

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Finding of No Significant Impact
Fish Passage Improvements
Savage Rapids Dam
Grants Pass Project, Oregon



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Pacific Northwest Region

April 2006

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

The mission of the Department of the Interior is to protect and provide access to our Nation's natural and cultural heritage and honor our trust responsibilities to Indian tribes and our commitments to island communities.

MISSION OF THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Fish Passage Improvements, Savage Rapids Dam Grants Pass Project, Oregon

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Columbia Area Office**

PN FONSI 06-02

Introduction

Actions to improve fish passage, while maintaining a water diversion for the Grants Pass Irrigation District (GPID), were originally evaluated in a 1995 Planning Report/Final Environmental Statement (PR/FES) prepared by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). Due to lack of public consensus at the time, the Preferred Alternative of dam removal and installation of pumps was not implemented. The project was reinitiated in 2004. Due to the age of the 1995 PR/FES, and minor differences in the current Preferred Alternative compared to the original Preferred Alternative, Reclamation prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA was prepared to determine if any additional significant environmental effects not evaluated in the 1995 PR/FES would occur that would necessitate the development of a supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Draft EA was distributed to the public in August 2005. Few comments were received and most were in support of the project. Additional information on the importance of dam removal to anadromous fish was provided which does not change the analysis in the Draft EA, but merely augments it. Therefore, the Draft EA will serve as the Final EA without revision.

Background

Fish passage at Savage Rapids Dam has been an issue since the dam was constructed in 1921 by the GPID. Savage Rapids Dam was built to divert water for irrigation from the Rogue River. Early attempts to screen the pumping diversion were unsuccessful, and it remained unscreened until 1958. Fish passage improvements made in the late 1970s helped reduce losses, but fish passage problems continue. The existing fish screen at the pump intake does not meet current criteria of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries).

The 1995 PR/FES proposed dam removal and construction of pumping facilities but the action was never implemented due to a lack of local consensus. In August 2001, a Consent Decree (Decree) was issued to settle a pending Federal court case against GPID under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and a water right cancellation case pending in the Oregon State Supreme Court. The Decree provided that the GPID should seek authorization and funding for implementing the Pumping/Dam Removal Plan as identified in the 1995 PR/FES. The Decree further stipulated that GPID must cease operating the dam as its diversion facility by November 1, 2005, with an extension to November 1, 2006, at the judge's discretion. This extension has been obtained. Section 220 of the fiscal year 2004 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill (Public Law 108-137) authorized the Secretary of the Interior to construct pumping facilities and remove Savage Rapids Dam.

Alternatives Considered

Reclamation considered a number of options while fine-tuning the dam removal/pumping plant construction action proposed as the Preferred Alternative in the 1995 PR/FES. Three options were studied in greater detail; two were ultimately eliminated from further study and the remaining one is presented as the 2005 Preferred Alternative (Alternative B).

Reclamation did not consider any options not involving dam removal/pumping plant construction because of the direction given in the Consent Decree and Public Law 108-137. The 2005 Preferred Alternative was compared to the 1995 Preferred Alternative to determine if additional significant impacts exist with the new preferred alternative. If changes to the existing environment for a specific resource had occurred since the completion of the 1995 PR/FES, additional analysis of the 1995 Preferred Alternative was completed for that resource. This was the case for the analysis of Threatened and Endangered Species because of the listing of the Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast coho salmon (SONCC coho) as threatened under the ESA in 1997. The No Action Alternative is unchanged from the 1995 PR/FES with the exception of the Consent Decree. No additional analysis was completed for the No Action Alternative as it is not a viable alternative.

Alternative A – The 1995 PR/FES Preferred Alternative consisted of complete dam removal and construction of two pumping plants, one on each side of the river.

Alternative B – The 2005 Preferred Alternative consists of partial dam removal and construction of a single pumping plant on the left (south) side of the river with a pre-engineered bridge supporting a pipeline to convey water to the right (north) side of the river. It was selected as the Preferred Alternative because of the cost savings of constructing and maintaining only one pumping plant.

Summary of Environmental Effects of the 2005 Preferred Alternative

Water Quality

Overall, impacts will be smaller than those predicted for the 1995 PR/FES Preferred Alternative (Alternative A). Short-term increases in sedimentation will occur during the initial dam removal phase, and increased sedimentation will occur during high water flows. No long-term adverse impacts to water quality will occur. A February 2001 sediment study determined there was considerably less sediment behind the dam than originally estimated in the 1995 PR/FES.¹ It also concluded that because the sediments stored behind the dam are essentially the same as sediments existing in the river channel below the dam, there will be no further degradation of the Rogue River reaches currently appearing on the 303(d) list and the overall water quality of the Rogue River basin will not be affected by removal of Savage Rapids Dam. The most significant sources of water quality impairment will continue to stem from increased urbanization, agricultural, and industrial activities.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

The impacts would be the same as with the 1995 Preferred Alternative. Temporary, but insignificant increases in turbidity during construction would occur.

Land Use

The impacts would be the same as with the 1995 Preferred Alternative. These consist primarily of a change of 110 acres of seasonal flat water reverting to a riverine environment, and approximately 1.5 acres of land being used for the pumping plant and facilities.

Fish

Overall impacts and benefits would be the same as with the 1995 Preferred Alternative. Removal of Savage Rapids Dam permanently eliminates a passage barrier that has been the source of migration delays and fish mortalities for decades. Removal will allow unimpeded movement of anadromous fish both upstream and downstream in the Rogue River. Salmon and steelhead escapement at Savage Rapids Dam is estimated to increase about 22 percent.

¹ U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. 2001. *Savage Rapids Dam Sediment Evaluation Study*. Josephine County, Water Management Improvement Study, Oregon. Pacific Northwest Region. Boise, Idaho.

Wildlife

The impacts would be the same as with the 1995 Preferred Alternative. Short-term disturbance and displacement during construction would occur.

Vegetation

The impacts would be essentially be the same as with the 1995 Preferred Alternative. Approximately 3 acres would be affected by construction.

Threatened and Endangered Species

SONCC Coho Salmon and Critical Habitat

Overall impacts and benefits are the same as with the 1995 Preferred Alternative, although the SONCC coho salmon were not listed at that time, nor was critical habitat. Both short-term and long-term impacts will occur to riparian vegetation in the immediate vicinity of the project area. Some vegetation appurtenant to the dam removal site will be removed during construction but will be revegetated upon completion of the project. The overall impact to the function of the riparian area in the vicinity of Savage Rapids Dam in providing shade, sediment delivery, nutrient or chemical regulation, streambank stability, and the input of large woody debris slight.

