



P R E S S R E L E A S E

Karuk Tribe • Yurok Tribe

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KLAMATH DAM REMOVAL COSTS WITHIN BUDGET

*-Guaranteed Maximum Price Issued by Contractor
-In Midst of Fisheries Collapse, Hope is on the Horizon*

Klamath River Basin — Last Friday, the Klamath River Renewal Corporation released the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for removing four aging Klamath River dams. In short, Kiewit Construction is committing to remove the dams for less than \$446 million and assume the financial liability for cost over runs beyond that. KRRC press release [here](#).

“This is great news for Klamath River communities. We are in the midst of a fisheries collapse and dam removal is the key to turning things around, but we are running out of time,” said Karuk Chairman Russell ‘Buster’ Attebery.

As the dam removal effort has slowly gained momentum over the course of decades, the health of the river has steadily declined. Massive blooms of toxic green algae plague the reservoirs and river each summer putting human health at risk, while fish disease causing parasites thrive below the dams decimating salmon runs. See new short film on Klamath Algae blooms [here](#).

“Last year was an unmitigated disaster for our fishery,” noted Yurok Vice-Chair Frankie Myers. “Fishery managers projected a strong return of fish to the river but the fish never really showed up.”

Fishery agencies use a variety of monitoring data to predict how many salmon will return to the river each year to develop harvest quotas. The projections are normally very accurate, but not last year. Fishery

managers projected a river run size 98,000 Chinook salmon; however only 37,000 actually returned. This led to fishing closures and loss of an important subsistence food source for Karuk and Yurok families.

“Actual returns were about 1/3 of what was predicted, resulting on one of the worst runs of Klamath salmon in history. It was not enough salmon to meet our basic subsistence needs and a commercial fishery was completely out of the question,” added Myers.

Environmental reviews by state and federal agencies point out that dam removal will offer salmon the opportunity to reclaim hundreds of miles of historic spawning habitat and dramatically improve water quality. Based on an agreement originally brokered 10 years ago last month, dam owner PacifiCorp committed \$200 million for dam removal while California provided \$250 million for a total of \$450 million. With the release of the GMP guaranteeing that is enough to do the job, it is now up to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to approve the project. Dam removal advocates anticipate a ruling from FERC sometime this year, allowing dam removal to proceed in 2022.

Parties to the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement include Karuk and Yurok Tribes, conservation groups, California, Oregon, and dam owner PacifiCorp.

More information on the Klamath River dams and the process to remove them can be found at <http://www.klamathrenewal.org/>.

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