

## Un-Dam the Klamath and **LET THE JOBS FLOW!**



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Watershed moment: Atop the Etna Summit, Erica Terence checks out the North Fork Salmon River watershed before dropping down the other side to monitor streamflows on the Scott River.



Klamath Salmon Media Collaborative

# KEEPING AN EYE ON THE KLAMATH RIVER

IT HAS BEEN AN EXCEPTIONALLY WET and productive year on the Klamath. Salmon counts are 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.

“Our repeated calls for irrigators in the Scott and Shasta to cede enough water for salmon to access the habitats they need makes us a target, but being the source of gossip in the town diner also tells us we’re being effective.”

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 26 fishing 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 environmental laws that protect dwindling Scott and Shasta salmon populations, and we need cleaner river conditions upstream of the dams where reintroduced salmon will once again swim by 2021.

Even as we hone in on the benefits of dam removal, we are turning increasingly toward the neglected Scott and Shasta watersheds, where agencies have been slow to address in-

stream flow deficiencies that often hinder endangered fish.

For the first time ever, the California Department of Fish and Game held a public meeting in Scott Valley, asking farmers and ranchers to divert less water. Not one Scott River irrigator volunteered their water. Though regulators already have the power and authority to keep more water in the stream, they have been afraid to use it. But once we began loudly blowing the whistle about stranded and dead juvenile coho salmon and dewatering in July and August, the issue became impossible to ignore any longer.

Our repeated calls for irrigators in the Scott and Shasta to cede enough water for salmon to access the habitats they need makes us a target, but being the source of gossip in the town diner also tells us we’re being effective. We will press ahead using legal and regulatory tactics as well as political and scientific scrutiny so salmon can simply live in the Scott River watershed. And we have built a strategy and established a funding stream for coping with the messy legacy of Dwinnell Dam on the Shasta River.

The fight for more healthy water and fish teaches us that we have to stand for something, not just stop the environmentally destructive plans. So we are standing for healthy rivers and communities, for farms and fish, and we are building the reputation and clout to get the job done right.

Thank you for standing with us. Please continue to do what you can, whether it’s becoming a member (use the envelope tucked in this newsletter or surf to [www.Klamath-River.org/join](http://www.Klamath-River.org/join)), recruiting your friends and family, speaking up at a hearing or volunteering.

For the Klamath,

Erica Terence,  
Conservation Director/Executive Director

## on the cover:

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

**SCOTT RIVER 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 ATVs 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 shoving the river and creeks - already altered by extensive watershed logging and mining - out of the way, or just diverting their flow using ditches and pumps until the water has literally vanished.

**2011 FISH KILLS TRIGGER 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 diversions upstream. A simultaneous federal investigation of a separate endangered fish kill related to actions taken by a nearby ranch touched off local rumor mills, and became the topic of conversation at dinner tables in the little town of Etna 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 off 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 that it is willing to explore whether our objections to the program could be resolved through a settlement.

**“Dewatered streambeds offer a convenient transportation corridor, and ATVs speed through to tend to their owners' third and fourth crops of alfalfa.”**



Meanwhile, as Siskiyou County stalls a state-mandated groundwater study, the Karuk Tribe has taken the initiative to complete its own study focusing on interactions between surface flows and groundwater use in Scott Valley. The results of both studies are expected in 2012.

As scientific and regulatory fixes move ahead, KRK and allies 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 Klamath Riverkeeper!



From top - The Scott River's Kidder Creek transformed from coho 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.

# Let the jobs flow!

## Rural Americans rally for dam removal as bills head to Congress

**T**HE 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 fall 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 companion 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 capitol, 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 Jeff Merkley (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 Virginia.

Pending 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. Both PUCs found dam removal 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 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 food security advocate Stormy Staats at the Orleans DEIS hearing on October 25. KRK worked with the Klamath Justice Coalition and allies to get dam removal supporters from all corners of the basin to the hearings. In Yreka, dam removal advocates unfurled a banner hung from a large helium balloon reading "Undam the Klamath! Let the Jobs Flow!"

