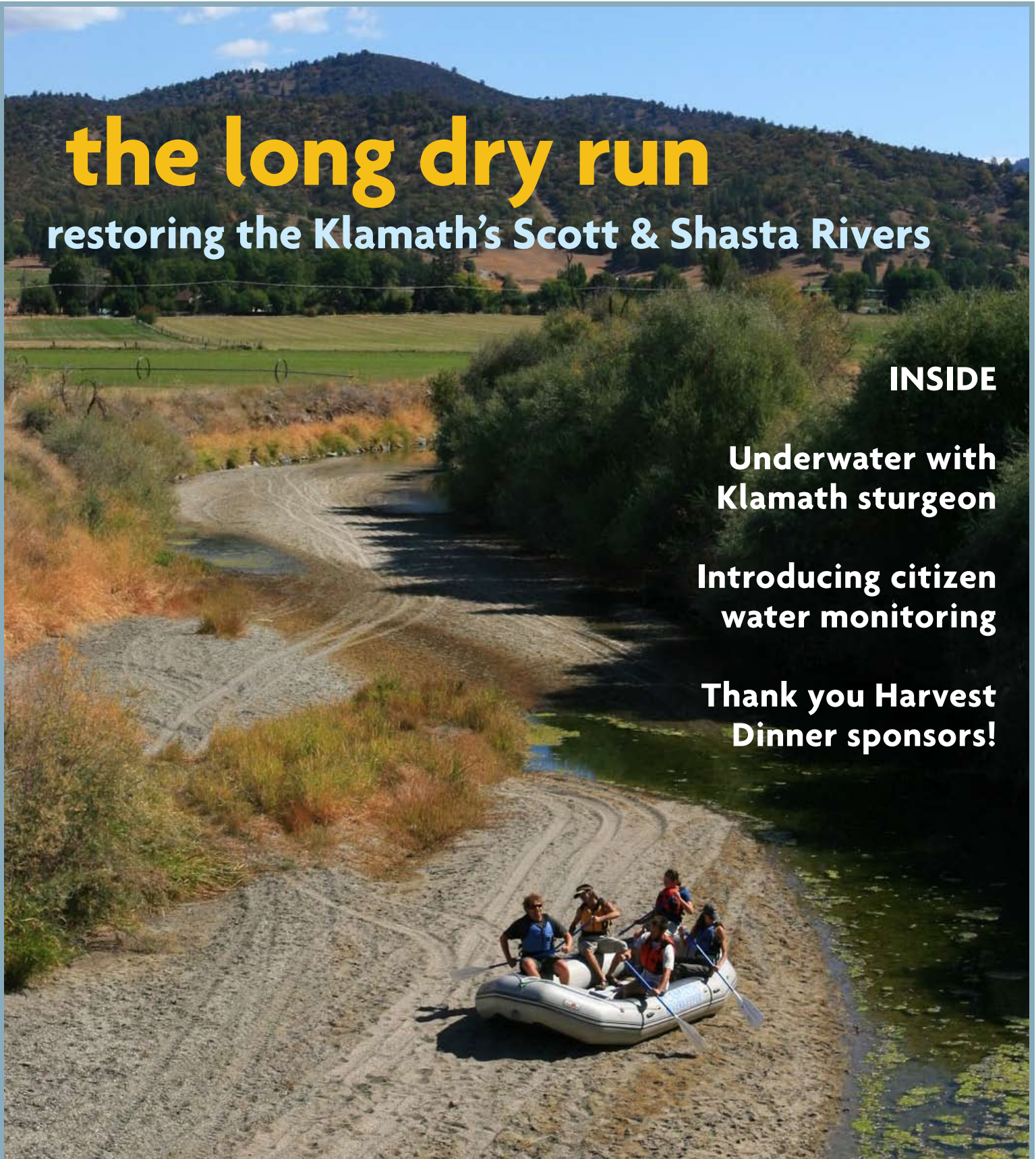
restoring the Klamath's Scott & Shasta Rivers

INSIDE

**Underwater with
Klamath sturgeon**

**Introducing citizen
water monitoring**

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What's wrong with this picture? The beautiful Scott River is missing its water! Photo by Klamath Riverkeeper at Quartz Valley Road, August 21, 2009.



SETTING OUR SIGHTS ON THE SCOTT & SHASTA

WHEN KLAMATH RIVERKEEPER STARTED IN 2006, we joined tribes and river activists with the battle cry: Un-Dam the Klamath, Bring the Salmon Home!

Now in 2010, after a historic settlement signing ceremony that puts us closer than ever before to blasting four dams out of the mainstem Klamath River, we're supporting these settlement agreements while looking ahead to implementing

legislation, environmental review and interim water quality measures to mitigate for pollution caused by the dams.

But we're also looking beyond the dam removal campaign to full-scale river restoration by calling on lawmakers, regulators, management agencies, scientists, water users and citizens like you to help us bring salmon back to the Scott and Shasta rivers.

These two tributaries to the Klamath River should be prime habitat and have the potential to once again support healthy populations of coho salmon, spring and fall Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, Pacific lamprey and even native freshwater mussels.

