

Why The Klamath Dams Should Come Out

- 1-** Fish need cold, clean water with lots of oxygen in it, but Iron Gate dam, Copco I dam, Copco II dam and J.C. Boyle dam heat up water in the Klamath River to lethal temperatures during the hottest parts of the year and deplete oxygen supplies fish need to survive.
- 2-** Overheated and oxygen deficient waters provide prime conditions for toxic algae to bloom in the reservoirs behind the dams at levels now thousands of times higher than what the World Health Organization says is safe to ingest. Some of this algae, called *microcystis aeruginosa*, can cause severe liver damage and other serious health problems in both humans and fish.
- 3-** Hundreds of miles of historic spawning grounds would be re-opened to Klamath River salmon whose numbers now run dangerously close to extinction. Klamath salmon runs were so small this year that regulators closed ocean fishing almost completely along 700 miles of coast, starving commercial fishing communities of an estimated \$100 million and shorting Tribes of a resource traditionally used for both subsistence and ceremonies. Damage to salmon fisheries far outweighs any benefits of power production. Unless these dams are dealt with, more fishery closures are inevitable.
- 4-** To survive, Tribes and other fishermen need fish, and the health of those fish depends on, cold clean water, healthy and well-connected habitat, and fewer turbines. Fish feed cultures and fill bellies. These fish would do much better with access to more of their old habitat.
- 5-** The dams block the natural functions of the river, impoverish its spawning gravel for 50 miles downstream, and reduce the impact of natural flushing flows that in the past scoured out and reduced fish parasites and algae and kept riparian areas healthy.

- 6-** The turbines on the dams in question can operate only at less than half capacity, and generate only 2 % of PacifiCorp's overall power. The power ratepayers get from those turbines could be replaced using alternative energy sources such as wind and solar equipment.
- 7-** California would never miss this lost power. The California Energy Commission analyzed the impact on California's energy grid of the loss of this power and found that it was "insignificant."
- 8-** The Klamath dams that need to be removed are not used for irrigation and are not designed for flood control. Farmers will still get their water from behind Keno and Link dams, which are small enough barriers for fish to pass by using normal ladders.
- 9-** Removing the dams from the river would go a long way towards restoring the Klamath River, restoring its fishing-dependent communities, and reversing decades of damage and disruption.