No long-term impacts will occur to spawning areas, food production areas, and water quality or quantity in the vicinity of or downstream of the project area. Removing Savage Rapids Dam permanently eliminates a major source of anadromous fish mortality in the Rogue River by allowing unimpeded movement of anadromous fish both upstream and downstream in the Rogue River.

Recreation

The impacts would be the same as with the 1995 Preferred Alternative. The type of recreation activities will change since the heavy concentration of fish between the dam and Pierce Riffle will be eliminated.

Aesthetics

The impacts would be similar as with the 1995 Preferred Alternative. However, instead of total dam removal, the right and left dam abutments will remain in the river and there will be a pipe bridge across the river.

Historic Properties

The impacts would be similar as with the 1995 Preferred Alternative. An archeological survey of all potential impact areas was completed in July 2005 and no archeological sites

were found. A Section 106 consultation on the historic significance of a wood stave pipe was done and mitigation for adverse impacts was completed in December 2005.

Indian Trust Assets (ITAs) and Indian Sacred Sites

As with the 1995 Preferred Alternative, no ITAs have been identified and Executive Order 13007 does not extend to non-Federal lands.

Social Well Being, Economics, and Environmental Justice

The impacts would be the same as with the 1995 Preferred Alternative. These include a change from part year lakeside residences to permanent riverside residences with unusable docks; short-term effects on the regional economy during construction, and no adverse effects to minorities or low income populations and communities.

Air Quality and Noise

The impacts would be the same as with the 1995 Preferred Alternative. There would be a temporary increase in noise and dust levels during construction.

Environmental Commitments

The terms and conditions in Section 8 of NOAA Fisheries Biological Opinion (BiOp) (March 2006) and recommendations in the 2005 U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) Final Coordination Act Report (CAR) are considered environmental commitments to be implemented as part of the Preferred Alternative. Dates may vary slightly from the final CAR recommendations to accommodate revisions to the final construction schedule. Any work outside of the In-water Work Period, except as identified in the CAR, must be approved by USFWS, NOAA Fisheries, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). The following environmental commitments will also be implemented as part of the 2005 Preferred Alternative.

Water Quality

Reclamation will obtain the required Section 402 permit under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System prior to discharging any wastewater or pollutants. Section 404 and 401 (water quality certification) of the Clean Water Act have been obtained by the GPID. Required removal-fill permits have been obtained from the Oregon Department of State Lands (ODSL).

Contactors will comply with Federal, State, and local laws and regulations regarding control and abatement of water pollution. Construction methods will be used that protect against accidental spillage of any contaminants or debris into the Rogue River.

Best management practices (BMPs as outlined in Appendix A of the EA) will be used to minimize environmental consequences caused by construction activities. All standard and reasonable precautions will be taken to reduce erosion and limit sedimentation during and after construction. Construction will take place, as much as possible, during the In-Water Work Period (June 15 – August 31). No in-water work will occur outside of this period without coordination with the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), USFWS, NOAA Fisheries, and ODFW.

Fish

Final design of fish passage and facilities was coordinated with USFWS, NOAA Fisheries, and ODFW. All instream work will be coordinated with the Corps, USFWS, NOAA Fisheries, and ODFW to ensure that adverse effects to anadromous fish will be minimized. The portion of Savage Rapids Dam to be removed will be demolished in a manner that will minimize any potential impacts to anadromous fish passage or cause excessive turbidity or rapid release of sediments downstream.

BMPs (as outlined in Appendix A of the EA) will be used to minimize environmental consequences caused by dam removal and construction of the pumping facility and intake screens, as well as the construction of access roads and staging areas. All standard and reasonable precautions will be taken to reduce erosion and limit sedimentation during and after construction. To the extent possible, construction will take place during the In-Water Work Period. However, at the fisheries agencies' request, cofferdam installation on the right side of the dam will be done in April to minimize impacts to anadromous fish. A fish salvage plan will be implemented to remove all fish inadvertently entrapped behind cofferdams as specified in the 2005 USFWS CAR and 2006 BiOp.

Vegetation

Areas disturbed through construction will be reseeded. The area of river bank where the dam is removed and the pumping plants are constructed will be recontoured to provide a natural aspect.

Threatened and Endangered Species

SONCC Coho Salmon and Critical Habitat

BMPs (as outlined in Appendix A of the EA) will be used to minimize environmental consequences caused by dam removal and construction of the pumping facility, intake screens, access roads, and staging areas.

Essential Fish Habitat

The terms and conditions of Section 8 of the 200 BiOp will be adopted as EFH conservation measures and will be implemented under the environmental commitments as part of the 2005 Preferred Alternative.

Cultural Resources

Contractors will comply with construction specifications and take appropriate actions and notify the SHPO if cultural resources are discovered.

Disposal of Waste

Waste materials from demolition of existing facilities and post construction cleanup will be disposed of in landfills in accordance with State, county, and local regulations and ordinances. Hazardous waste materials will be disposed of in accordance with applicable Federal and State regulations.

Air Quality and Noise

Contractors will comply with Federal, State, and local regulations concerning control of noise levels during all phases of demolition and construction (e.g., pumping plants) in the removal of Savage Rapids Dam. The pumping plant will be inside of a metal building substantially reducing noise.

Agency Consultation and Coordination

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act

Reclamation worked closely with USFWS, NOAA Fisheries, and ODFW to keep them informed about design and construction features of the Preferred Alternative. The USFWS provided a final Supplemental Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report in July 2005. Reclamation will implement the recommendations as discussed in the Draft EA.

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

Letters were received from the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service whereby they determined that the Preferred Alternative would not invade or unreasonably diminish the scenic, recreation, and fish and wildlife values of the Rogue Wild and Scenic River (letters attached).

Endangered Species Act

Reclamation prepared and submitted a Biological Assessment (BA) in October 2005 to NOAA Fisheries and USFWS for review in compliance with Section 7 of the ESA that addressed potential impacts to threatened and endangered species. Our determination was that the Preferred Alternative would have “no effect” to any of the listed species except for the SONCC coho salmon for which we determined that the proposed action “may affect, is likely to adversely affect due to short-term construction-related effects.” On March 8, 2006,

Reclamation received NOAA Fisheries' BiOp. In this final BiOp, NOAA Fisheries determined that the proposed action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of SONCC coho salmon, which are listed as threatened under the ESA. NOAA Fisheries also determined that the proposed action is not likely to destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat for the SONCC coho salmon. NOAA Fisheries did find that the proposed action will adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for the SONCC coho salmon and recommended that the terms and conditions of Section 8 of the BiOp be adopted as EFH conservation measures. These terms and conditions will be implemented under the environmental commitments as part of the 2005 Preferred Alternative.