Sadly, however, repeated and severe dewatering for irrigation has fragmented the habitat of these fisheries, leaving them literally stranded in pools separated by long stretches of completely dry riverbed. Only nine coho came back to the Shasta River in 2009 - all male fish, by the way - and just 81 returned to the Scott River. Of the three "year-classes" of coho that will spawn future generations, two are functionally

extinct, scientists report.

The response from agencies, unfortunately, has been totally disproportionate to the problem. Instead of addressing the instream flow crisis in any meaningful way, the California Department of Fish and Game has instead decided to further jeopardize an already endangered species by rubber-stamping instream grazing, dams and water diversions through controversial, watershed-wide "Incidental Take Permits."

So what can we do to stop the bleeding and reverse this bleak extinction trend? Together with our coalition, Klamath Riverkeeper is using legal tools such as the state and federal Endangered Species Act, the public trust doctrine and the California Environmental Quality Act to challenge the status quo and demand that the Scott and Shasta be rewatered before it's too late. We're also on the ground collecting and analyzing data, and documenting and bringing media attention to the dewatering. We continue to mobilize public comments from people like you, a highly effective tactic for pressuring the powers that be to take stronger and faster action. (You can take action on this issue by sending in the letter on page 9, or going to www.klamathriver.org).

In drawing up a strategic blueprint for restoring these two critical arteries in the Klamath River system, everything is on the table: over appropriation and weak enforcement of water rights, unregulated groundwater pumping, the water-polluting and fish-blocking impoundment at Dwinnell Dam, leaking sewage, even reintroduction of the beaver.

In essence, however, our battle cry remains the same: "Un-Dam the Klamath! Bring the Salmon Home!"

Please help us amplify that message by becoming a Klamath Riverkeeper member, making a donation, volunteering your time or expertise or taking action on the issues. We are, as ever, a people-powered group working inside our watershed for positive changes, and with your help we'll be even more effective. Thanks for all you do.

- Erica Terence, Lower Klamath Advocate/Executive Director

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on the cover: Rafters attempt to run the dewatered Scott River in October 2009. Despite fervent and heartfelt paddling, the good-natured boaters were unable to move their boat. Record low flows ravaged the Klamath's Scott and Shasta Rivers in 2009, though precipitation data did not indicate 2009 was a record drought year. Photo by KRK.



Introducing Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring on Yreka Creek

Citizens can become scientists on the most urban stream on the California Klamath

POWERFUL THINGS HAPPEN WHEN people have the opportunity to scientifically monitor their own watershed. Research partners increase their data gathering capacity while citizen volunteers gain new skills. People make important connections to their watershed, other organizations, and each other. Volunteer monitoring builds community by fostering networks based on the place we live.

Klamath Riverkeeper is excited to bring citizen monitoring to the Shasta watershed in 2010 with our first citizen water quality monitoring initiative. We've started by training citizens to collect water quality data at points on Yreka Creek this spring & summer.

According to the California State Water Board's Clean Water Team trainer Erick Burres, the Klamath River currently has the fewest opportunities for citizen monitoring of any major watershed in California. Citizen monitoring is also integral for many of Klamath Riverkeeper's fellow "Waterkeepers" - now numbering 180 worldwide.

The goals of our Yreka Creek monitoring program are to provide an opportunity for local people to learn more about water quality and fish habitat on Yreka Creek, fill a recognized scientific monitoring gap in the Klamath and Shasta River watersheds, and to add monitoring capacity to existing and future restoration and stream assessment projects.

WHY MONITOR?

Scientists use water quality monitoring to figure out how healthy our rivers and creeks are. At the same time, water quality scientists

and managers are often hard-pressed to find the reliable funding needed to collect consistent data year after year. The real world consequences are that we often do not know how "healthy" a stream is from one year to the next, or even if and how water quality benefits from restoration projects that we sometimes spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to implement.

WHY YREKA CREEK?

Yreka Creek flows through the town of Yreka, the largest population center on the California side of the Klamath. This makes it an accessible place for people to view migrating salmon, and learn about water quality in the Klamath Watershed. Yreka Creek contributes about 10% of the Shasta River's flow, and was once a steelhead stronghold and also a key contributor of gravels needed by salmon spawning in the Shasta canyon.

A critical mass of interest in the health and restoration of Yreka Creek is emerging from local groups like the Yreka Creek Greenway Committee, the City of Yreka, and the Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District as well as agencies like the US Forest Service, the US Fish & Wildlife Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service. Our citizen monitoring program intends to support and expand on existing and planned stream assessments and restoration projects by training citizen volunteers to conduct long-term surface water monitoring throughout their home watershed.

OUR NETWORK

Klamath Riverkeeper has analyzed water quality monitoring gaps basinwide through our participation with the Klamath Basin Monitoring Program (KBMP), a consortium of

Klamath water quality scientists and managers working at Tribes, agencies, nonprofits and universities. KRK has served on the Steering Committee of KBMP and looks to KBMP scientists for expert advice and gap analysis as we plan and expand our monitoring program.

