

Quotes in the news about the Klamath River Agreement



"After living through moments that would tax the character of most anyone, **the good people of the basin came together,**"

-Dirk Kempthorne, Secretary of Interior

-The New York Times

November 13, 2008

"Pact Would Open River, Removing Four Dams"

"In a reference to the impending change of leadership in Washington, Art Sasse, a spokesman for PacifiCorp, said: "It's a flexible framework that recognizes that the administration is going to be passing the baton. But science — unbiased, unadulterated science — drives this process."

-The New York Times

November 13, 2008

"Pact Would Open River, Removing Four Dams"

Gov. Theodore R. Kulongoski of Oregon, a Democrat, said the provisional agreement would be "a model not only for the West but the rest of the country of how the **federal and state governments and private industry can work together.**"

-The New York Times

November 13, 2008

"Pact Would Open River, Removing Four Dams"

"If the data collected in the next four years shows that removing the four dams is environmentally and economically prudent, then the target date for removal is 2020," said Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne, who admitted during a news conference that he is normally opposed to the removal of hydroelectric power plants. "**We had a directive from the president to have a collaborative solution, to do all we can to have an agreement that is visionary. ... But it takes time.**"

-The San Francisco Chronicle

November 14, 2008

"Step Taken Toward Removing Klamath River Dams"

Rep. Mike Thompson, California's First Congressional District: "This is a historic moment, and comes after years of earnest negotiation between farmers, fishermen and tribes," Thompson said in a statement to the Herald and News. "**This draft agreement provides the framework for a historic settlement and when Congress returns in January, I will call for hearings to make sure that we do all that we can to help this process move forward.**"

-The Herald and News

November 16, 2008

"Reaction to Agreement"

"The hallmark of the AIP and the KBRA is the central idea that communities, governments, Tribes, and PacifiCorp are choosing to turn together down a path **designed to resolve many of the terrible conflicts** that have torn the Basin apart for so long, and to peacefully manage together any challenges that may arise in the future", said Chairman Joe Kirk.

-Klamath Tribes of Oregon, Press Release

November 13, 2008

"Agreement Charts Path to Klamath River Dam Removal"

"PacifiCorp deserves kudos for its flexibility and willingness to come to the settlement table. Ultimately, **this flexibility should benefit the utility's ratepayers and shareholders**, as it may make better economic sense to decommission the four dams rather than spend \$300 million on fish ladders and other improvements the government would require for relicensing."

- The Oregonian,

November 14, 2008

"A promising first milestone for Klamath dam removal"

"[In] the political and legal reality, **this agreement is more practical than the likely alternative – and will cost electric customers less.**"

- Albany Democrat Herald,

November 17, 2008

"For a bad deal, it's pretty good"

"**This pact could potentially end years of litigation and fighting over the Klamath**, while restoring salmon to a river that once was a major fish factory."

- Sacramento Bee,

November 17, 2008

"Two big water deals now gain traction"

"Sustainable Northwest hopes the Agreement in Principle will motivate state and federal decision makers to seize this historic moment and implement the whole Basin agreement," said Goebel. "**With such a broad and diverse base of support, the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement is an example of a 'unity' approach we hope will be championed by the new administration.**"

-Sustainable Northwest Press Release

November 2008

(Quoting Martin Goebel, President of Sustainable NW)

Klamath Water Users Association
2455 Patterson Street, Suite 3
Klamath Falls, OR 97603

Phone: (541) 883-6100
Fax: (541) 883-8893
E-mail: greg@kwua.org

*Promoting wise management
of ecosystem resources.*

"We're glad that progress has been made in the opening of about 300 miles of salmon spawning habitat in two states. It's also a relief that **peace has come to an area that has suffered years of political bitterness and bureaucratic bungling.**"

– **The Columbian** (Vancouver, Wash.),
November 17, 2008
"In our view: Victory for Fish"

"What is unique about this group's approach is the scope, detail and commitment by federal, state, tribal, local government, fishermen's groups, agricultural, conservation organizations and PacifiCorp to work not only toward dam removal, but a more comprehensive restoration plan that at the same time provides economic benefits to all of the basin's rural communities. This marks **a significant departure from the past where groups used litigation as the primary tool to effect change with little progress made by either side.**"

– **The Times-Standard** (Eureka, Calif.),
November 22, 2008
"A framework for dam removal"
(Op-Ed by Humboldt County Supervisor Jill Geist)

"What to do with the restoration agreement is perhaps the most important issue for the Klamath Tribes in decades. General Council's decision to endorse **the agreement moves the Klamath Tribes and our partners one step closer to a more sustainable future based upon cooperation among neighbors,**" Klamath Tribal Chairman Joseph Kirk said in a statement.

–**The Oregonian**
February 4, 2008
"Klamath Tribes support agreement for Klamath Basin"

"The remarkable effort by you and your representatives ultimately brought us to the historic moment we recognize today. The great spirit of community and collaboration in the Klamath Basin must and will continue after this Administration leaves office, and **we are confident that the debate about listed species versus human needs will now become a relic of the past.**"

–**Letter from Secretary of Interior, Dirk Kempthorne to Chairman and CEO of PacifiCorp, Gregory Abel**
November 13, 2008

"The settlement process is certainly no small undertaking. The groups that have stuck with these difficult negotiations deserve a medal. They are clearly credible in their desire to build a practical, sensible solution for fish, farmers, and tribes. I've always felt the best and longest-lasting solution would come from the

various parties in the Basin working out a plan that made sense for all concerned. While the process is not completed and hurdles remain, **I stand ready to work with my colleagues in Congress to do our part. Meanwhile, I urge those involved in the hydro-negotiations to complete their process soon, enabling this historic effort to move forward.**"

–**Congressman Greg Walden (R-OR) Press Release**
January 15, 2008
"Those Who Stuck With Talks Deserve a Medal"



"I congratulate the many people of the Klamath River Basin in Oregon and California who recently put forward a shared vision for conservation of the river. The agreement my Administration announced today with Oregon, California, and PacifiCorp, the company that owns four hydropower dams on the Klamath River, will advance that vision. Federal, State, and private partners will now begin studying the feasibility of removing four hydropower dams on the river. This is the first phase of a long-term conservation program for upriver salmon habitats.

This agreement turns what was a conflict into a conservation success. For years, there had been disagreement among irrigators, States, tribes, conservationists, and others. Beginning with the drought of 2001, **the community, working in partnership with the Federal government, rallied together to find a long-term solution.** Since 2002, my Administration has requested and Congress has provided approximately \$90 million annually – a total of more than \$500 million – for Klamath Basin activities. Working together, the Federal government and its partners have restored irrigation and more than 10,000 acres of fish habitat and banked for conservation more than 800,000 acre-feet of water. These actions have provided adequate water for farmers while also helping species recover.

Together, we have produced an agreement that will greatly reduce the risk of future shutdowns of the irrigation system. I applaud this example of Cooperative Conservation and thank everyone who worked to bring it about."

–**Presidential Press Release**
November 13, 2008
"Statement by President George W. Bush"

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