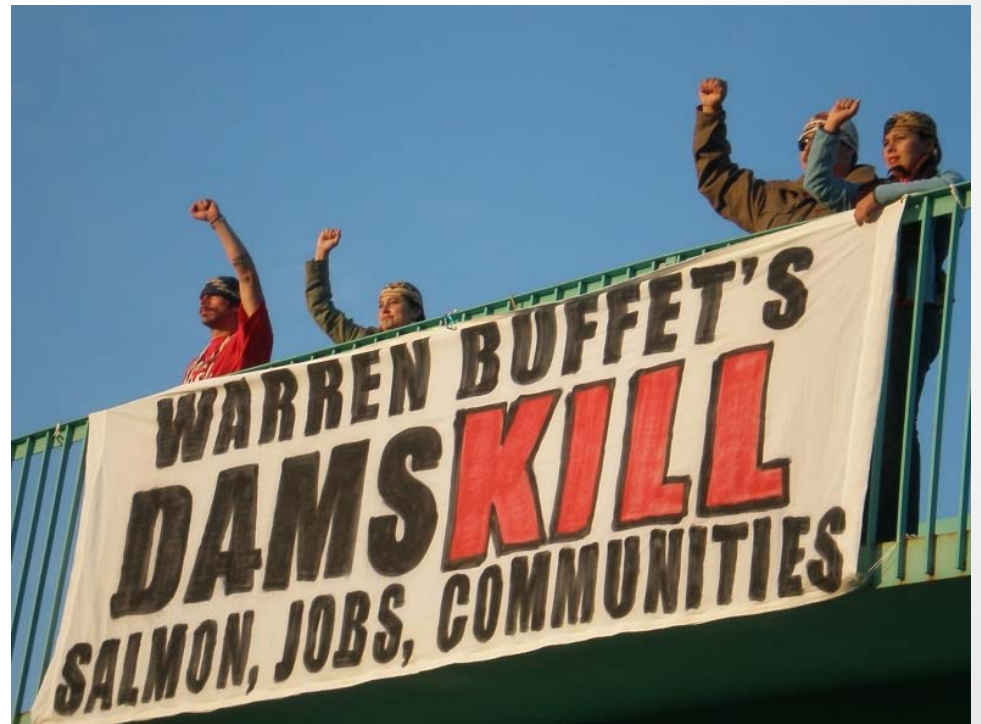


# Bring the Salmon Home

## Protecting Tribal Trust Resources in the Klamath Basin

Mike Belchik, Senior Water Policy Analyst  
Yurok Tribe

(Credit to S. Craig Tucker for material in this presentation)