Klamath Riverkeeper has also received in-kind donations of water quality monitoring equipment and trainings from California's State and Regional Water Quality Control Boards. The Water Boards are avid supporters of citizen monitoring throughout California with their Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) which catalogues monitoring data statewide and provides resources to citizen monitoring programs through the Clean Water Team program.

Learn more about KRK's new Monitoring Program Coordinator John Bowman on page 10!

"Volunteer monitoring builds community by fostering networks based on the place we live."

**WANTED:
CITIZEN SCIENTISTS**
No experience necessary!

If you live near Yreka Creek or the Shasta River and want to come down and meet your neighbors while monitoring water quality, give us a call!

Find out more from KRK's Monitoring Program Coordinator John Bowman at (530) 643-7487 or john@klamathriver.org

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Photos by KRK/Lighthav

THE SCOTT AND SHASTA ARE TWO VERY DIFFERENT rivers, but they have one key thing in common: they are simultaneously among the Klamath's most degraded tributaries and are the basin's best hope for fisheries restoration.

One hundred and fifty years ago, the Scott and Shasta rivers teemed with coho, steelhead, lamprey and spring Chinook. In fact, the Shasta once produced more salmon, mile for mile, than any river in California. Between the Shasta's abundant cold springs and the Scott's meandering beaver ponds these tributaries spawned half the Klamath River's salmon run, itself the third largest on the West Coast.

Entering the mid Klamath near Yreka, the Scott and Shasta River Valleys now encompass the heart of ranching in California's half of the Klamath basin. The effects of over a century of poorly regulated irrigation, cattle grazing, and dam building - not to mention over-fishing, mining and logging - have reduced once thriving salmon populations on these tributaries by at least 90%.

Avoiding extinction hinges on our ability to reverse the legacy of lawlessness that has brought these great rivers to their knees and to pilot a new era of fish-friendly farming that allows farms and fish to thrive. The latest numbers from California's Department of Fish & Game (CDFG) tell us we don't have much time: in the fall of 2009, only nine coho returned to the Shasta to spawn, all of them male. Eighty one returned to the Scott.

LISTENING TO COHO'S STORY ON THE SHASTA

Abundant natural springs give the Shasta River a unique base of cold-water flows that historically made this river one of the West Coast's great coho salmon nurseries. Because the spring-fed flows don't fluctuate much with climate or precipitation, the Shasta is an example of the habitat refugia salmon will need as global warming intensifies. Problem is, these springs are all but dammed, diverted, trampled, and pumped away. Last summer's river flows hovered at a dangerously low 10 cubic feet per second and what little water was left was of such poor quality there were few places where salmon could survive, let alone successfully spawn and rear.

Coho, as the Klamath's canary in the coal mine, let us know when our rivers are out of balance. Unlike other salmon species, coho live to be three years old rather than four or five, and they spend their entire

first year in their home river. This means not only are coho vulnerable to poor in-river conditions, but there are only three "year-classes" in any given population. If two go "functionally extinct," as CDFG reports has happened for cohorts returning to the Shasta in 2008 and 2009, you've only got one chance left to save the run. Our last chance will swim home in the fall of 2010, and if action isn't taken quickly to restore their habitat and flows, CDFG warns, they won't make it either.

If this year's run of Shasta River coho are to survive, CDFG says that adequate water is needed in the river so that fish can move between pools and this water must be cold and clean enough to prevent mortality and reduce stress. Additionally, CDFG says livestock must be excluded from streams.

The story is similar on the Scott where coho, Chinook, steelhead, and lamprey face the same conditions that have all but killed off the Shasta's coho. The Scott made statewide headlines as it was reduced to a sandy riverbed for much of last summer, while adjacent alfalfa fields were irrigated with pumped groundwater. Thousands of returning Chinook narrowly avoided major fish kills in both rivers last fall as the few deep pools where fish could survive got warmer and more crowded before the end of irrigation season.

Downriver Native American tribes and fishermen have long depended upon healthy runs of Scott and Shasta salmon. With the upper third of the Klamath watershed blocked by PacifiCorp's dams, the Scott and Shasta are critical for the health of all Klamath salmon. Extinction is not an option. With the last of these rivers' coho at stake, conservation groups, tribes, and fishermen are beginning a no holds barred legal and grassroots effort to improve flows and habitat.

The bad news here is that past disregard of environmental and public trust laws has created a very dramatic fisheries crisis in which fish kills, extirpation, and startling populations declines have become the norm on these rivers. Tensions are high and a classic fish vs. farms scenario is increasing desperation on all sides.

The good news is now that we've literally hit rock bottom on these rivers, we are finally seeing the resources and enthusiasm necessary to improve land use practices, enforce environmental laws, and help land-owners transition to a truly sustainable agriculture model that keeps



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storing fish and farms n the Klamath's Scott & Shasta Rivers

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more water in the river as it increases farm security.