National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)

In August 1990, Reclamation and the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred that Savage Rapids Dam was not eligible to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) due to the loss of historic integrity. In July 2005, Reclamation completed an archeological survey of all potential impact areas. Although no archeological sites were found, one steel pipe and one wood stave pipe were assessed for historic significance. In November 2005, the SHPO concurred that the riveted steel pipe was ineligible to the NRHP. They also concurred that the wood stave pipe, dating to 1916-1923, was eligible and that the action of removal was an "adverse effect." As mitigation for the "adverse effect," on December 13, 2005, Reclamation submitted an "Oregon Inventory of Historic Properties Section 106 Documentation Form," together with photographs, documenting the pipe's physical characteristics. The submission of these materials fulfilled Reclamation's commitment for mitigation of the adverse effect to this historic property. No further actions are required to fulfill Reclamation's responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Public Involvement

The Draft EA was mailed to approximately 150 Federal, State, local agencies, elected officials, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, and interest groups for a 30-day comment period. Reclamation received 6 comment letters. Comments were received from the Oregon Natural Resources Council, GPID, Waterwatch, and three local residents. The comments were largely in support of the project. The comment letters together with Reclamation's responses are included as an attachment to this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

Changes to the Draft EA

Additional information on the importance of dam removal to anadromous fish was provided which does not change the analysis in the Draft EA, but merely augments it. Therefore, the Draft EA will serve as the Final EA without revision.

Finding

Based on a thorough review of the comments received and analysis of the environmental impacts, mitigation measures, and implementation of all environmental commitments as presented in the Final EA and this FONSI, Reclamation has concluded that the 2005 Preferred Alternative does not cause significant impacts not already evaluated in the 1995 PR/FES Preferred Alternative. Although, the SONCC coho salmon were not listed at the time the 1995 PR/FES was developed, the impacts to them from both the 1995 and 2005 Preferred Alternatives are the same, and the purpose of the proposed action has always been to benefit anadromous fish species. Therefore, Reclamation finds that a Supplemental EIS does not need to be initiated and that this FONSI satisfies the requirements of NEPA.

Recommended:



Robert J. Hamilton, Activity Manager
Pacific Northwest Regional Office
Boise, Idaho

10 April 06

Date

Concur:

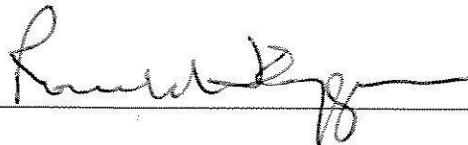


Lola Abshire, Regional NEPA Coordinator
Pacific Northwest Regional Office
Boise, Idaho

4/10/06

Date

Approved:



Ronald J. Eggers, Area Manager
Lower Columbia Area Office
Portland, Oregon

April 12, 2006

Date

ATTACHMENTS

Consultation Letters

Comment Letters and Reclamation's Responses

Consultation Letters



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Pacific Northwest Region
Lower Columbia Area Office
1201 NE Lloyd Boulevard, Suite 750
Portland, Oregon 97232



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IN AMERICA

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DEC 16 '05

TO	INIT	DATE
6309	RJH	19 Dec 05
CONTROL #:	S-7435	
CONTROL #:	21566	

LCA-6000
ENV-3.00

DEC 13 2005

Mr. Kirk Ranzetta
Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
725 Summer Street NE, Suite C
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Mitigation for Construction Related to the Savage Rapids Dam Removal Project

Dear Mr. Ranzetta:

The Bureau of Reclamation proposes to replace an irrigation pipe in association with the removal of Savage Rapids Dam. The pipe leaks profusely and needs to be replaced for the irrigation system to remain functional. The pipe has been found eligible to the National Register of Historic Places at the local level, with concurrence from your office on November 18, 2005.

As mitigation for the "adverse effect" of removal of the pipe, Reclamation has completed an "Oregon Inventory of Historic Properties Section 106 Documentation Form," and has produced a set of photographs documenting the pipe from several angles, including views of the setting and close-ups of the hardware. The photographs were processed using the standards presented in "Standards and Guidelines for Recording Historic Resources in Oregon," prepared by your office; and the "National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks Survey Photo Policy Expansion" (March 2005).

Enclosed are four unmounted 5" x 7" black-and-white prints. They were printed with HP gray photo ink (#100) on HP Premium Plus high gloss photo paper. Each photo is labeled on the back using a 5B lead pencil. The photographs are stored in an 8-bit color format on the enclosed CD-R. The files are uncompressed ".tif" files at a resolution of 1800 x 1200 (300 ppi). The CD file names incorporate the state, county and site names for each photo. More specific information about each photograph is recorded on the photo index sheet. A map of the historic property location is also enclosed.

Our submission of these materials completes our requirements for mitigation of the adverse effect to this historic property.

Should you have any questions regarding the materials enclosed, please contact Ms. Janet Joyer, the project archaeologist, at 541-245-4105.

Sincerely,

/s/ DAVID R. NELSON

ACTING FOR Ronald J. Eggers
Area Manager

Enclosures

ENV-6.00
GP



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MEDFORD DISTRICT OFFICE
3040 Biddle Road
Medford, Oregon 97504
email address: or110mb@or.blm.gov

OCT 03 '05

IN REPLY REFER TO:

8351.2 (OR-110)

SEP 29 2005

Robert J. Hamilton, PE
Bureau of Reclamation
1150 N Curtis Road, Suite 100
Boise, ID 83706-1234

TO	INT	
6309		
CONTROL#	5-5927	
	22586	

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Savage Rapids EIS.

I also reviewed the 1995 Sec 7(a) DETERMINATION, WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT Proposed Fish Passage Improvements. I find that the 1995 Section 7(a) information remains valid in every way. There appears to be no need for any further evaluation of the alternatives.

Therefore, the Bureau of Land Management's conclusion is that none of the alternatives would invade or unreasonably diminish the scenic, recreational, and fish and wildlife values of the Rogue National Wild and Scenic River.