# Klamath River Basin

Commercial Fishermen

Klamath Tribes

Klamath Hydroelectric Project

Upstream Irrigators

BLM Land

National Wildlife Refuges

Karuk

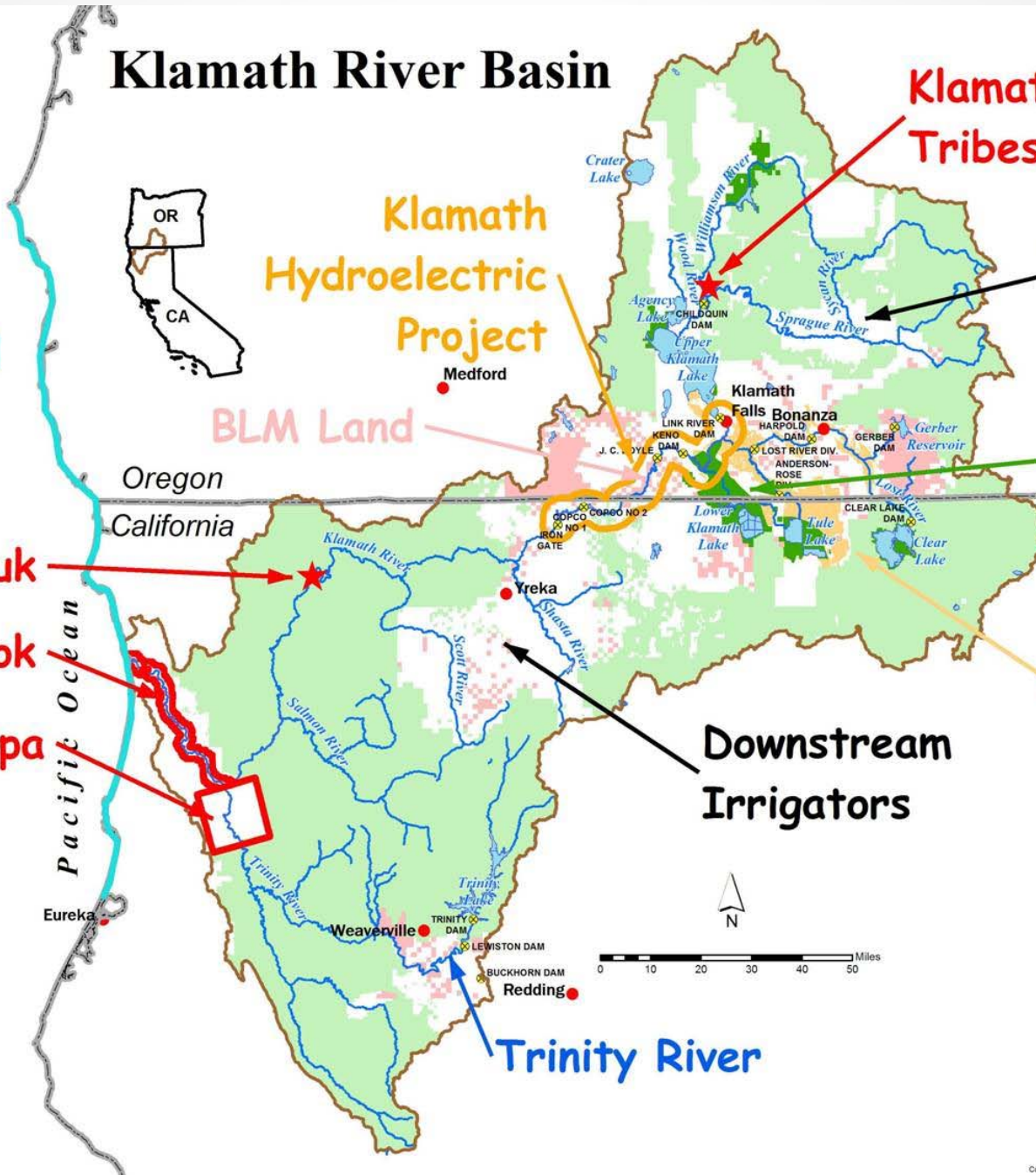
Yurok

Hoopa

Klamath Irrigation Project

Downstream Irrigators

Trinity River



# Diversity is the Spice of Life



*Fall Chinook*



*Spring Chinook*



*Coho Salmon*



*Pink Salmon*



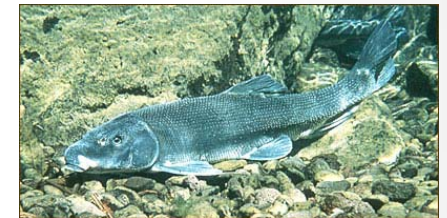
*Mussels*



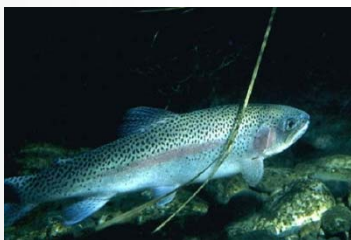
*Chum Salmon*



*Candlefish*



*C'wam*



*Winter Steelhead*



*Summer Steelhead*



*Pacific Lamprey*



*Green Sturgeon*

# Diversity is the Spice of Life



*Fall Chinook*



*Spring Chinook*



*Coho Salmon*



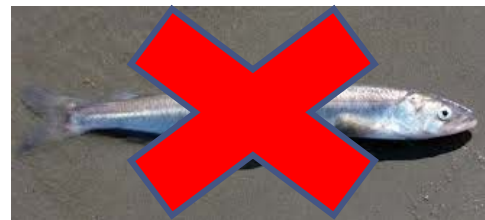
*Pink Salmon*



*Mussels*



*Chum Salmon*



*Candlefish*



*C'wam*



*Winter Steelhead*



*Summer Steelhead*




*Pacific Lamprey*



*Green Sturgeon*



# Salmon declines

- Chinook runs average less than 10% of historic abundance
  - Coho salmon listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act
  - Spring Chinook Salmon are nearly extinct
  - Other species such as lamprey, sturgeon and mussels are in steep decline as well
- 

# Native People Have Lived in the Basin since Time Immemorial



And continue traditional practices today

# New Cultural Diversity



# The Klamath River has been asked to do too much...



In 2002, over 68,000 salmon died in the biggest adult fish kill in US history



Toxic algae blooms threaten human health





2005 10 18

# Impacts

- **Cultural**
  - Ceremonies
  - Tradition
- **Health**
  - Replacement of healthy fish with unhealthy alternatives
  - “Food Desert”
- **Economic**
  - Extreme unemployment and poverty on reservation lands
  - Klamath River Fish Abundance affects the entire west coast ocean fishery.



