Heykw-sa’ visits Klamath

The Tribe is part of a team of several agencies monitoring the gray whale’s health • See story on Page 6
Science panel calls Klamath agreements “Major step forward”

- Independent Experts Note that Success Hinges on Effectively Implementing Restoration Actions in the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement (KBRA)

- Klamath River Tribes and Commercial Fishermen Say Dam Removal Needed to Restore Livelihoods and Cultures

A series of independent science reports were finalized that highlight the benefits of dam removal and river restoration on Klamath fisheries. The reports emphasize that in order to fully realize the benefits offered by the pending Klamath Agreements, adequate funding and effective implementation of specific restoration measures is necessary.

“The livelihoods of Klamath tribal communities and commercial fishermen up and down the west coast depend on the restoration of fish species in the Klamath River. The scientific analysis of dam removal in these independent reports generally agrees with what our tribal scientists predict too,” said Klamath Tribal Councilman Jeff Mitchell.

The new independent scientific reports provide scientific opinions on how dam removal will affect rainbow trout, bull trout, steelhead, Chinook salmon, Coho salmon, Lost River suckers, shortnose suckers, and lamprey. In general, the experts indicate that each of these species could see major population improvements if dams are removed and restoration actions implemented.

Dam removal, under terms of the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement, has also already been confirmed to be in the best interest of public utility customers by both the Oregon and California public utility commissions (PUCs), the regulatory agencies that protect ratepayers. Those PUCs said that ratepayers’ costs would be at least half that of the other option to repair the aging dams and retrofit the structures to comply with modern safety and environmental regulations.

These scientific reports are part of a comprehensive body of information that is being compiled in a single report that will

Iron Gate is the first of a series of antiquated, fish blocking dams on the Klamath River.
also be peer reviewed and presented to the Secretary of the Interior so he can be fully informed when making the Secretarial Determination on whether to remove the Klamath River dams, which is expected next March.

“This is very encouraging,” noted Glen Spain, representing coastal commercial salmon fishermen. “I think the panel reports show that we can indeed restore the Klamath’s fisheries and preserve local economies under the terms of the Klamath Agreements if Congress will fund it.”

Reviewers note that significant emergency funds are annually being spent on Band Aid solutions that don’t address root causes of problems. They also note that success reviving fisheries hinges, as expected, on successfully implementing the settlement Agreements.

“We know that there is more hard work in front of us than behind us. If we get the opportunity to implement plans to restore fisheries and water quality in the Klamath, we have to get it right. But we know that doing nothing will spell extinction for many of these at risk species as well as the local economies and cultures that depend on them,” said Arch Super, Chairman of the Karuk Tribe.

The Expert Panel Report highlights this point by writing, “There is much certainty that if the four dams are not removed, the Klamath Chinook salmon will continue to decline.”

Klamath River Tribes, commercial fishermen, conservation groups, farmers and ranchers worked for years on a restoration plan that would restore economically valuable fisheries while maintaining the economic viability of family farming in the Klamath Basin. Last spring these groups along with federal and state agencies and PacifiCorp signed two agreements that could lead to the largest river restoration effort in US history.

The two key components of the Agreements, removal of four aging dams and a more careful balancing of water resources between fish and farms, must be approved by Congress and the Secretary of Interior by March of 2012.

The final independent science panel reports can be viewed at: http://northamerica.atkinsglobal.com/klamathriver/pages/default.aspx

Excerpts from the reports

Chinook salmon
- “The Proposed Action appears to be a major step forward in conserving target fish populations compared with decades of vigorous disagreements, obvious fish passage barriers, and continued ecological degradation. The Panel concluded that a substantial increase in Chinook salmon is possible in the reach between Iron Gate Dam and Keno Dam.” (p. i)
- “The Panel believes that dam removal is the greatest limiting factor precluding Chinook salmon rehabilitation. Time will also be needed for new Chinook salmon stocks to evolve to the evolving water quality conditions. Delaying dam removal seems an unwise proposal.” (p. 74)
- “There is much certainty that if the four dams are not removed, the Klamath Chinook salmon will continue to decline.” (p. 69-70)
- “The Proposed Action offers greater water quality potential than the Current Conditions in improving water quality for Klamath Chinook salmon.” (p. 9)
- “The Proposed Action offers greater potential than the Current Conditions in reducing disease related mortality in Klamath Chinook Salmon.” (p. 12)
- “The Proposed Action offers greater potential than the Current Conditions for Chinook salmon to tolerate climate change and changes in marine survival.” (p.19)

