AN ALTERNATIVE PLAN FOR BASIN WATER AND SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Neither the removal of the Klamath River Dams nor the implementation of the KBRA will resolve Upper Basin conflicts because neither agreement addresses the actual causes of the conflicts.

The core causes of the conflicts are issues of water quality and water quantity. Neither water quantity nor water quality in the Upper Basin has changed significantly during the past century. Average precipitation has remained relatively constant. What have changed are the demands on water quantity and water quality.

According to historical journals water quality was equally as poor when European man first entered the area nearly 150 years ago. Virtually all of the water quality issues including temperature, phosphorous, nitrogen, organic solids and low oxygen levels have always been, and continue to be, the result of geologic conditions. Meaningful improvement in water quality cannot occur without changing the geological conditions that cause the poor water quality.

Water quantity issues are largely the result of new and expanded beneficial uses of a constant supply of available water. As each new and expanded use occurs, the amount of water available for previous beneficial uses is diminished. Western Juniper encroachment has become a major use of available water and a major contributor to reduction in water supply.

AVAILABLE ALTERNTIVE ACTIONS

1. **Storage Enhancement:** The 1.5 billion dollar price tag for the KBRA alone would arguably construct deep water storage reservoirs at Long Lake, Boundary, White Line and other identified locations.
2. **Complete the State Water Rights Adjudication**
3. **Juniper Mitigation:** Using calculations based on available NRCS data, the

Western Juniper encroachment in the Upper Basin may evaporate and transpire an amount of water equal to the average flow of the Klamath River at the Keno dam each year.

1. **Wetland Drainage:** According to available Klamath Experiment Station data, the average cropland consumptive use of water in the Upper Basin is about 2 feet. Evaporation and transpiration of water from open water and emergent marsh averages about 3.5 acre feet of consumptive use. The conversion of 100 thousand acres of crop and to new and expanded wetlands has created a new consumptive use of about 150,000 acre feet of water each year, Expansion of the refuges will further expand that water loss.
2. **Reestablish Williamson River Flows:** Reestablish the historical drainage ofthe Upper Klamath Marsh by dredging the outlet into the Williamson River to prevent the water evaporation losses and reestablish valuablepasture lands.
3. **Irrigation Conservation:** Continued improvement in water conservation management will save significant water. However, most of those management practices will also have a negative effect on groundwater recharge.
4. **Alternative Salmon Passage:** Trucking of salmon around the upper dams is already part of the re-introduction plan. Alternatively, a “natural” pathway has been mapped out to bypass some of the dams. The combination of installing some upgraded fish ladders, bypassing some of the dams, and trucking salmon that is already part of the plan for the upper dams, would appear to be a viable alternative to multi-billion dollar dam removal.
5. **Secure Adequate Federal Funds:** Actually provide affordable agricultural power rates.
6. **A United Assault on the ESA & Biological opinion needs to happen!**
7. **Transfer ownership of project to the irrigators, zero their debt**