Flanking the road into the Yreka hearing, KJC representatives waved signs, while dam huggers displayed a large symbolic bucket that read: "Stop

Rural Cleansing: Amend the ESA." Inside, public officials heard four hours of testimony. "Dam removal will result in needed gravel recruitment in the lower river. Imagine if you were a fish spawning below the dams. It would be like trying to make love on I-5: you just don't do it," fishing guide Jack Trout told the officials.



Above: Frankie Myers tends an enormous balloon and banner supporting dam removal at this October's federal hearing in Yreka, CA. KJC activist and KRK board member Dania Rose Colegrove quipped on the megaphone below the banner, "KBRA = jobs! Best thing to happen to Siskiyou County since the Gold Rush!"

"This agreement isn't perfect. It doesn't solve the problems of the Scott and Shasta or Trinity rivers. It doesn't resolve the West Bank of the Jordan conflict either," commercial fisherman Dave Bitts teased. "But it would put us back to work." Bitts referred to the salmon fishing closures of the past five years, which have cost his industry hundreds of millions of dollars in lost income.

"Some people say these dams provide flood control. Well...in my 60 years I've seen the river rise eight feet overnight and I can tell you that these dams don't offer any flood protection," Beavi McCovey stated at the Yreka hearing. Downriver the following week, Beavi's mother Mavis also spoke in favor of dam removal at the Orleans hearing. The elder McCovey, an acclaimed Karuk medicine woman, described the wounds the Klamath River has suffered from mining and logging in past centuries. "This river is trying to heal, and I think we could help it by taking those dams out," she said.

Government officials thanked the community for its hospitality at the Orleans meeting, where Klamath Riverkeeper provided pizza and Karuk elder Brian Tripp opened the meeting with a song. Coastal poet Jerry Martien summed up the sentiments of the crowd at the Arcata hearing when he described the Klamath dams as "an impediment to the imagination."

### KRK KEEPS UP THE FIGHT

Although the dam deals on the table were born out of bipartisan talks and an unusual partnership between historically warring parties, criticisms from both sides of the aisle could bog down the agreements through the legislative process. Congressman Tom McClintock (R-CA) first tried to block funding for future Klamath-related studies, and has continued to make speeches on the House floor urging his colleagues to keep the Klamath dams.

Amidst the political sniping, Klamath Riverkeeper and allies remain focused on ensuring that the facts are on the record, and that sound science prevails over ideology in the upcoming debate and decisions about the Klamath dams. Using everything from collaborative video projects, formal letters on the DEIS, delegations to Washington D.C. and extensive media outreach, our coalition is helping the people of the river tell their stories so that environmental and economic justice rise above the tired old combative political rhetoric of opponents.

**Please stay the course with us and take action, your help is needed as much as ever! Get involved by sending a comment letter (right) urging Congress to pass Klamath legislation. You can also help by becoming a member of KRK (use envelope insert), visiting our website at [www.klamathriver.org](http://www.klamathriver.org) or e-mailing [erica@klamathriver.org](mailto:erica@klamathriver.org) for more info.**

**As a final Klamath dam removal bill faces Congress, this major movement faces a watershed moment.**

To ensure we make it through this historic legislative whitewater, we need you to keep paddling hard towards dam removal. Support is vitally needed to pass the bill in the House, so please send a note to your Congressional Representative today!

**Step 1:** Find your Congressperson at [www.house.gov/writerep](http://www.house.gov/writerep).

**Step 2:** Write your Rep's name in below, sign, and send!



# It's Time to Take Action!

✂ Clip and send



Klamath dam removal is especially important to me because...

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Dear Rep. \_\_\_\_\_:

**Please support the Klamath Basin Economic Restoration Act (HR 3398)** that would implement the Klamath Settlement Agreements. These historic agreements – reached through years of negotiation between tribes, farmers, ranchers, fishing communities and state and federal agencies – would implement the largest river restoration project in history, create thousands of jobs and resolve one of the West's oldest water wars.