# The Rotating Crisis



# The Problems



**Dams**



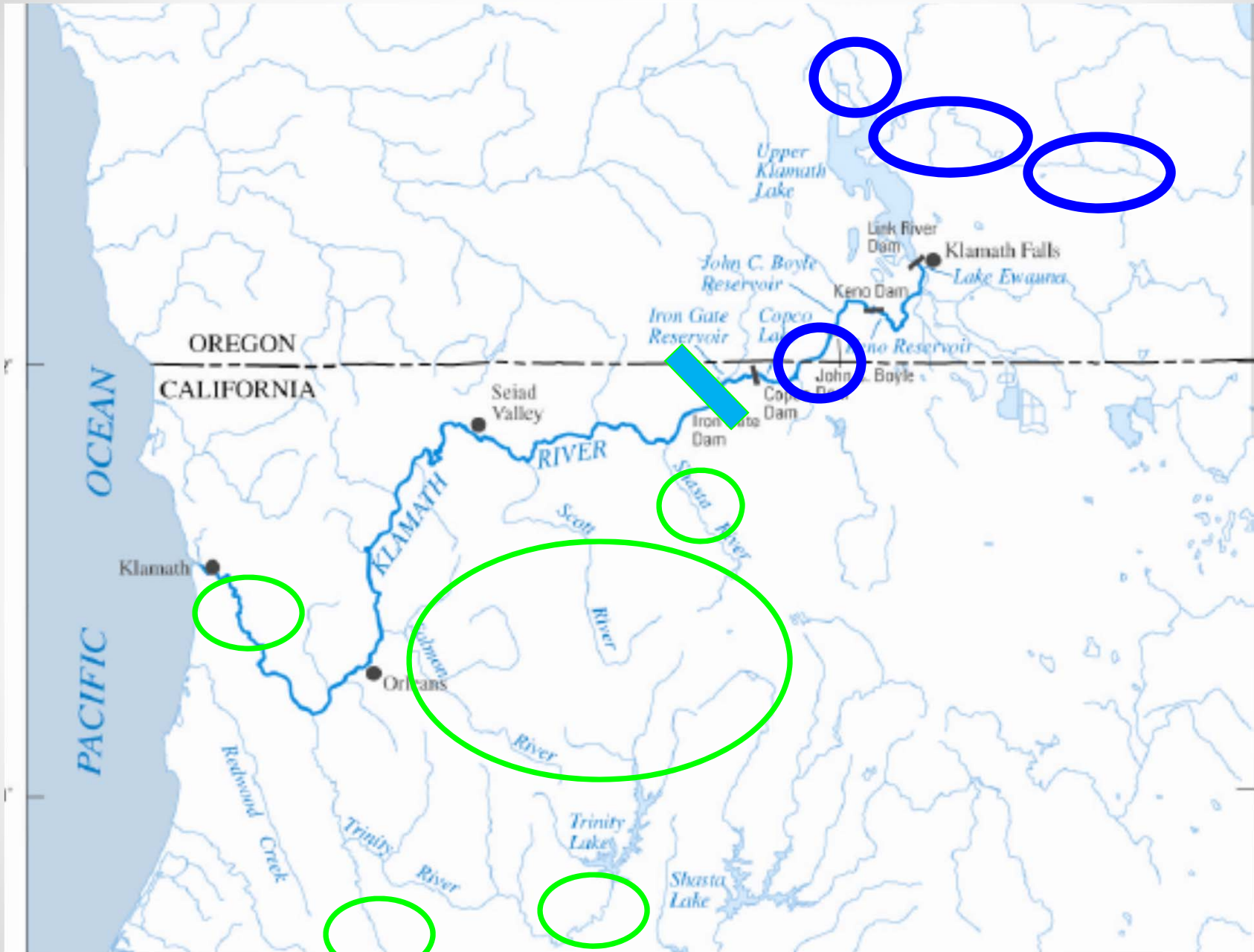
**Mismanaged Landscapes  
FIRE**



**Climate Change  
Fire, Snowpack Loss**




**Water withdrawals for  
Agriculture**





# Focus on Dams

- Dam removal is a necessary ( but by itself insufficient) step to restore fishery
  - Dam removal at its heart is a fish restoration project
  - Resurrect spring Chinook run among other goals.
  - Restore river ecology and control the fish disease problem
  - Increase genetic and geographic diversity
- 