MAKING THE TRANSITION TO CERTIFIED FISH-FRIENDLY FARMS

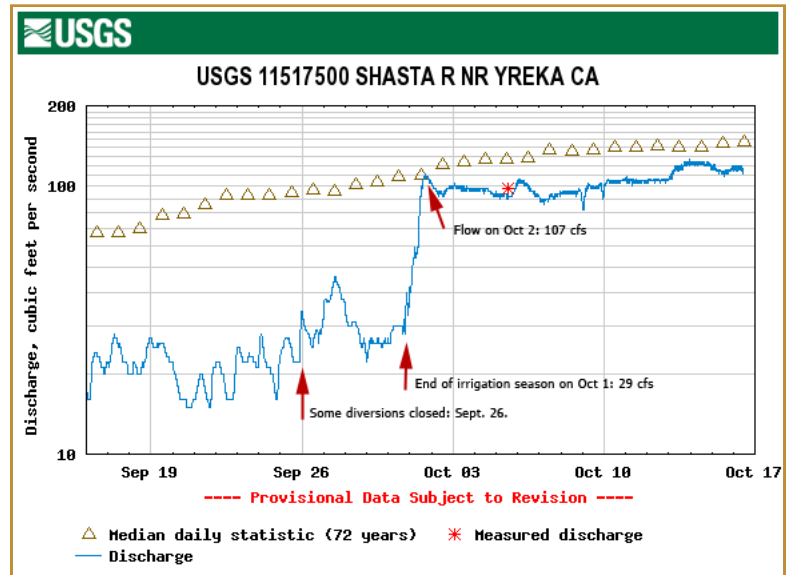
Because most folks prefer a vibrant community of family farmers over endless subdivisions or sprawling corporate farms, keeping family farms alive – and thriving – in the Scott and Shasta valleys is important. By choosing the most appropriate crops and livestock, ensuring profits are vertically integrated in local communities, and by implementing sustainable agriculture, it may be possible to put water back in these rivers, while giving local farmers the boost they need to make it in an era of global warming and increased regulation.

Much of the water currently pumped from the Scott and Shasta irrigates alfalfa, a water-intensive crop with a low profit margin produced for export out of the region. At the same time, a lack of local facilities for processing livestock forces most Scott and Shasta cattle ranchers to sell their herds at low prices to distant feedlots and processors. In both cases, landowners must maximize quantity produced to eek out a living.

Despite this, there is the beginning of a return toward crop diversity and some farmers are now trying crops like non-irrigated organic rye, sold to a local distillery for high-end liquor production. Others would like to see a local USDA slaughterhouse, which would help ranchers increase their profits and decrease water use by producing locally processed grass-fed beef.

A “fish-friendly” certification cooperative for the Scott and Shasta could help research, implement and market these solution-oriented shifts in agricultural practices. Certified fish-friendly farms in the Scott and Shasta valleys would adhere to significantly improved environmental and water quality practices and in exchange would receive assistance with building capacity for localized, sustainable food production and marketing their value-added “green” products.

Ultimately, promoting a real shift toward organic and sustainable agricultural practices could reduce water withdrawals while providing farm security in the Scott and Shasta. Coho salmon are warning us, however, that real change is needed right away. Klamath Riverkeeper is working both to ensure our bedrock environmental laws are finally enforced on these rivers and that local farmers get the help they need to succeed in this new paradigm.

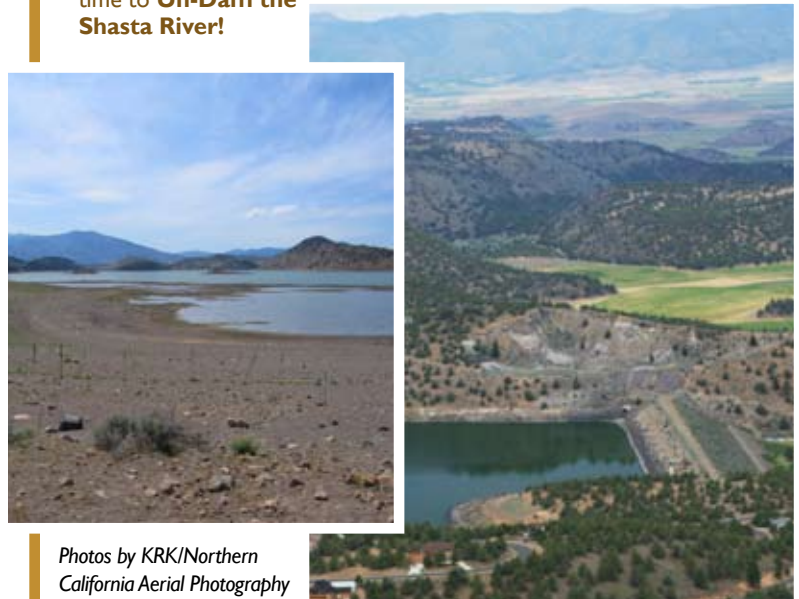


(Above right) Screenshot taken from the United States Geological Survey realtime stream gage on the Shasta River in 2009. Red arrows indicate events added by KRK. The graph shows water flows rise dramatically in the 24 hours following the closure of irrigation season. (Above left) Aerial view of 2009’s dry Scott River bed and adjacent alfalfa fields, with late summer views on the ground in the Scott Valley.

UN-DAM THE SHASTA!