Steelhead Trout
- “If the KBRA is implemented effectively, improved habitat conditions are likely for steelhead. Under the Proposed Action alternative, steelhead would have access to substantial habitat that is currently inaccessible upstream of Iron Gate Dam, and KBRA will improve habitat throughout the system.” (p. 46).
- “Under the Proposed Action alternative, newly established populations of coho salmon and steelhead upstream of Iron Gate Dam should help spread the risk in the long-term viability of salmon and steelhead in the face of the continuing stresses from land and water resource use in the upper basin and climate change. This might be particularly applicable to populations in the upper Klamath basin, where groundwater-dominated refuges might allow persistence in thermally suitable habitats in spite of expected warming.” (pp. 42-43)

Coho salmon (ESA listed)
- “Benefits for coho salmon will depend on the success of establishing productive coho salmon populations in these colder upper-basin habitats. The highest probability of success will be within the known historical range of coho salmon where cold-water habitats can be rehabilitated or maintained, such as the lower reach of Spencer Creek.”(P. 44)

Pacific Lamprey
- “Pacific lampreys are currently extirpated above Iron Gate Dam; they are unable to pass the dam and the confirmed upstream limit in the mainstem Klamath River is Bogus Creek. … an additional 69 miles of Pacific lamprey habitat will be opened up by removal of the four lower Klamath River dams.” (P. 29)
- “Under the Condition without Dams and with the KBRA Alternative, increases in dissolved oxygen levels are expected to improve habitat productivity for Pacific and other Klamath River Basin lamprey species.” (P. 36).
**LEGAL NOTICE**


_U.S. Court of Federal Claims Case number 102-63_

Notice is hereby given that all payments and disbursements of all judgments under the Judgment entered July 29, 1993 are to be concluded no later than November 4, 2011. Attorney John W. Corbett, Esq. administers the distribution of Judgments to plaintiffs and is seeking contact information of Qualified Plaintiffs and their heirs so as to acquire the Court’s authorization to make final payment.

Below is a list of individuals, including their year of birth (when available) and the Plaintiff Number for the Plaintiff with whom they are associated. The individuals listed below may or MAY NOT be entitled to distribution of Judgment moneys under the Judgment in this case. They are being sought in an effort to identify and locate all persons eligible for payment or who may know the location of eligible Payees. Please contact Mr. Corbett at the Yurok Tribe’s Office of the Tribal Attorney.

**CONTACT INFORMATION MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING IMMEDIATELY.**

John W. Corbett, Esq.
Senior Attorney
Office of the Tribal Attorney
190 Klamath Boulevard
Klamath, CA 95548

707-482-1350 extension #389

Additional information and updates are available on the Yurok Tribe Office of Tribal Attorney Legal Website: http://yuroktribe.org/government/tribalattorney/tribalattorney.htm

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Pltf #3511 Frye, Vina N.
Pltf #3524 Green Jr., Theodore H.
Pltf #3524 Miller, Verona
Pltf #3551 Hickey, Daniel
Pltf #3556 Jackson, Lincoln
Pltf #3642 Moore, David Eric
Pltf #3651 Laam, Shane R.
Pltf #3697 Nelson II, Richard N.
Pltf #3698 Nelson, Ricky
Pltf #3702 Nelson-Scott, Tawnee
Pltf #3716 Pallin, Irene
Pltf #3746 Rindel, Gaylon Dale
Pltf #3764 Sherman, Herman
Pltf #3767 Smith, Paula
Pltf #3781 Stuckle-Hanley, Patricia Ann
Pltf #3783 Surber, Frank
Pltf #3796 Thrasher Jr., Bobby Bert
Pltf #3813 Van Pelt-Roberts, Dorothy A.
Pltf #3823 Walker, Harry J.

Additional information and updates are available on the Yurok Tribe Office of Tribal Attorney Legal Website: http://yuroktribe.org/government/tribalattorney/tribalattorney.htm
Tribe, feds and state monitor whales in river

A pod of tribal, Humboldt State University and federal scientists are monitoring the health of a gray whale which has taken up residence in the Klamath River for the last month.

The large marine mammal appears to be in decent condition even though the segment of river it spends the most time lacks any salinity. The whale entered the river with a calf on June 28. The calf, which likely weaned, returned to the ocean on July 23. As the summer continues, the river — already 65 degrees — will only get warmer and the water will drop, possibly trapping the whale in the river. The group of experts who have been monitoring the cetacean decided it was in the best interest of the whale to intervene and attempt to encourage the mammal, using tried techniques, to return to the ocean.

