



Klamath County Commissioners

Tom Mallams, Commissioner
Position One

Kelley Minty Morris, Commissioner
Position Two

Jim Bellet, Commissioner
Position Three

November 30, 2016

RE: Columbia, Snake and Klamath River Dam Removal

Dear Interested Parties,

The Columbia and Snake Rivers are a large part of the economies in Oregon, Washington and Idaho as they are main thoroughfares for cargo transport. Approximately 9 million tons of cargo are transported on the Snake and Columbia Rivers every year. Barges can carry more freight and are the most efficient mode of transportation than semi-trucks. For every four barges carrying a cargo of wheat down the Columbia and Snake Rivers approximately 540 semi-trucks would be needed to transport the same amount of wheat. The economies of Oregon, Washington and Idaho, the communities along these rivers, and the industries that use the transportation system all depend heavily on the trade and commerce that flows up and down these important waterways.

Dams along the Snake and Columbia rivers are key to flood control as many of the cities along the rivers are located in low-lying areas. Today, flood control storage totals 37 million acre-feet, flood-control storage only, while the total of all active storage in all Columbia River Basin reservoirs is 55.8 million acre-feet.

Salmon fisheries are also very important to the economies of the communities along the Columbia and Snake rivers. The dams on the rivers allow for safe fish passage. In 2014, it was reported that a record number of Chinook Salmon were recorded returning up the Columbia and Snake Rivers, 107,000 recorded at the Bonneville dam in one weekend.

The low cost, clean, renewable power that is generated by these dams is also important. Our constituents are concerned about dam removal on the Klamath River and therefore we felt it important to raise concerns about dam removal on additional waterways in the Pacific Northwest.

Proposed removal of the 4 dams on the Klamath River any of the 4 dams on the Snake River and any of the 10 on the Columbia River could create hardships for the people in the communities in which the rivers are a life-blood. This would include people reaping diverse benefits that the dams provide.

Sincerely,

Tom Mallams
Commissioner

Kelley Minty Morris
Chair

Jim Bellet
Commissioner