According to the draft environmental document released by the U.S. Department of Interior and the California Department of Fish and Game, dam removal and the accompanying restoration projects will:

- Create more than 6,000 jobs from dam removal and restoration alone. This does not include an untold number of jobs from tourism and sport fishing.
- Increase the production of Chinook salmon by 81%.
- Open 420 miles of historic fisheries habitat.
- Dramatically reduce toxic algae and the accompanying threats to human health.

**By supporting HR 3398 you will uphold a truly bi-partisan agreement that resolves a long-standing water dispute and restores the regional economy.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



Above right: A Momentum River Expedition takes the Freight Train down the Klamath's Salmon River - [www.momentumriverexpeditions.com](http://www.momentumriverexpeditions.com); above left: Klamath Tribal members Taylor David and Norma Cummings; bottom right: Klamath basin youth rally for dam removal. Rally photos by Klamath Riverkeeper/Klamath Salmon Media Collaborative.



# Keepin' up with Klamath Riverkeeper...

## KRK WELCOMES KONRAD FISHER

KRK's new Outreach Director, Konrad Fisher, 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 worked to secure tribal representation in California's water management planning process, stop the nation's largest proposed water bottling plant, prevent groundwater export from Siskiyou County, defeat a bill that would have opened U.S. federal waters to industrial fish farming, and dedicate water rights for instream flows.



Four generations of Konrad's family have called the basin home (including a grandfather who worked on the Trinity River dam), and he now resides on the lower Klamath. Look for Konrad's email in your inbox, and meet him in person at upcoming outreach events!

## OUTREACH AROUND THE BASIN

In August, KRK bridged Klamath cultural extremes, staffing tables at the **Siskiyou County Golden Fair** in Yreka, CA and the Yurok Tribe's **Klamath Salmon Festival** in Klamath, CA. Though the two events definitely draw different crowds, KRK staff and volunteers were pleased to share stories and meet friends of the Klamath from all parts of the basin. We also participated in the **Coho Confab** on the Smith River, an annual regional gathering for river scientists and advocates. Not content to stay terrestrial, KRK also did outreach on the water this summer, sharing our grassroots perspective on an educational rafting trip for students of a **UC Santa Barbara** water policy class. We also donned wetsuits and snorkels to join the **Mid-Klamath Watershed Council** for green sturgeon monitoring.

## ROCKING THE FEDS' DAM HEARINGS

In October, along with Klamath advocates from around the watershed, KRK's staff, board and volunteers turned out for the **Department of the Interior's Klamath dam removal hearings**, the last opportunity to provide public testimony before a long-awaited decision about whether dam removal is in the public interest. Orleans residents wowed the feds with a beautiful lineup of poems and personal stories about the importance of dam removal. For the Yreka hearing, we mobilized dozens of our allies from tribes, businesses and conservation organizations to hold a colorful, two-hour, pre-testimony rally in support of dam removal.

## We want to meet you!

Come down and talk to KRK in person at one of these upcoming events:

**Winter Wings Festival** in Klamath Falls, OR  
Feb. 17-19th at the Oregon Institute of Technology  
[www.winterwingsfest.org](http://www.winterwingsfest.org)

**Public Interest Environmental Law Conference (E-Law)** in Eugene, Oregon  
March 1-4th at the University of Oregon  
[www.pielc.org](http://www.pielc.org)

**Joint River Rally & Waterkeeper Alliance Conference** in Portland, Oregon  
May 4-7th at the Lloyd Center  
[www.rivernet.org](http://www.rivernet.org)

For more info on these or other events, please email Konrad Fisher at [konrad@klamathriver.org](mailto:konrad@klamathriver.org)