Sincerely,

Jim Leffmann
Outdoor Recreation Planner, Medford District



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Rogue River National Forest
Siskiyou National Forest

Supervisor's Office
333 W. 8th Street
P.O. Box 520
Medford, OR 97501-0209

File Code: 2600 Fisheries **Date:** September 29, 2005
Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment, Fish Passage Improvements, Savage Rapids
Dam, Grants Pass, Oregon

To: Robert J. Hamilton PE
Bureau of Reclamation
1150 N Curtis Road, Suite 100
Boise, ID 83706-1234

01 2005

09 03 '05

TO	DATE	TIME
6309		
CONTROL #:		

Dear Bob,

I have reviewed the draft EIS for Fish Passage Improvements at the Savage Rapids Dam facility in Grants Pass, Oregon. On March 21, 1995 the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management forwarded a Wild and Scenic Rivers Act Section 7(a) Determination to the Bureau of Reclamation. At that time it was determined that the proposed fish passage improvements would not invade or unreasonably diminish the scenic, recreations and fish and wildlife values of the Rogue Wild and Scenic River.

The two proposed action alternatives in the August 2005 Draft Environmental Assessment also would not invade or unreasonably diminish the scenic, recreation and fish and wildlife values of the Rogue Wild and Scenic River. The determination in the March 1995 document is remains valid.

Either of these alternatives would greatly improve fish passage over and around the Savage Rapids Dam facility and greatly benefit the fisheries values of the downstream Rogue Wild and Scenic River.

Randy Frick Randy Frick

Randy Frick
Forest Fisheries Biologists
Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest



**Comment Letters
and
Reclamation's Responses**

Reclamation's Responses to Comments

Waterwatch

Thank you for your comments. While they provide additional information on the importance of dam removal to anadromous fish, they do not change the analysis in the Draft EA, but merely augment it. Therefore, the Draft EA will serve as the Final EA without revision to include the additional information you have provided.

Grants Pass Irrigation District

Thank you for your comments.

Oregon Natural Resources Council

Thank you for your comments.

Fred Fleetwood

Thank you for your comments.

Marianne Peterson

Thank you for your comments.

Kelly Carsten

Thank you for your comments. Modification of boat ramps or other facilities located along the periphery of the reservoir are the responsibility of the owner.



September 6, 2002

Bureau of Reclamation
Pacific Northwest Regional Office
Attention: Robert Hamilton (PN-6309)
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100
Boise, ID 83706-1234

And via email to: savage_rapids@pn.usbr.gov.

RE: Comments on Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Savage Rapids Dam Removal /Pumping Facilities Project, Josephine County, Rogue River Basin, Oregon

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

WaterWatch appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Savage Rapids Pumping Facilities/Dam Removal Project. This project is a major river restoration project and as such will deliver significant environmental benefits when completed. This project is also critical for the survival of the Grants Pass Irrigation District (GPID), which needs the new pumping facilities to continue its operations.

It is WaterWatch's position that a supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not necessary for this project. This project has been studied and scrutinized over the course of the last 15 years and all the significant environmental issues have been very thoroughly addressed. In fact further delays for this important restoration project would only serve to perpetuate existing conditions at the project site, which conditions continue to cause tremendous harm to the Rogue River's valuable salmon and steelhead fisheries, including harm to Southern Oregon-Northern California coho salmon now listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Any additional delay in implementing the project only results in more dead fish and reduced spawning success.

It also needs to be stressed that any further delays put the very existence of GPID at great risk. Under a federal court Consent Decree entered in August 2001, GPID must cease operating the dam as a diversion facility by November 1, 2006 (the previous deadline was November 1, 2005, but a one-year extension was granted in August, 2005). GPID's water rights also now require GPID to quit diverting at the dam by November 2006. If pumping facilities capable of diverting GPID's water needs have not been installed

within these timeframes and if the timeframes cannot be further adjusted, then GPID's 7,900 patrons will be without irrigation water. It is extremely important that the pumps needed by GPID are installed by the start of the 2007 irrigation season, or as soon thereafter as possible.

The 1995 EIS for Fish Improvements at Savage Rapids Dam does a thorough analysis of the environmental impacts and benefits of the project. Events since the completion of the 1995 EIS only add additional weight and support to the need to implement the preferred alternative of pump installation and dam removal as soon as possible, and do not result in environmental impacts not addressed in the 1995 EIS. For example, coho salmon in the Rogue were listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act in 1997, highlighting the importance of eliminating the adverse impacts to coho salmon that were identified in the 1995 EIS. Additionally, in February 2001, the Bureau of Reclamation completed a thorough sediment evaluation study of the impacts of removing Savage Rapids Dam. This study determined there was considerably less sediment behind the dam than originally estimated in the 1995 EIS, and confirmed that sediment behind the dam could be safely managed by natural transport as proposed in the 1995 EIS.

Since, the 1997 Record of Decision was issued, indicating the Bureau of Reclamation would not pursue implementation of the preferred alternative (installation of pumps and dam removal) identified in the 1995 PR/FES, because of perceived lack of public support, the Grants Pass Irrigation District's patrons overwhelmingly voted in favor of pump installation and dam removal. Then in 2001, GPID agreed to implementation of the pumping/dam removal plan identified as the preferred alternative in the 1995 PR/FES, in a settlement agreement that was confirmed by a Consent Decree entered in federal court in August of 2001. Since the settlement agreement was reached, a wide range of interests have been cooperating and working together to implement the plan. In early 2002 the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board granted \$3 million toward implementation of this project. With a broad base of public support and bipartisan support of Oregon's congressional delegation, authorization to implement the preferred alternative was passed by Congress in 2003.

Alternative B, the 2005 Preferred Alternative, does not differ significantly from the 1995 PR/FES Preferred Alternative. The only revisions are a single pumping plant rather than two, a pipe bridge across the river rather than a transmission line, and leaving part of the dam structure rather than full removal. WaterWatch's specific comments on these revisions are as follows:

1. Single pumping plant.

Whether there is one single large pumping plant or two, the impacts during and after the construction period will be similar in type and magnitude, and the analysis in the 1995 PR/FES already adequately reviews these impacts. In fact, the impacts during the construction period may be less, because the pump facility construction is confined to one location, and only one set of construction related coffer dams would need to be constructed during the pump construction phase of the project, and only one section of the streambed would be impacted. In the long term, a single pumping facility on the left

side may also have less impact because better sweeping velocities can be more easily achieved at a left side pumping plant than at a right side pumping plant. The location of a single pumping plant on the left side is the same as the location for the left side pumping facility proposed in the 1995 PR/FES and therefore the impacts are virtually the same as those already analyzed.