On July 24, a strategic, coordinated action was executed to make the river appear less hospitable to the whale. The Yurok Tribe, Humboldt State University, NOAA, California Fish and Game, Del Norte County Sheriff’s Office, Crescent City Fire Protection District deployed tested, acoustic stimuli and hazing techniques to try to drive the whale back to sea. The effort was unsuccessful. During the exercise, scientists took a DNA sample from the whale to better assess its health. On the Thursday, biologists played killer whale sounds, a predator of the gray whale, as a plan B.

“We’re now in a holding pattern, hoping the whale will make the decision to leave on its own,” said Yurok Fisheries Manager Dave Hillemeier.

The public should not try to engage the whale as it is very dangerous. Thousands of tourists have stopped to take pictures of the baleen beauties. However, some curious people in jet boats and kayaks have travelled too close the animals — some within feet — putting unnecessary stress on the animals. It is also dangerous for the boaters to come so close to the unpredictable large, wild animals. The federal Marine Mammal Protection Act prohibits humans from harassing whales and other marine mammals. It is recommended that those interested in viewing the whale do so from a minimum of 100 yards.

“We are doing everything we can to make sure the whales and the public are safe,” said Yurok Chairman Thomas O’Rourke Sr. “I would like to encourage people to view the magnificent mammals from shore where there is no chance of harm to human or animal.”

The team of biologists has been monitoring the whales 24-hours a day. The scientists have observed mostly normal behavior by the whale, despite being in such an abnormal environment. Most gray whales migrate 10,000 miles from the arctic to Baja California. Every year, a small number of Eschrichtius Robustus don’t make the entire migration back and linger from Northern California to British Columbia. It is believed that the mother and calf are part of this small group.

Biologists hypothesize that the mother might have brought the yearling into the river to avoid a predator such as killer whale or a great white shark. The highly intelligent mammals could also simply be curious.

The last time a whale was known to enter the Klamath River was in 1989. The whale exited the river without incident. When a whale enters the river it is an indicator, according to Yurok culture.

“It’s a sign that things are working good,” said Yurok Elder Walt Lara Sr. “It’s a part of the world renewal structure when they come and visit us. It’s pretty touching to me. It’s something that’s supposed to happen.”
WHALE VIEWING GUIDELINES

1. Be alert and avoid disturbing whales and
2. ALWAYS attempt to stay at least 100 yards away
3. If a situation arises where you cannot avoid a whale by a hundred yards
   - DO NOT move into the path of the whale
   - DO NOT move faster than the whale (operate at a no-wake speed)
   - DO NOT make erratic speed or directional changes, unless to avoid collision with the whale
   - DO NOT get between two whales
   - DO NOT chase whales
   - DO NOT feed whales

To report incidents of harassment, contact: NOAA Law Enforcement Hotline at: 1-800-853-1964
WASHINGTON – Four students from the Yurok Tribe have been selected to join 150 young men and women from across the country for the 2011 National Intertribal Youth Summit in Santa Fe, N.M., featuring administration officials from the White House and the Departments of Justice, Interior, Health and Human Services and Education.

U.S. Attorney Melinda Haag announced today that the students chosen from the Yurok Tribe include Miles Obie, Ratausha Ray, Justiniano Santos and Tanasha Santos. During the leadership conference, the students will have the opportunity to engage with other American Indian and Alaska Native youth through special sessions targeting leadership development and critical youth issues such as healthy relationships and lifestyles, education, substance and alcohol abuse, cultural preservation, community development and protecting the environment.

Yurok Tribal Member Ratausha Ray said her first emotion was “shock” when she heard the news.

“I feel very honored to get this great opportunity,” Ratausha said. “I want to use the skills that I gain on this trip to benefit others.”

The summit also provides an opportunity for Obama administration officials to hear directly from youth in Indian Country. The administration and federal agencies have made a commitment to building healthier and safer communities through strengthened coordination and collaboration with tribal governments and partners.

In her work with tribal leaders, U.S. Attorney Haag understands that the Yurok Tribe greatly values their youth and the opportunities this summit will bring to their government and community.

“While Americans throughout the country today face unprecedented challenges, tribal communities have concerns that only they can understand,” U.S. Attorney Haag said. “Having the opportunity to gather with youth from other tribes to share their thoughts and concerns, should provide these four outstanding students with the information they need to help the Yurok Tribe move forward.”