## Thank You!

**Foundations:** Bella Vista Foundation, Richard & Rhoda Goldman Fund, Hundredth Monkey Foundation, Jewish Community Endowment Fund, New World Foundation, Norcross Wildlife Foundation, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, Weeden Foundation. **Non-Profit Organizations:** Center for Environmental Health, Environment Now. **Businesses:** Sandy Bar Ranch, Paradigm Winery, Patagonia Inc., Otter Bar Lodge, Klamath River Outfitters, Bennett & Company, Momentum River Expeditions. **Individuals:** Lily Young, Jay Wright, Shawn VanNostrand, Michael Tierra, Peil Thomas, Janett Sultzbach, Peter and Kristy Sturges, Jennifer Sowerwine, David Smernoff, Daniel Silver, Walter & Marianna Shubin, George Sexton, Mahaj Seeger, Judy Schriebman, Brian Schmidt, Erich Schimps, Mark Schaffner, Mark Scampk, Jo An Saltzen, Lisa Salas, Wolfgang Rougle, Noah Robinson, Leslie Riewerts, Carolyn Real, Mr. Charlie Pizarro, Claire Perricelli, Edwin Pearson, Jacob Pace, Clifford Owen, Kathy Nolan, Jim Nelson, Debbie Mytels, Michelle Mosher, James Mosher, Donald & Carol Monkerud, Jackson & Carol Meadows, Melvin McKinney, Jannie McKenzie, Jene McCovey, Jonathan & Terrie McClelland, Jonathan M. McClelland, Allissa Johnson, Jerry Martien, Chris & Ruby Mahr, Phuong Luu, Elizabeth Lucas, Christopher Love, Warren Lo, John Livingston, Ann Lindsay, Peter Leaf, Zoe Leader, Logan LaVail, Jeannine Larabee, Joseph Labash, Eileen Kurtzman, Nancy King, Alan Keiser, Lisa Karpinski, Redwood Kardon, Thomas Jamison, Rita Jacinto, Chrystal Helton, Dale Heath, Amy Harmon, Lorraine Hancock, Anna Hall, Nancy Gerdt, Jon Grunbraum, Tyler Grinberg, Bill Graham, Mariela Gomez, Joe Gillespie, Anita & Timothy Gilbride-Read, Peter Drekmeier, Phil Dinter, Timothy Devine, Jim Derden Jr., Emily Davis, Kelly Crowley, Gerald Crnich, Laurie Collyer, Matt Cavin, James Caughman, Jose Cardoza, Crescent Calimpong, Keith Breon, Harriet Beinfeld, Diane Beck, Carol Andersen, Sara Aminzadeh, Pete Wallstrom.

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### 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.*

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Klamath River News is edited by Malena Marvin.

## Court agrees with KRK, shoots down CDFG's "license to kill" fish on the Scott & Shasta

Klamath Riverkeeper smelled something fishy when the **Cal. Dept. of Fish and Game** proposed its new **"Watershed-Wide Permitting Program"** on the Scott and Shasta River two years ago. In exchange for doing band-aid restoration projects, farmers and ranchers would receive a blanket permit excusing any 'incidental take' of endangered coho on their properties. The main problem? Most coho killing happens on these rivers when they are sucked dry by diversions and groundwater pumping, and these activities were conveniently ignored by the proposed program.

So, after substantial and repeated concerns with the programs were ignored, KRK led a broad coalition in a lawsuit to nip this suspicious program in the bud, before it could be replicated across California. In April 2011, **San Francisco Superior Court Judge Ernest Goldsmith** agreed with our coalition, and shut down CDFG's proposed program, ruling it failed to adequately consider harm to protected coho salmon. This stunning legal victory for fish sends a powerful message to CDFG and local irrigators: the public will no longer stand for lawless fish-killing on these rivers – state and federal endangered species laws must be followed.

"Though the programs proposed to do some good things for fish habitat, CDFG undermined their own success from the beginning by ignoring the fact that water diversions are making the rivers go completely dry at some points in the year. The simple fact is that fish need water," said Klamath Riverkeeper's **Erica Terence**. "This ruling tells the state and the ranchers that band-aid solutions such as installing fish screens and ladders on diversion ditches and dams or revegetating stream banks are not an acceptable substitute for leaving water in the river."

The fight goes on however, as CDFG has chosen to appeal their court loss. While we expect great things from new CDFG Director and fish-friend **Chuck Bonham** (formerly of **Trout Unlimited**), KRK and our coalition will continue to stand strong for coho on this issue and hold CDFG to their mandate: protecting fish on the Scott and Shasta Rivers.

## California extends ban on suction dredge mining

In another outstanding win for fish and water quality on the Klamath River and its tributaries, a new California law extends a moratorium on suction dredge mining until June 30, 2016 and requires new regulations to protect rivers, fish and public health.