2. Pipe bridge.

The construction of an overhead pipe across the river will not result in significant impacts not addressed in the 1995 EIS. The pipe is needed to deliver water to the right side of the river because of a change to a single pumping plant, but there is also no need for an across-the-river transmission line that would have been necessary under the two-pumping plant scenario. As the pipe will be located well above the high water level and will not impede river flows, fish, or boat passage, the impact of this revision is inconsequential.

3. Partial dam removal.

The revision to leave a portion of the dam on the left and right banks will still achieve all the benefits identified in the 1995 PR/FES for complete dam removal. Partial removal as contemplated in Alternative B would still provide unimpeded fish passage at all life stages of all species, unimpeded boat passage, the elimination of the reservoir pool, and restoration of natural hydrologic and geomorphologic functions at the dam site. It should be noted that the 1995 PR/FES indicated that cofferdams would have been utilized in the dam decommissioning phase for full dam removal, and therefore impacts from cofferdams during the dam decommissioning stage of the project for the revised alternative would certainly be no greater than if the entire dam structure was removed. Leaving some of the dam structure on the left bank may also help ensure needed sweeping velocities at the left side pumping plant will be achieved. Some local residents have also expressed a desire for retaining part of the dam structure for historic and interpretive purposes.

Even with the modifications to Alternative A, the 1995 PR/FES preferred alternative, the project and its impacts remain virtually the same as those analyzed in the 1995 PR/FES.

WaterWatch has the following specific comments to the Draft EA:

1. In respect to Section 1.5 of the Draft EA, entitled "Issues and Concerns", it should be noted that the issues and concerns in respect to Savage Rapids Dam are much greater than stated in this section. The problems associated with the dam are more than just the traveling screens at the pump intake. There are over 500 miles of salmon and steelhead spawning habitat upstream of Savage Rapids Dam, including 50 miles on the mainstem of the Rogue River. All spring chinook salmon spawn upstream of the dam, and the dam impedes passage of significant portions of the four other runs of salmon and steelhead in the Rogue, including coho salmon listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The dam's fish ladders and screens do not meet current standards. The north ladder only operates during the irrigation season, has poor attraction flows, and is generally inadequate. The south ladder has poor attraction flows and it is difficult to regulate flows within the ladder. During the spring and fall when dam operations are starting up and

shutting down upstream fish passage can be totally blocked. Adult fish are delayed, injured, and sometimes killed while trying to navigate the dam in their upstream spawning migration, thereby reducing overall spawning success. Downstream juvenile fish are impinged on and entrained through the screens over the dam's diversion and pump-turbine systems. There is increased predation of juveniles in the seasonal reservoir pool created by the dam and after juveniles pass through the dam's bypass systems. There is a loss of 3.5 miles of fall chinook salmon spawning habitat that could be reclaimed from the elimination of the seasonal reservoir pool when the dam is removed. Many of these issues and concerns are summarized in Section II-8 of the 1995 PR/FES.

2. In Table 2-2 of the Draft EA under Water Use, though Alternative A and B have the same impact on water use, it should be noted that since 1995 a Consent Decree was entered, which provides that the power right will be transferred to an instream water right rather than forfeited, thus providing additional protections for Rogue River fishery resources. It should also be noted that since 1995, the Consent Decree was entered and GPID's water rights were modified to require GPID to stop diverting water at Savage Rapids Dam by November 1996. New pumping facilities are now necessary for GPID's continued ability to operate. GPID has also had trouble with its current pump/turbine facility since 1995, with a recent mishap that shutdown irrigation to over 2,000 patrons.

3. In comparing the impacts of the two Alternatives on Anadromous Fish in Table 2-2 of the Draft EA, it should first be noted that the short term impacts of fish passage delay from cofferdam construction and dam removal would be the same, if not less, under the new Alternative B, as coffer dams were also necessary under alternative A and more of the dam structure was to be removed under Alternative A. The cofferdams are not a new impact. It should also be noted that the short-term fish passage impacts during construction are minimal and far less than the ongoing impacts of the current situation, and are far outweighed by the immediate and long term benefits that will be achieved by dam removal, whether under Alternative A or B.

4. In respect to Threatened & Endangered (T&E) Species, the listing of the SONC coho is mentioned, but it should be highlighted that this makes this project even more time critical, as the completion of the project can make a large contribution to the recovery of this listed species.

5. In respect to the discussion of Recreation in Table 2-2 of the Draft EA, it mentions public access to this river reach to remain problematic since it is limited to Savage Rapids Park. In actuality under both alternatives public access becomes more accessible because elimination of the dam as a boat passage barrier will allow public access to this stream reach from a wider range of river access points and should increase public use of this reach.

6. In comparing the impacts of the two Alternatives on Aesthetics in Table 2-2 of the Draft EA, it should be noted that, though there is a pipe bridge in Alternative B, there is also no transmission line, which would have a similar aesthetic impact as a pipe bridge.

Also some local residents had indicated a desire to have some of the dam structure remain for historic and interpretive purposes.

The 1995 PR/FES adequately addresses the impacts of Alternative B on the affected environment, and does so as well today as it did in 1995. Neither the proposed changes associated with the revised alternative, nor changes to the affected environment that have occurred since 1995, would result in impacts not previously addressed in the 1995 PR/FES. In addition the well-documented benefits to the Rogue River fishery identified in the 1995 PR/FES are all achieved under the revised 2005 Preferred Alternative. No supplemental EIS is needed, and in fact a supplemental EIS would cause delays to implementing this restoration project, thus causing continuing adverse impacts to the environment.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Hunter, Staff Attorney
WaterWatch of Oregon, Inc.



September 26, 2005

Bureau of Reclamation
Attention: Mr. Robert Hamilton
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100
Boise, ID 83706-1234

RE: Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Savage Rapids Dam Removal Project

Dear Bob:

On behalf of the patrons of the Grants Pass Irrigation District (GPID), I am pleased to provide the following comments regarding the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Savage Rapids Dam Removal Project.

It is our understanding that the Draft EA is being circulated by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to determine if the proposed changes associated with the revised alternative, or changes in the affected environment that have occurred since completion of the 1995 planning report/final environmental statement (PR/FES), would result in significant impacts not previously addressed. It is the District's belief that the actions reviewed in the Draft EA are comprehensive and thorough. The BOR is to be complimented for its work. We believe that actions in the revised alternative do not merit the additional time and expense required to review the prior analysis of the key elements of the project – construction of an electric irrigation system and removal of the dam. There are no significant impacts that have not been addressed previously.