TRULY THE SHASTA RIVER’S SACRED COW, the reservoir behind Dwinnell Dam transforms the upper Shasta’s pristine flows into a festering algae-laden pond. Despite persistent issues with toxicity and water quality, Lake Shastina is used for irrigation, recreation and drinking water for the town of Montague. On the flip side, the dam blocks over 20% of the Shasta River to migrating salmon, eliminates the pulses of high flows needed to replace spawning gravels and ease fish passage, and either dewateres the downriver section of the Shasta or discharges warm water loaded with nutrients when releases are made for agriculture. Dwinnell is implicated in Shasta salmon declines both by the National Academy of Sciences and in the California Department of Fish and Game’s latest report on coho in the Shasta.

Since alternatives for recreation, irrigation and drinking water exist, and Dwinnell is likely illegal under numerous environmental laws, its time to **Un-Dam the Shasta River!**



Photos by KRK/Northern California Aerial Photography

Diving deep with green sturgeon

Ancient fish species hangs on in the mysterious depths of the m

Maymi Preston took some time away from her ceremonial Jump Dance at Aamekyáaraam last summer to interview the Karuk Tribe's Fisheries Department on the Klamath River's elusive sturgeon population. Maymi is a busy college student at Southern Oregon University and a Karuk tribal descendent. Toz Soto is a fisheries biologist with the Karuk Tribe, and Dennis Ray Donahue Jr., is a Karuk tribal member and fisheries technician. Maymi Preston conducted the following interviews as part of a 2009 summer internship with Klamath Riverkeeper.

Maymi: So Toz, what is a sturgeon exactly?

Toz: Well, as far as fishes go, sturgeon are very old and primitive, ancient. They've been around for about 100 million years, which means they were here with the dinosaurs. The only other fish that old in our rivers would be the lamprey, also called eels. The Klamath has two species, green sturgeon and white sturgeon. Green sturgeon are rare and really only found in a few rivers in North America and Asia. It's a very unique species with very limited breeding areas. Although they can live for a very long time (to be around 100), they don't mature into adults until they're about 15 to 20 years old.

Only the adults can spawn and they are often not very successful. It's hard for a sturgeon to survive to spawning age, and there is limited habitat for spawning. Dams can block off spawning areas and I believe that suction dredge mining can kill eggs and larvae, which cling to the rocky bottoms of the river. Green sturgeon swim up from the ocean and spawn in the early spring [preferring] tailouts of large pools where gravels are large and where eggs can be protected from other hungry fish.

During summer sturgeon hang out in deeper, slow moving pools. They head back to the ocean in late fall after the first couple of big rains, likely riding the high waters down to the ocean. While in freshwater they live off fat reserves until they get back to the oceans and estuaries. As bottom fish they don't really get near the surface except when they jump or roll.

Maymi: So how much do these fish weigh?

Toz: Green sturgeon could get to about 120 lbs. They weigh less after a summer of not eating anything.

Maymi: I've heard stories of 300 lb. sturgeon behind reservoirs that scared the heebie-jeebies out of divers. Are they true?

Toz: Yeah, well that is possible. Sturgeon don't usually get that big anymore unless they are hidden under reservoirs (but then they aren't breeding either). They can be scary fish because they seem fearless when you see them underwater and I'm not sure if they have any predators other than humans. Of all the river fish, the least is known about sturgeon. We've only recently learned about spawning habitat and migration patterns.

Maymi: How are sturgeon important to the Klamath river system?

Toz: They are important in the food chain. A sturgeon usually lays over 200,000 eggs, and these feed a lot of [life forms] on the base level of the food chain.

Maymi: How are sturgeon culturally important?

Toz: I'm not the best person to ask, but they can feed a lot of people, and are ancient. They are a key part of the river and a sign of its health.

Maymi: What are the biggest threats to the sturgeon and what can be done to protect them?

Toz: These fish have survived ice ages and all sorts of other obstacles through geologic time. Their biggest threat is loss of habitat and over harvesting. Dams are the biggest causes of habitat loss and estuary habitats have been degraded in most areas. If not managed correctly harvest can also cause populations to decline because very few individual fish in the population are mature, so large old fish are very important. Most sturgeon have little commercial value and therefore populations are not monitored closely and protection measures are hard to justify. The river Tribes value these fish the most, and therefore are the most involved in



From left: KRK Intern and Karuk tribal descendant Maymi Preston with brother Jared Wilder on the Salmon River; Karuk Tribe Fisheries Biologist Toz Soto; Karuk Tribe Fisheries Department technician and Karuk Tribal member Dennis Ray Donahue Jr.

Mid and lower Klamath River

learning more about fish like the sturgeon and the lamprey and will be the ones to help pass legislation that protects sturgeon and other native species.

Maymi: So Dennis, what do you know about the sturgeon?

Dennis: I know that they are good eating (laughs). I fish for them, and [the Karuk Fisheries Dep't] is keeping track of them also. We are what we eat, and if our people have been eating the same things from time immemorial than I guess we need to keep eating what we have or else we are not really the same anymore. I guess we're sort of fishy people (laughs again). That sounds kind of lame, but I guess that's that.