“We applaud all the students joining this summit for their commitment to improving their communities,” said Attorney General Eric H. Holder. “Tribal governments face unique challenges, and the importance of getting our youth involved in securing a bright future for themselves, their friends, families, and neighbors can’t be overstated.”

Chaske Spencer, star of the Twilight movie series, and pro-golfer Notah Begay also plan to make appearances at the summit, which is focused on youth voices. During the week-long session, participants will have the opportunity to create a Public Service Announcement (PSA) to run in their communities. In a special session called Voices of Youth, participants will share thoughts, concerns and recommendations on ways to address public safety and positively impact the lives of youth across Indian Country—providing a platform for honest dialogue with federal officials. Additional workshops will provide tribal youth with knowledge and skills in leadership development and strategies for achieving academic and career success.

Youth were nominated for the 2011 Summit by their tribal youth program coordinators and submitted an application to attend. The Department of Justice’s Office on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Programs (OJJDP) and the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) made the final participant selections.
Wildlife holding shooting events

The Yurok Tribe’s Wildlife Program is holding shooting demonstrations in August and September. These events will give hunters an opportunity to compare firsthand non-lead and lead bullets. The demonstrations will consist of professional shooters firing both bullet types into ballistic gelatin and fragment retention barrels with their own guns. The specialized gel is designed to show the shooter the wound channels the different rounds create in an animal and how the bullets fragment. The ballistic barrels will enable hunters to view the fragmentation of each type of bullet.

The Wildlife Program is studying the feasibility of reintroducing California condors in Yurok Country. Lead fragments in shot animals and/or gut piles left in the woods after field dressing are the largest limiting factor for sustainable condor populations. The Wildlife Program has learned from other condor reintroductory efforts that education is the best way to remove toxic lead from the food chain. The events were designed for hunters to make their own decision, based on real-life experience with non-lead bullets and the most credible information about the ammo they use during harvest. The Program invites tough questions.

The first demo will take place near Craig’s Beach off of South Fork Road in Del Norte County on August 13. The second will happen at the Redwood Gun Club in Samoa, CA on August 20. The third will be at Two Mile off of Bair Road in Hoopa. Free samples of non-lead ammunition will be available to try for those bringing their own rifles at all of the events. There will also be an ammunition exchange. The Wildlife Program will trade non-lead ammo for lead, bullet for bullet.

Detailed directions will be posted on the Wildlife Program’s web page www.yuroktribe.org/wildlifeprogram. For more information contact the Tribe’s Wildlife Program at (707) 482-1822.

Name Contest for Hotel/Casino begins

The Yurok Tribe is putting on a contest to name its planned hotel and casino. The name should embody the objective of the economic development endeavor. The Tribe envisions the hotel/casino to be a place where people can relax and have fun on the Klamath River. All entries should be in Yurok, although, correct spelling is not required. If possible, the name should come from the beginning of the alphabet. If a winner is chosen, he or she will receive a free logo item. The deadline for entries is August 10. All entries should be sent to Public Relations Manager Matt Mais via email at mmais@yuroktribe.nsn.us or regular mail at PO Box 1027, Klamath, CA 95548

Make your reservation for fishing season today

Spaces are filling up fast at Requa Resort for the fishing season. The Resort, located at the mouth of the Klamath, has full hook-ups, bathrooms and showers. To make Reservations call (707) 482-0657.

- Everyone needs to make reservations for their boat slip. The dock is filling up.
- Everyone needs to make reservations for their camp spot.

They have to give a deposit for the camp spot and the boat slip, or we will not hold their spot.

Requa is a drug and alcohol and will not be tolerated.

The Resort is also looking for a new host. Those interested should call the YEDC at (707) 482-0657.
It’s almost time for the Salmon Festival

The Yurok Tribe’s Klamath Salmon Festival is right around the corner.

This annual salmon celebration is building off of last year’s success, which boasting the best turnout in recent years. The festival is a great place to see old friends, enjoy live music and eat sumptuous salmon cooked in a traditional way.

The legendary, Hupa-fronted Merv George Band is headlining the August 20 event.

There will also be a highly competitive Stick Game Tournament. The Stick Game is played by local tribes and is a full-contact sport that resembles lacrosse with a wrestling element. The game is heavy on action.

The Tribe’s Watershed Department will be running a Heavy Equipment Roadeo for all who enjoy running and watching heavy machinery perform technical tasks. The roadeo (intentional misspelling) entails a set of timed-challenges completed on loaders and skid steers. Participants can sign up now or at the event.