We are pleased that all parties to the original federal consent decree ("United States, et al., v. Grants Pass Irrigation District, Civil No. 98-3034-HO" August 27, 2001) requested, and were recently granted, an extension which allows GPID to continue to operate the dam for irrigation through November 2006. All parties to the original litigation are working together to implement the pumping/dam removal plan, but additional delays could dramatically impact our ability to deliver water to our patrons. The district is in desperate need to have this project completed as quickly and as economically as possible. A delay now could cause the BOR to miss the in-water construction work window next spring. This would radically impact the project schedule and lengthen the time in which a new electric pumping system could be operational. Project delays would also increase the overall project cost, which will increase the difficulty of obtaining funding for the federal share of the project.

Additional studies will delay construction of the project, and increase the cost. We encourage the BOR to move forward with the updated information currently available to complete the project as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Sincerely,

Julie A. Webster,
Assistant Manager

From: Doug Heiken <onrcdoug@efn.org>
To: <savage_rapids@pn.usbr.gov>
Date: 9/26/05 3:02PM
Subject: Savage Rapids Dam Removal draft EA

Dear Mr. Robert Hamilton/US Bureau of Reclamation:

Please accept the following comments from Oregon Natural Resources Council concerning the Draft EA proposing to remove Savage Rapids Dam on the Rogue River. ONRC has approximately 5,500 members who support our mission to protect and restore Oregon's wildlands, wildlife and water as an enduring legacy. We have long advocated for the removal of Savage Rapids Dam to restore salmon to their native habitat and improve the natural fluvial processes of the Rogue River.

ONRC supports implementation of the proposed action as soon as possible.

ONRC would like to see more of the dam structure removed in order to completely restore the historic configuration of the river bed and channel, however we recognize that the current funding climate may make full restoration cost prohibitive in the short term. The most important thing is to get the job done (implement the 2001 consent decree) and restore safe passage for fish, boats, wood, and sediment.

Sincerely,

/s/

Doug

--

Doug Heiken
Oregon Natural Resources Council
PO Box 11648, Eugene OR 97440
541-344-0675, onrcdoug'at'efn'dot'org
<http://www.onrc.org>

From: Fred Fleetwood <waterrat1@earthlink.net>
To: "Hamilton, Robert, Contact Person for Savage Rapids Dam EA Comments" <savage_rapids@pn.usbr.gov>
Date: 9/17/05 1:58PM
Subject: "Aesthetics" relating to the new proposal for Savage Rapids Dam...

Robert Hamilton:

In the Monday, September 5, 2005 edition of the Medford Mail Tribune newspaper there appeared an article headlined "New plan calls for pipe, pump to replace dam." (The dam, to which the article pertained of course, is Savage Rapids Dam.)

You can read the article by clicking onto the following link:

<http://www.mailtribune.com/archive/2005/0905/local/stories/11local.htm>

In that article there is this statement:

"But Bob Hunter, attorney for environmental group WaterWatch, said the change helps keep the district on schedule to have the pumps in place and get the dam removed by 2008. And it does so without impeding water flow, boat traffic and the Rogue's migrating salmon — all key factors that trump aesthetics, Hunter said."

I submit, as a comment on the EA, my most emphatic concurrence with that above statement attributed in the article to attorney Bob Hunter of WaterWatch..

Fred Fleetwood
4261 Hwy. 227
Trail, OR 97541

Septmber 24, 2005

Bureau of Reclamation
Att: Robert Hamilton
1150 No. Curtis Dr. #100
Boise, Id. 83706

Re: Savage Rapids Dam

We have enclosed an article which we support. The dam has been assaulted for years by the environmentalists. We no longer log our forests, mine for gravel, seek oil and now the adgenda is to remove dams across our land.

Our dam has been economical despite what is said. The turbines have done a great job and no significant elect. was used or not at all. Will we be looking into the future to have Hoover Dam and other great dams removed?

Please use the money in Iraq or the hurricane victims.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marianne Peterson".

Marianne Peterson
910 SE M St.
Grants Pass, Or. 97525
541- 479-2981

Oregon News

by Dennis M. Becklin
Oregon News Online

\$30-Million & Counting The Stupidity Removing Oregon's Savage Rapids Dam

Grants Pass, Oregon - The US Bureau of Reclamation now estimates at removal of Savage Rapids Dam, cated on the Rogue River in Southern Oregon, will cost an astonishing \$30-billion. With BoR's foreknowledge that is dam does not kill the very salmon id steelhead its removal is supposedly iving to protect, this dam removal oject is a testimonial to the corruption f environmentalism.

This dam removal project is also a stimonial to the infinite stupidity of S Government involvement in this oject and to the environmental mplicity of the media in spreading ise information about the dam.

Removing Savage Rapids Dam was ie brainchild of Bob Hunter, founder ad former executive director of /aterWatch of Oregon. Hunter is now 1st a staff attorney for this nvironmental law firm that he founded, Hunter personally led the efforts of idical enviros who wanted to remove aveage Rapids Dam.

I have complete contempt for the false harges Hunter, WaterWatch and other nvironmental" organizations brought gainst Savage Rapids Dam. The claim at the dam is "The Biggest Fish Killer n the Rogue River" is baloney. Hunter nd WaterWatch even falsely claimed at the dam had no fish ladders in a rge grant application they made to the S Fish and Wildlife Service. The claim at Savage Rapids Dam is in poor ondition due to its age is another alsehood spread by the dam's pponents.

WaterWatch, like so many other nvironmental" organizations, is little ore than a law firm that has attorneys is its primary staffers. It is repugnant to e that many purportedly nvironmental stewardship organizations are manned by attorneys ho are compensated for their efforts to ring lawsuits against the rest of America. Enjoy reading the bios of the ttorneys who populate WaterWatch of Oregon. <http://www.waterwatch.org>

The removal of Savage Rapids Dam is n approaching ecosystem disaster for he Rogue River and the entire Grants Pass region, which receives a substantial percentage of its water from he Grants Pass Irrigation District (GPID). This region depends on hundreds of water wells that are served y a regional aquifer fed by seepage from GPID's canals and irrigated lands. When this water supply dries up, residents of the Grants Pass region should thank those who made the greatest contributions to the calamitous cessation of water flowing in GPID canals. Those at the top of the thank you list should include:

1. Thank Bob Hunter - WaterWatch of Oregon - Thank this environmental attorney for living in Medford while attacking the irrigation district in Grants Pass, which since 1921 has provided 45% of the water for thousands of domestic water wells which are dependent on irrigation recharge of the aquifer in this region surrounded by 300-miles of GPID canals and laterals.