Maymi: So you are a fisheries technician, a Karuk Tribal member, and have lived on the Klamath and Salmon river your whole life. How has the river changed in your lifetime?

Dennis: Well... the river has gotten very bad. The waters are low and just warm. That does just happen naturally sometimes, but the blue-green algae seem to be getting just out of hand. When we go down the river to check flow on the creeks we see steelhead and coho bunched around the [confluences with] creeks. They can't breathe. What is unique is that I'm noticing all of this creeping into the Salmon River. That river is supposed to be the good river.

Maymi: As a resident of the rivers and as a fisheries tech, what do you see as being some of the reasons for the declining health of the river?

Dennis: Of course there are the dams, and maybe irrigation problems, but there are a lot of other issues. I see a lot of bad chemicals and waste going into the river, which is bad. People trash the riverbanks, and pollute it with their cigarettes. Also people along the river take out a lot of water for their own uses, and do not put that water back into the proper creeks and streams. That stresses the fish out a lot. Also people get cheap water for their legal and illegal crops and don't really realize that they just take too much sometimes. We all use the river, and we all need to take responsibility for our actions.

FISH FACTS

- Green sturgeon are known as **ishxikihar** in Karuk, **kahkah** in Yurok, and **lo'kyoh** in Hoopa, and *Acipenser medirostris* in Latin.
- Mature males measure from 4-6 feet long while mature females are slightly larger at 5-7 feet long.
- White sturgeon are the most common sturgeon on the Pacific Coast but are not known to breed in the Klamath River.
- Green sturgeon live most of their lives in the coastal Pacific Ocean and estuaries, travelling upriver to spawn. They range from Alaska to Mexico along the coast, but now **only spawn in the Klamath, Rogue and Sacramento Rivers**. They may spawn every 2-5 years.



• The National Marine Fisheries Service separates green sturgeon into two populations, a northern population ranging from the Eel River north, and a southern population ranging from the Mattole River south.

• The southern population is listed as **threatened** under the **Endangered Species Act**, and the northern population (including the Klamath and Rogue Rivers) is listed as a **species of concern**. Habitat destruction in the Sacramento watershed is considered a major reason for the southern population's decline.

• Though they are taxonomically classed with the bony fishes, sturgeon have a cartilaginous skeleton (like sharks) rather than actual bones.

- Sturgeon don't have scales, and instead have rows of bony plates known as scutes. Their **vacuum-like telescoping mouths** are on the underside of their body and they detect food with whisker-like sensory barbels.
- What little data exists on the topic suggests green sturgeon dine on **bottom-dwelling invertebrates** like shrimp, mollusks, amphipods and small fish.
- More info, including habitat maps and management documents can be found at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/fish/greensturgeon.htm>



Photographer Thomas Dunklin shot the green sturgeon photos for this article last summer while diving with Mid Klamath Watershed Council Executive Director Will Harling (left). The abundant algae in the photos is a filamentous green algae likely stirred up from the river bottom by the sturgeon and divers.



View Harling and Dunklin's underwater video of green sturgeon deep in the Klamath River at <http://vimeo.com/10452324>.

Dam Removal Deal Signed Agreements head for Congress, public invited to participate in environmental reviews

California's Governor said "hasta la vista" to the Klamath dams during a celebratory signing of the final set of Klamath dam removal agreements last February. "I can see already the salmon fish are screaming, 'I'll be back,'" Schwarzenegger told Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and Oregon's Governor Ted Kulongoski in front of a packed audience in Salem, Oregon.

With the initial fanfare now dying down, agency officials, river advocates, and legislators are proceeding down the path to demolition laid out in the Klamath Hydropower and Klamath Basin Restoration Agreements (KHA/KBRA). These agreements should remove the dams by 2020, and will transform water management in the basin in the interim period before the dams are removed. In the next few years, however, they must be legislated through Congress, and pass reviews required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California's Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Upholding environmental laws during the legislative process, and ensuring an as-yet-unwritten drought plan passes environmental muster are key pressure points as the agreements move forward. Wrestling funding away from a controversial California water bond will also be a major challenge. Citizen involvement is still key to the dam removal process, and KRK has not ruled out the use of legal action if necessary should the agreements get off track.

While congressional aides are busy drafting legislation and obtaining sponsors for the dam removal bill, teams of government officials opened the agreements for environmental review this summer. Hundreds of citizens turned out to testify at "scoping" hearings throughout the basin to tell officials what should be included in the draft Environmental Impact Statement/Review (EIS/EIR) due out in May 2011. The draft EIR/EIS will then be open for additional public comments before a final version is released in the fall of 2011.

The U.S. Secretary of the Interior will use the final EIR/EIS to issue a crucial "secretarial determination" in 2012. In official parlance, the Secretary will determine whether "the removal of the four lower dams on the Klamath River to achieve a free-flowing condition and allow full volitional passage of fish is in the public interest, will advance restoration of the salmonid fishery and is consistent with statutory obligations and tribal rights."

While much of the scientific, economic, and cultural arguments in support of this statement have already been established, a vocal minority of "dam-huggers" continues to oppose this common sense approach to Klamath River restoration, and public support



for dam removal is still vital.