# Dams Targeted for Removal



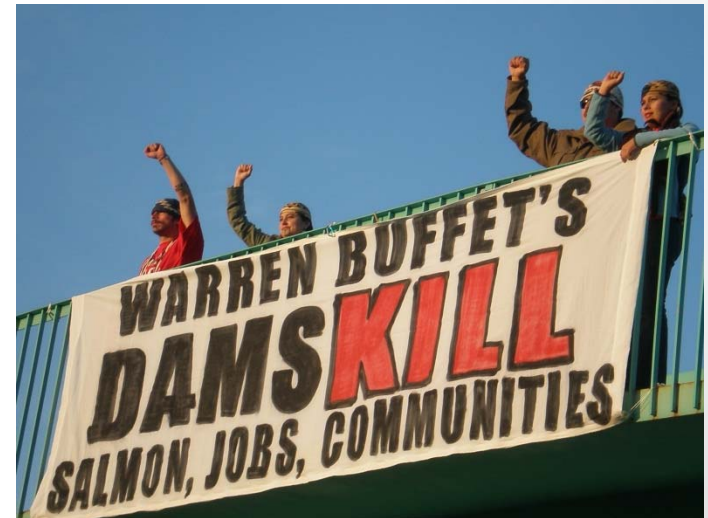
# What the Dams Do...

- Block access to over 350 miles of historic spawning habitat and critical large cold water springs
- Degrade water quality
- Host algae blooms
- Create habitat for fish disease causing parasites to flourish
- Limit run diversity





# Getting PacifiCorp to the Table



*First We started a movement!*



# Grassroots Pressure Only

## Half the Story

- Tribal Technical Staff contributed studies to FERC Record
- NGO's contributed technical and policy expertise
- Tribes and allies filed numerous lawsuits
- Political Advocacy by all

*It takes suits, signs and scientists to win!*



# Dams Make the Water Conflicts Harder to Solve

- Dams stop sediment movement causing a “frozen” river bed
- C. shasta fish disease has spiraled out of control as a result
- The amount of flow necessary to control C. shasta is much higher than it would be with a mobile river bed



Tuesday, February 2, 2016

ENVIRONMENT / NATURAL RESOURCES / GOVERNMENT

## Feds Announce New Klamath Accord to Remove Dams by 2020

POSTED BY THADEUS GREENSON  ON TUE, FEB 2, 2016 AT 1:47 PM

[click to enlarge](#)



COURTESY OF AMERICAN RIVERS AND KLAMATH RESTORATION COUNCIL

Irongate Dam on the upper Klamath River.

A new deal has been reached to remove the four hydroelectric dams that clog the Klamath River and revive the largest dam removal project in U.S. history, the federal government announced today.

# The Amended KHSA

- No Act of Congress necessary
- A nonprofit (Klamath River Renewal Corporation) to remove the dams
- Private Insurance to Deal with liability concerns
- Requires approval by Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for transfer of PacifiCorp's license
- Sought to keep 2020 timeline but regulatory delays have caused this timeline to slip.
- Uses the \$200 of PacifiCorp ratepayer money and \$250 from CA Prop 1 bond funds

# Where are we at now?

- CEQA and Clean Water Act 401 Certification is complete;
- KRRC has a primary contractor selected and working; Kiewit International and RES for demolition and restoration respectively.
- 90% construction, engineering, and restoration plans complete. A LOT of work has been done.
- Independent review of engineering and cost complete
- FERC Order for transfer approved, but requires that PacifiCorp remain as co-licensee
- PacifiCorp sees this as a material breach of the agreement arguing that it exposes them to significant new liability
- Talks with PacifiCorp and its parent company Berkshire Hathaway ongoing right now about how to resolve this.
- Failure is not an option
-

# Lessons Learned

