



COPCO LAKE, SISKIYOU COUNTY

Copco Lake is just one of the beautiful lakeside environments that will forever disappear as a result of removal of the Klamath Hydroelectric facilities. This area was originally part of a very ancient lake system formed behind massive lava dikes which crossed the Klamath River as a result of volcanic activity. The dike that formed Copco Lake was originally 135 feet high. Centuries of erosion left a “v” shaped cut in the lava created by the River. That notch of solid basalt formed the perfect spot to erect the Copco I dam, the first of a series of electrical generating facilities developed by John C. Boyle one of the Nation’s top engineers and founder of Copco Power which is now part of the PacifiCorp power generating facilities. Warren Buffet is the owner of Pacific Power. John Boyle went on to construct three more hydro dams. It is these four dams that for more than two decades have been the goal of numerous environmental groups to destroy.

Anthony Intiso a resident of Yreka California and a member of the Siskiyou Water Users Association Board acting as his own attorney has filed a **Taxpayer lawsuit** against the State of California to stop the funding by the State of California using taxpayer dollars originally voted for Improving water quality and water storage (Prop One). These funds had a specific requirement not to be used in projects which had an adverse impact on a Wild and Scenic River such as the Klamath River. The EIR/EIS by the Federal Energy and Regulatory Committee (FERC) states categorically that the removal of the hydro facilities **will have an adverse impact on the River** quality, the fish life, wildlife and birdlife. The removal will flush 20-30 million cubic yards of sediment downstream. Despite this the FERC argues that in the long run it will survive and improve. There are no studies to support this contention.

Citizens in Siskiyou County and the surrounding counties as well as the Southern Oregon Counties fronting on the Klamath including the agricultural communities in the area are opposed to dam removal by 80%. In a General Election 80% of the voters in Siskiyou County voted to retain the dams. Despite this the environmental groups and Governor Newsom have continued spending taxpayer funds and using their political leverage to push removal of these facilities to the detriment of the local communities. The fact is that rural communities are under attack by the leftist governments such as California and Oregon. They are committed to destroying these rural areas.

For more information go to Siskiyou Water’s website www.siskiyoucountywaterusersassociation.org

DONATIONS TO SUPPORT THIS EFFORT: Visit the site below or the website listed above.

<https://www.givesendgo.com/G9V34>

Klamath Facts:

“ SAVE THE DAMS SAVE THE SALMON”

Beneficial Impacts of Klamath Dams

- **Fire Protection:** The dams provide reservoirs which have been used to protect property and life in the catastrophic fires we have in our area.
- **Electricity:** The dams have provided low cost clean energy more than sufficient for our area 24 hours a day seven days a week.
- **Water Storage:** The dams have provided sufficient water storage to flush the Klamath River as required by Court Order and are part of the BOR teacup process.
- **Recreation:** The dams have provided for recreation on the lakes behind the facilities
- **Wildlife:** The dams are in the Pacific flyway and provide lake environment for numerous unique birds traveling the Pacific flyway including osprey, pelicans, and cormorants.
- **Aquatic life:** The reservoirs are home habitat for endangered suckerfish both long nose and short nose.
- **Mammals:** The lakes and the surrounding vegetation provide habitat for many unique endangered species including the Giant Gopher Snake, Kangaroo Rat, and Western Pond Turtles.
- **Hunting grounds:** The lakes and surrounding land areas provide a productive habitat for Golden Eagles, Bald Eagles and other raptors.
- **Fishing:** The lakes provide fishing opportunities for many individuals including disadvantaged persons. The fish which will be impacted by removal of dams include crappie, largemouth bass, sunfish, catfish, blue gill among others unique to lake environment.
- **Clean Water:** The dams and their reservoirs provide a process for settlement of material and providing water downstream of the Dams cleaner than incoming water. It is calculated that 20-30 million cubic yards of sediment will be flushed downriver if the dams are removed. Iron Gate also provides cooler water at depth for the hatchery.

The argument for removing the dams is bogus. The heart of the argument presented is that the production of Salmon will be greatly increased without the dams. This is not supported by the facts. Many recorded statements from the earliest explorers and the Native Americans are that the anadromous Salmon did not go beyond the current Copco Lake area and then only in extreme hi water conditions. There is no habitat for Salmon above that area. Salmon spawn in cold water tributaries between the ocean and the area of the Klamath below Iron Gate. The Klamath River is an upside down temperature gradient river. Salmon are a cold water fish and the areas above the dams are shallow and contain warm water.

Many scientific studies conclusively demonstrate the issues affecting the population of Salmon are ocean related. Some of these issues including increase in predators, international fishing, and climate conditions affecting food supply. In addition, the redds where Salmon spawn have been impacted by damages caused to the river by 1964 flood. This damage has not been corrected.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE RESOLUTION FOR RETENTION OF THE KLAMATH DAMS!