KRK has partnered with allies at the Karuk, Klamath and Yurok Tribes as well as the Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman's Associations this summer to keep the grassroots momentum for dam removal rolling through these final reviews. Our coalition continues to support and empower Klamath basin people in telling stories about the toll these dams have taken on our environment, health, cultures, and economies. Because of these organizing efforts, government agencies saw strong turnouts and heard from passionate people at meetings in Chiloquin, Klamath Falls, Yreka, Orleans and Arcata.

Add your voice to the thousands supporting Klamath dam removal - learn more and take action:

www.klamathriver.org/enews

- sign up for the Klamath River eNews to receive electronic updates and be notified of opportunities to take action.

www.klamathrestoration.gov

Learn more about the timeline and process of Klamath dam removal at the official government website.

www.klamathrestoration.org

Information about Klamath dam removal and restoration provided by the Karuk, Yurok and Klamath Tribes of Oregon.

KRK ramps up mining oversight program

Last year, Klamath Riverkeeper joined the Karuk Tribe and many other groups in California to temporarily halt suction dredge mining on every river in the Sunshine State. This year, KRK is building on that success by tackling a variety of mining issues facing the Klamath River.

Over 150 years of mining in the Klamath watershed has left a legacy of damaged riparian areas, mercury in the riverbeds, and abandoned mines that leach toxic metals into streams. These abandoned mines are often out of the way and overlooked by regulatory

agencies that don't have the time, money, or incentive to deal with the problem. We are in the beginning phases of identifying the worst abandoned mines in our area, testing mine discharges for heavy metals and other toxins, and pushing for long overdue clean up of these antique polluters.

With gold still at over \$1000 per ounce, new mining projects are being proposed at an increasing rate. Most of these mines are on public land and are allowed under the extremely outdated 1872 Mining Law. These mines, however, must conform to federal environmental laws as well and we are tracking new mine proposals to ensure that environmental regulations are being followed.

This spring we appealed the Klamath National Forest's decision to allow a new placer gold mine on a tributary to the South Fork of the Salmon River. We pointed out deficiencies in the analysis of the mine's reduction of stream flow as well as problems with the generally substandard Environmental Analysis that the decision was based upon. The Klamath National Forest responded by withdrawing their decision. They have now re-authorized the project without changes and we have once again appealed their decision.

Last summer's suction dredge ban and court injunction ensure that we won't be seeing any legal suction dredges on streams and rivers

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TAKE ACTION!

Tell Klamath National Forest to re-water the Scott River



Dam removal advocates, including KRK's own Erica Terence (center) and Board members Leaf Hillman (left) and Dania Rose Colegrove (right), make a loud, strong case for removal of PacifiCorp's four lower dams on the Klamath River. Photos by Klamath Salmon Media Collaborative.



until the State of California adopts new regulations governing the in-stream mining practice. Right now, the Department of Fish and Game is part way through the long process of updating these regulations and they expect them to be ready for enactment by late Spring 2011. Klamath Riverkeeper remains fully engaged in the process of updating these regulations to help ensure that aquatic habitat and species are far better protected by the new rules. We reviewed and commented on the first round of the rule-making procedure late last fall and will be closely scrutinizing the draft regulations later this year when they are released. In the meantime, we're continuing our ground and air-based surveillance of streams and rivers to locate and report illegal dredging activity. We're also monitoring the increase in high-banking operations that are damaging streambanks and are illegally discharging muddy water back into rivers and streams.

Sampling Shastina Toxic algae lurks behind Dwinnell Dam on the Shasta River

Popularly known as Lake Shastina, the festering impoundment behind Dwinnell Dam has

long been implicated in a host of water quality and fisheries problems on the Shasta River, from disruption of natural flows to nutrient loading and temperature pollution. And now, according to KRK's preliminary sampling, we know the reservoir is also breeding large amounts of the toxic blue-green algae species, *Anabaena flos-aquae*.

Built for irrigation, the reservoir is not unlike the proverbial cesspool, and functionally turns into a dried up mud flat by mid-summer. KRK sampled shoreline algae blooms as the reservoir was shrinking last June at a public campground and boat-ramp. Lab results indicated toxic algae levels were high enough to warrant a public health warning in the state of California, though to date no warnings have been posted.

Consistent and objective water quality monitoring is necessary to ensure the public is adequately notified when reservoir conditions are toxic to human health.

KRK is actively seeking support to further investigate the toxic algae problem at Dwinnell, contact erica@klamathriver.org to join the effort.

Toxic algae blooms surround the public access boatramp at Lake Shastina, the impoundment behind Dwinnell Dam on the Shasta River. KRK's 2009 sampling of this area showed toxic algae concentrations warranting a public health warning from the state of California.



✂ Clip and send

Randy Moore
U.S. Forest Service Region 5
1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592
rmoores@fs.fed.us, 707.562.8737

Dear Mr. Moore,

Each year water is pumped and diverted from the Scott River until very little or no water remains in the stream to support aquatic species such as threatened coho salmon.