AB 120, signed by **Governor Brown** in July 2011, extends a previous moratorium that was supported by Klamath Riverkeeper and enacted by the California legislature in August 2009. Suc-



Upper Klamath Lake is a major victim of agricultural pollution and stands to benefit dramatically if the Oregon portion of the Klamath TMDL holds strong amid pressure from polluters. Photo by KRK with assistance from LightHawk.

tion dredge mines are diesel-powered pumps that suck water and gravel through a hose, leaving giant holes and gravel mounds in the riverbed. This practice destroys fish, destroys salmon habitat, exposes mercury, and interferes with rafting, kayaking, and fishing. Since a dramatic rise in gold prices several years ago, hobby miners have proliferated to dangerous numbers on California's rivers.

Specifically, the law requires California's Department of Fish and Game to implement regulations that mitigate all significant water quality, wildlife, and cultural/historical impacts from suction dredge mining. This bill also would impose fees so taxpayers don't foot the bill to enforce these regulations. Finally, the law requires approval by the legislature and the Governor for any changes to the program's fee structure.

## Clean water regs face challenges, move forward around the basin

Thanks to public comments from citizens like you, a historic **Clean Water Act "TMDL"** process was launched on the Klamath in 2010. Since approval of the clean water plan, KRK has been monitoring follow-through as agencies from both states organize the details and some polluters scramble to pass the buck.

In Oregon, where the TMDLs threaten to heavily disrupt business as usual, the **Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ)** continues to deliberate on how to handle eight separate petitions for reconsideration of the Oregon portion of the TMDL. Irrigators, dam owner **PacifiCorp**, and other upper basin polluters filed the petitions to reopen the water quality regs in Oregon. Meanwhile, the **North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board** has been developing a public process to come up with pollution limits for upper basin farms and ranches. KRK will be an active part of the process, participating in a working group focused on discharges of nu-

trients, temperature pollution and resulting dissolved oxygen shortages that stem from agriculture in the Butte Valley and Tule Lake areas. KRK will also keep an eye on a similar process for the Scott and Shasta where allies from the **Karuk Tribe** will participate in stakeholder meetings.

## Northwest dam removal projects bode well for the Klamath

The largest dam removal project in U.S. history to date began in September 2011 as workers started removing two dams on Washington's **Elwha River**. Similar to the Klamath River dam removal effort, this project will dramatically increase the number of salmon, improve the economy, and help a local tribe preserve its culture. This \$351 million project was approved by Congress in 1992, but it took nearly 20 years to iron out logistical details and secure funding. Michael Connor, Commissioner for the Bureau of Reclamation said this "is going to lead to historic moments elsewhere across the country."

In October 2011, just one month after the Elwha dam removal project began, the **Condit Dam** on Washington's **White Salmon River** was breached in front of a crowd that included leaders from four area tribes. Condit Dam is owned by **PacifiCorp**, the Oregon-based utility company that also owns the dams on the Klamath River. PacifiCorp supported the removal of Condit dam for the same reason it supported removal of the Klamath dams – because dam removal is cheaper than constructing a fish ladder which is required to continue dam operation. Removal of Condit Dam will open at least 33 miles of fish habitat and improve whitewater recreation. A Yakama tribal representative quoted in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer said that the return of salmon to the upper reaches of the river is like "welcoming back a relative that has been missing for many years."

If you feel you've received this newsletter in error,  
please let us know at [info@klamathriver.org](mailto:info@klamathriver.org)

## **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

Sources: Ron Reed and Kari Norgaard's chapter "Salmon Feeds Our People" in the 2010 book Indigenous People and Biodiversity Conservation: Stories from the Field; Karuk Tribe Water Quality Assessments, [www.klamathwaterquality.com](http://www.klamathwaterquality.com); US Department of the Interior's 2011 Draft EIS on Klamath Facilities Removal; Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's 2007 Final EIS for Hydropower License of Klamath Hydroelectric Project.

# 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](http://www.klamathriver.org/join). *Thank you!*



Kayaking Clear Creek, photo by Momentum River Expeditions