Houser, Paul R

From: Houser, Paul R
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2011 3:15 PM
To: Finkler, Kira L
Subject: FW: Press Release Review
Attachments: klamath press release 9 14 11 MPandWOEdits ver2.docx

Hi Kira –

I just wanted to update you on a press release review I did for Nell. She asked me to look at the attached press release, and it raised some red flags with me. I am concerned that this press release generally presents a biased view of the Klamath dam removal benefits. It tends to present only the positive, without the uncertainties or negatives. For example:

- Climate changes are projected to play an important role in fish recovery, but climate is never mentioned in the draft press release.
- The section on Chinook Salmon recovery projects an 83 percent recovery, but says nothing about the nine contingencies summarized in the June 13, 2011 report that could completely negate this projected recovery: Upper Klamath Lake (UKL) and Keno Reservoir (KR) water quality issues, reduction in disease, enabling free migration to the upper basin, hatchery salmon do not overwhelm spawning grounds, predation is sufficiently low, climate change, small reductions in fall flows, and no long-term dam removal impacts.
- Press release states that "Coho salmon reclaim 68 miles of habitat", but says nothing about the April 25, 2011 statement "the difference between the Proposed Action and Current Conditions is expected to be small, especially in the short term (0-10 years after dam removal). Larger (moderate) responses are possible under the Proposed Action if the KBRA is fully and effectively implemented and mortality caused by the pathogen C. shasta is reduced.".

I brought my concerns to Nell and Pete Lucero. Pete agreed with my concern and suggested contacting the solicitors office, so Nell and I talked to Carter (nothing came of that). In the end, Dan decided this was not a fight Reclamation should engage, and signed off on the press release with a few minor suggestions.

Best Regards, Paul

Dr. Paul R. Houser, Science Advisor | Bureau of Reclamation
P:202-513-0594 | F:410-970-6643 | phouser@usbr.gov

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law, including the Freedom of Information Act. All rights are reserved and any dissemination, publication or copying of this e-mail is strictly prohibited. Opinions, conclusions, and other information in this message are those of the author and may not reflect the views of the agency. Nothing contained herein shall constitute a contract or electronic signature under the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, any version of the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act, or any other statute governing electronic transactions. The sender does not guarantee that the integrity of this communication has been maintained nor that this communication is free of viruses, interceptions or interference. If this message has been received by you in error, you are instructed to delete this message from your machine and all storage media whether electronic or hard copy and immediately notify the sender.