While chronic dewatering of the river has driven the Scott's coho to the brink of extinction, the US Forest Service has not asserted its senior in-stream water right for fish and wildlife. Assertion of your water right could be the difference between survival and extinction for Scott River coho.

Please request fulfillment of the US Forest Service senior in-stream water right for fish and wildlife in the Scott River this summer and demand that upstream users leave the adjudicated amount in the river. Please also investigate other avenues to reclaim your water right, such as making ditch permits on federal land conditional upon bypass flows.

Additionally, your agency should be opposing applications for new water rights or well installations until your water right is met.

Your agency's water right is one of our last lines of defense for coho in the Scott River watershed. Failure to use it now would be environmentally irresponsible.

Thank you for your time and attention on this do or die issue.

Name:
Address:
City, St. Zip:

Keepin' up with Klamath Riverkeeper...



Staff

Erica Terence

Lower Klamath Coordinator/
Executive Director

John Bowman

Monitoring Program Coordinator

Evelyn Roether

Bookkeeper/Administrator

Board of Directors

Leaf Hillman

Craig Tucker, PhD

Dania Colegrove

Marc Valens

Peter Brucker

Nathaniel Pennington

Frankie Joe Myers

Taylor David

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 Waterkeeper Alliance. A grassroots advocacy network with over 190 members, Waterkeeper Alliance connects and supports local Waterkeepers to provide a voice for waterways and their communities worldwide.

In California

Panamnik Building
38150 Hwy 96
Orleans, CA
ph/fax: 530.627.3311

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

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HARVEST DINNER FOR THE RIVER

Klamath Riverkeeper threw a great party last fall at the **Panamnik Building** (right) in Orleans, CA on the Klamath River. Supporters enjoyed a yummy dinner by **Nancy Doman**, won fabulous auction items generously donated by the businesses and individuals listed below, and most importantly, danced till way after midnight to the fantastic **Sundown Poachers**. **Erica Terence** and **Scott Harding**

also gave a great slideshow and presentation about KRK's work over the last year. Funds raised will support Klamath Riverkeeper's programs to restore the Klamath River throughout 2010. The evening would not have been possible without help from a group of **dedicated volunteers, Malcolm and Sue Terence**, and support from the **Mid Klamath Watershed Council**. This year's Harvest Dinner will be on November 13th - reserve your tickets early by sending an email to erica@klamathriver.org. If you want to volunteer, shoot us an email, and we'll make sure your name gets on the work trade list.

SUMMER BRINGS CHANGE, NEW FACES TO KLAMATH RIVERKEEPER

A number of exciting changes are afoot at Klamath Riverkeeper this year. **Malena Marvin**, who has grown our outreach capacity and initiated our volunteer monitoring program, has moved on from KRK after two and a half fabulous years. Malena plans to stay involved in the great movement to restore the Klamath and thanks all the inspiring people she's made contact with while working for KRK.

We're excited to announce that longtime Siskiyou County resident **John Bowman** has taken the



reins of our new **Yreka Creek Volunteer Monitoring Program** this spring. We welcome John's nearly ten years of experience collecting fisheries and water quality data for local, state, tribal, and federal natural resource agencies on the Scott, Shasta, and Salmon Rivers. In addition to being our man in the field, John continues to homestead 40 acres with his family in the Scott Valley. John says, "I've put down deep roots in this land and its communities, and finding ways to improve the health of our watersheds and aquatic ecosystems has become the driving force in my life."

We are also welcoming three new Board Members: **Marc Valens, Frankie Joe Myers, and Taylor David**. Marc is a longtime property owner on the Sycan River (headwaters of the upper Klamath) and a stalwart supporter of Klamath River restoration who helped fight the Salt Caves Dam proposal in the 1980s. He brings a great Upper Basin perspective to KRK.

Taylor, who is also from the Upper Basin, is the Public Information and News Department Manager for the **Klamath Tribes of Oregon**. She sits on our board as an individual and is herself a member of the Klamath Tribes of Oregon.

Frankie Joe Myers comes to us from the other end of the watershed and contributes his perspective and experience as a member of the **Yurok Tribe**. He is the brother of our former Community Organizer, **Georgiana Myers** and part of one of the larger family clans on the lower Klamath. With all this welcoming, there are also a couple goodbyes: after several years of serving as our President, **Daniel Cooper** has moved on but continues to be involved with KRK as a legal consultant and attorney. **Terry O'Day** has also moved on and keeps himself busy as a Santa Monica City Councilman. Finally, after several years of amazingly dedicated support, **Stephanie Tidwell** is also handing over the reins to the next generation of KRK Board Members. We heartily thank Steph, Daniel and Terry for their generous contributions to KRK over the years.



(left) KRK's new Monitoring Program Coordinator John Bowman.



Special thanks to our Harvest Dinner Sponsors!

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Thank
You!**

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Autumn on the Sycan, KRK/Northern California Aerial Photography

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November 13, 2010

2nd Annual
**Harvest Dinner
for the River**

Panamnik Building - Orleans, CA
Email erica@klamathriver.org to
reserve tickets early!

MORE EVENTS AT
www.klamathriver.org/events