2. Thank former Governor John Kitzhaber - Thank him for stabbing in the back the community leaders he appointed to his 1996 Task Force on Savage Rapids Dam. Following his repudiation of the recommendations of the Task Force he appointed, the Kitzhaber administration encouraged

the Clinton era US Government to attack GPID using the Endangered Species Act as the blackjack. Thank Kitzhaber, too, for the participation of his administration in the fraudulent listing of northwestern coho salmon under the US Endangered Species Act and for his administration's use of the phony ESA coho listing to attack GPID.

3. Thank Martha Pagel - Former Director of the Oregon Water Resources Department - Thank her for faithfully carrying out the directives of the Kitzhaber administration in its persistent attacks on the Grants Pass Irrigation District.

4. Thank Michael Jewett, former member of the Oregon Water Resources Commission and more recently former City Attorney for the City of Medford, Oregon. Thank him for living in Medford while attacking the irrigation dam that provided water to residents of Josephine County, 30-miles from his home town and 30-miles from any potential impact on the water serving his home or his hometown.

5. Thank Don Greenwood, Judy Gove and Bert Dosier - members of the 2000 Board of Directors of the Grants Pass Irrigation District. Thank them for voting to accept total and unconditional surrender to WaterWatch...total and unconditional capitulation to the US Government...and total and unconditional surrender to the State of Oregon in return for no guaranteed protection for GPID or the Grants Pass community...nothing...nada...zilch. The deal that they approved included no guarantee of Federal funding for dam removal or pump installation, no guarantee of future delivery of irrigation water to arid regions of Josephine County served by GPID, no guarantee of financial support for the cost of running electrically operated irrigation pumps, and no guarantee of protection for the irreplaceable Rogue River, which could be inundated by tens of thousands of tons of sediment that is now trapped above the dam.

6. Thank the Grants Pass Daily Courier and the Medford Mail Tribune newspapers - Thank these local newsrags for consistently failing to support the well documented fact that Savage Rapids Dam is not a "fish killer". Thank them for contributing to the belief by the majority of citizens in the Rogue Valley that the enviros' libelously false mantra stating that Savage Rapids Dam is the "Biggest Fish Killer On The Rogue River" is true. Thank these newsrags also for the coming elimination of the recreational lake that is impounded by the dam. Thank them also when the Rogue River ecosystem is seriously harmed by the disbursement of tens-of-thousands of cubic yards of sediment that is now trapped above the dam.

7. Thank the US Bureau of Reclamation - Thank this US Government Agency for falsified fish kill reporting in its 1994 Planning Report and Final Environmental Statement for Savage Rapids Dam and for then using its own falsified data to justify removal of the dam. Thank BoR for deciding in 1994 that it wasn't necessary to conduct an actual fish kill study at the dam because it had accepted the opinion of one eye-witness who concluded that 22% of all salmon and steelhead passing it were goners by simply observing water flowin

the dam.

Thank BoR for calculating the value of salmon and steelhead purportedly killed by the dam at over \$150 each, even though tens of thousands of excess salmon are sold each year for cat food and fertilizer at an average value of \$3-5 each by the US Corps of Engineers at the fish hatchery which is 50-miles upstream from the dam.

Thank BoR for spending \$4-Million in a full-employment program for its employees during 10+ years of incessant studying and planning of dam removal issues at Savage Rapids Dam. Thank BoR for refusing to accept the findings and final recommendations by the 1996 Savage Rapids Dam Task Force, of which I was the Chairman, that cautioned against placing pumps on the north side of the river for fear they would be inundated by tens-of-thousands of tons of sediment when the dam is removed. And, thank BoR for recently deciding to put all of the pumps on the south side of the river in an obvious effort to keep them from being buried in sediments that will cascade down river toward the intakes of the water supply system for the City of Grants Pass.

Finally, thank BoR for now its most recent plan, which will leave only an ugly portion of Savage Rapids Dam in place and for planning to build a monstrosity of a pipeline over the top of the remaining section of the dam. The pipeline will cross over the picturesque Rogue River and deliver irrigation water into the Tokay Irrigation Canal, which is on the north side of the river.

8. Thank all of the above if the Grants Pass Irrigation District goes broke, a victim of a financial death spiral. GPID is in for a very rough financial ride in the future even assuming that there is an infusion of \$30+ Million for dam removal and pump installation...presuming the US Congress is stupid enough to appropriate that much money to remove a dam that kills virtually no salmon or steelhead.

At an estimated annual cost of \$350,000 to \$500,000 to provide power for electrically operated water pumps, which will replace hydro-turbine pumps that have been operating since 1921 without consuming any energy \$\$\$, GPID patrons should expect an increase of \$35-50 dollars per acre for irrigation water. Water that is delivered to

approximately 10,000 acres of land in Josephine County...mostly small irrigated garden parcels that probably don't justify more expensive irrigation water.

If enough of GPID's patrons leave the irrigation district, and if GPID goes belly-up, the rest of the Grants Pass community will suffer reductions of water in residential wells and they will be subjected to the browning of thousands of acres in their water-dependent ecosystem.

9. Thank the entire environmental movement for foisting fraudulently based reasons for removal of Savage Rapids Dam upon Southern Oregon. Thank them for demanding the replacement of a non-polluting, hydro-turbine pumping system at the dam with electrically operated pumps that will consume power generated by coal burning, electricity generating plants in Wyoming, which is the primary source for electricity consumed in Josephine County. Thank them for the perverse benefit this will bring to the environment...burning coal instead of using gravity at a non-polluting hydro-turbine irrigation dam.

10. Especially thank the apathy of residents of Josephine County and the City of Grants Pass. The almost total lack of public support for saving Savage Rapids Dam was the final nail in the coffin of this low-cost method of delivering water to an arid community. The people of the community surrounded by this dam didn't care enough to make even a minimal effort to protect their own source of water. To them...may they remember that they are the cause of their own future water shortages.

In my finale to this monologue...I offer the following snippets of information about my unsuccessful efforts to save Savage Rapids Dam and to save Josephine County from the potential loss of its critically needed irrigation water:

During 1996, I was the Chairman of former Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber's Task Force on Savage Rapids Dam. I learned to have complete disdain for Kitzhaber as a result of his prolonged effort to force the removal of the dam.

The SRD Task Force made a recommendation to Governor Kitzhaber

Continued on page 7

that Savage Rapids Dam be kept, and that its fish ladders and pumping system be modified to improve fish passage for salmon and steelhead. Kitzhaber trashed the consensus recommendation of the Task Force and engaged his administration in joint Oregon State/Federal participation in lawsuits against the Grants Pass Irrigation District (GPID) to force removal of the dam.