There will also be an Indian Card Game Tournament and a number of cultural demonstrations in a new area designated solely for cultural activities.

The Yurok Housing Authority is putting on a 5k Ney-Puy Run. The run is free to enter and will start at 8 a.m.

The Tribe is bringing back a vintage competition to compliment the full menu of festival activities. The Salmon and Pie Baking Contest, will determine the best fish smokers and bakers in area. Contact Jennifer Burgess at 482-1350 ext 324 to participate.

The family-friendly, free festival will also include an array kids’ activities, such as a bounce house, games and face painting. There will also be hundreds of vendors selling high quality goods, a breakfast free for veterans and a break dancing contest open to all. For non-runners the Salmon Festival starts with the Veteran’s breakfast, put on by the Klamath Chamber of Commerce, at 8 a.m. at the Klamath Community Center on Salmon Blvd. The breakfast will be followed by a parade. The famously delicious salmon dinner will start at 11:00 a.m.

The theme of this year’s family event is Cho’ chpaa hey-we-chem’.

There is still booth space available. Please contact Forrest Gregg at (707) 482-1350 ext 385.

Those who want to participate in the parade are strongly encouraged to turn in an application on time. Those who do not submit one on time will not be announced by the Master of Ceremonies.

Please note, this year’s festival will be held on a Saturday. For up-to-date information and to sign up for events visit yuroktribe.org/salmonfestival.
Sign up for Golden Bear Run

The Klamath Volunteer Fire Department is holding its first annual Golden Bear Run on September 17.

The 5k and 15k routes run through some of the most beautiful parts of Yurok Country. Runners can register online at Klamath-run.terwer.com until September 10. Participants can also submit an entry form on the day of the event.

All proceeds from the run will go to the Klamath Volunteer Fire Department, which is also looking for sponsors for the event.

To register and/or donate visit Klamath-run.terwer.com For more information call the event’s organizer Rose Tatman at (707) 834-6607 or send her an email at rosetatman@yahoo.com

Candidates

NORTH DISTRICT
Jack Mattz
Raymond McQuillen

REQUA DISTRICT
Ronald Bates, Sr.
David L. Gensaw, Sr.
Frank L. McCovey
Dave Severns
Juanita Williams

WEITCHPEC DISTRICT
Alice Chenault
Sid Nix

The candidates’ statements will appear in the next newsletter.

2011 ELECTION SCHEDULE
NORTH, REQUA AND WEITCHPEC DISTRICTS

OCTOBER 12, 2011 - PRIMARY ELECTION

NOVEMBER 9, 2011 - RUNOFF ELECTION

JUNE 20 (8:30AM) - FIRST DAY TO ISSUE NOMINATION PAPERS FOR COUNCIL OFFICE

JULY 13 (5:00PM) - LAST DAY TO REGISTER WHEN MOVING INTO A DIFFERENT DISTRICT (90 DAYS)

JULY 22 (5:00PM) - LAST DAY TO FILE NOMINATION PAPERS

AUGUST 12 (5:00PM) - LAST DAY TO FILE INITIATIVE(S)

AUGUST 12 - PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF ELECTION (54 DAYS)

AUGUST 26 - LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR PRIMARY ELECTION (47 DAYS)

AUG 29-31 - BOARD CERTIFICATION OF NEW REGISTRANTS

SEPTEMBER 2 - MAIL OUT SAMPLE BALLOTS TO REGISTERED VOTERS (40 DAYS)

SEPTEMBER 16 - MAILING OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS (26 DAYS)

SEPTEMBER 23 - LAST DAY TO RECEIVE ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST BY MAIL (14 DAYS)

OCTOBER 5 - LAST DAY TO PICK UP ABSENTEE BALLOT IN OFFICE (5 DAYS)

OCTOBER 12, 2011 - PRIMARY ELECTION

OCTOBER 21 - LAST DAY TO RECEIVE ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST BY MAIL FOR RUN OFF (14 DAYS) ONLY IF YOU DID NOT REQUEST AN ABSENTEE FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION

OCTOBER 21 - MAILING OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR RUN OFF (19 DAYS)

NOVEMBER 2 - LAST DAY TO PICK UP ABSENTEE BALLOT IN OFFICE FOR RUN OFF (5 DAYS)

NOVEMBER 9, 2011 - RUNOFF ELECTION
Thousands of people have been treated to the rare sight of the enormous gray whale from the U.S. Highway 101 Bridge. • Read more on page 6.