During 1998-99, lawsuits were brought against the Grants Pass Irrigation District under the Endangered Species Act. These lawsuits claimed that Savage Rapids Dam was killing coho salmon, salmon that had been declared a "threatened species" under the ESA.

In fact, the ESA's "threatened" designation for Northwest coho salmon has since been found to be a fraud by the US Federal Court for Oregon. This species is not threatened, and was never threatened with extinction in northwest rivers. The ESA "threatened" designation for this species was specifically designed and used to attack the existence of Savage Rapids Dam. In 1998, GPID and Savage Rapids Dam were the only targets of ESA litigation in western America by the Clinton Administration, with the encouragement of the Kitzhaber Administration.

During the lengthy ESA lawsuit, a federal judge in Oregon was assigned to mediate negotiations between GPID, environmentalists, commercial fishermen, the State of Oregon and the

Federal Government. I personally headed the GPID negotiation effort.

During months of negotiations that took place in US Federal Courthouses in Portland and Eugene, Oregon, opponents of the dam consistently refused to accept any form of negotiated settlement that could have removed the dam at a cost substantially less than \$30-Million. I proposed a number of alternatives that would have allowed dam removal while providing adequate financial guarantees for the future of GPID and the protection of the Rogue River watershed below the dam. Hunter, WaterWatch and other dam opponents persistently refused to accept any negotiated solution that didn't call for the complete and unilateral surrender of GPID to the demands of its enemies.

During the US Federal Court's mediated negotiations, the single most repugnant refusal by Hunter and WaterWatch was their determined opposition to any Federally funded provision in any dam removal plan that would have provided funding for protection of the Rogue River ecosystem from inundation by sediments now captive above the dam and their refusal to support Federal funding for enhanced recreational opportunities in the Rogue River corridor below the dam following the elimination of the recreational lake impounded by the dam since 1921. Hunter and WaterWatch adamantly refused to support Federal funding for a comprehensive dam removal plan projected to cost \$17-Million in 1999. Now Hunter and WaterWatch are trying

to convince the US Congress to provide \$30-Million for a dam removal plan that still provides no protection for the Rogue River ecosystem and no guarantee for the future financial integrity of GPID.

So, as we fast forward to 2005. GPID is nearing the 2005-06 deadline for removal of Savage Rapids Dam. GPID has no alternative to removal because its 2000 Board of Directors accepted full and complete acquiescence to the demands of WaterWatch, an assemblage of environmental organizations, the Kitzhaber Administration's Department of Justice and the Clinton Administrations' Justice Department.

The ultimate irony about Savage Rapids Dam is that it doesn't kill a significant number of either salmon or steelhead. This is no idle claim. During my tenure as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of GPID in 1998-99, the irrigation district employed highly qualified fisheries biologists to study fish kill at the dam. The data proved, conclusively, that this dam had been wrongfully accused of being the "Biggest Fish Killer on the Rogue River", a claim made repeated by environmentalists and local newspapers in Southern Oregon.

So...Southern Oregon now approaches the moment of truth.

And, the Grants Pass Daily Courier pronounces "Savage Rapids total: \$30 Million" on the front page of its May 19, 2005, edition. \$30-Million of taxpayers' money proposed for payment of the partial removal of a dam that doesn't kill fish...removal which is based on the US

Bureau of Reclamation's falsified claims in 1994 that 22% of all salmon and steelhead are killed passing the dam...a false conclusion that has been repeatedly quoted by WaterWatch, by the Grants Pass Daily Courier, by the Medford Mail Tribune, and by other media outlets.

The mythical fish killing dam story was repeated so frequently in the media and from the mouths of enviros, that to this day, most people in Southern Oregon don't even question its accuracy...they just gullibly accept it along with similar environmental BS that has been spoon fed to them through a complicit media.

Frankly, I no longer give a damn about the adverse impacts that removing Savage Rapids Dam may have on other residents of Grants Pass or Josephine County. I've moved on. If GPID does go belly-up, I'll just purchase my irrigation water direct from the US Corps of Engineers at \$8.00 per acre-foot (1-foot of water covering an acre of land) right out of the Rogue River that flows behind my property. The rest of Grants Pass and Josephine County can revert to the arid ecosystem of the pre-GPID, pre-1920's period, an ecosystem that was called the "Red Desert" by Native Americans in this area.

Those who refuse to rise in their own defense, or who refuse to rise in the defense of their own communities, deserve the outcome... regardless of the severity of the impact or the magnitude of the personal cost that befalls them due to their own apathy or stupidity.

From: <Kelly.F.CARSTEN@odot.state.or.us>
To: <savage_rapids@pn.usbr.gov>
Date: 8/26/05 4:08AM
Subject: Savage Rapids Dam

I currently read in the Grants Pass Daily Courier (082505) an article regarding the environmental analysis report regarding the Savage Rapids Dam. It appears the reports still reflect the dam has a negative effect on salmon and steelhead spawning up stream. What I don't understand is since the 1995 report, we have had record runs of these fish above the dam. In the off years of lower runs, there was also a drop in the number of fish entering the Rogue River from the Pacific Ocean which was contributed to more commercial fishing and a large number of seals eating the fish.

The impact of removing the dam upstream will have a serious financial impact on local motels, hotels, and camp grounds for the majority of the people I have talked to come to either fish or water ski above the dam. Several of these people have indicated to me they will camp else where if the water level drops because of potential damage to their boats and over inadequate access to the river banks.

I live on the river about 1 mile upstream from the dam and have a considerable change in the water level when the gates are removed in October. I have been told to look at the water level in the winter and this would be some what the same level in the summer time with the dam removed. My argument to this is half of the dam (lower gates) is still up which causes the water to slightly back up in the area. If all the gates are removed it is going to be a worse situation and a lack of access to the water from my property. Which agency will be responsible for restoring my banks and extending my boat ramp and beach area to reach the waters edge and how are they going to pay for this restoration?

In closing I would just like to express I am opposed to the removal of the Savage Rapids Dam. At this point the Grants Pass Irrigation District does not have the funding for the approximately \$30 million dollars to remove the dam. The majority of the people living in the area do not want the dam removed and have expressed this publicly to deaf ears. It appears a better solution would be to repair the fish ladders if needed (\$13 million). I would be willing to bet since 1995 technology has improved with fish ladders and irrigation pumps to better protect the fish. Thank you.