Houser, Paul R

From: Karas, Christine D
Sent: Monday, September 19, 2011 2:14 PM
To: Schultz, Keith C; Houser, Paul R
Subject: Klamath Dam Removal

Hello Keith and Paul,

I know you are both only peripherally involved in the dam removal process and therefore have not studied and may not even be aware of the rigor of the science used in the process. For example, there are many documents being produced in support of the Secretarial Determination, including and Environmental Impact Assessment/Report under NEPA/CEQA, reviewed by several government legal staffs and third party law firm under contract, and by the professional scientists and engineers of the BOR, FWS, NMFS, USGS, Indian Tribes and others. It will be releases to the public on September 22.

A Secretarial Determination Overview Report, which is a lay person's synthesis of the new and highly relied upon science is scheduled to be released for public comment October 11. Each of the individual studies have undergone independent peer review via a third party contractor, and in order to use studies already in the public domain, many of existing studies were submitted to expert review. The Overview report itself meets the Office of Management and Budget's definition of a Highly Influential Scientific Assessment, and is therefore required to be submitted to peer review in accordance with OMB's guidelines.

For areas where we felt there was insufficient empirical data, and we needed to rely on best professional judgment, we contracted for the expert panels. There people has a very limited amount of time to become familiar with and analyze a extremely large body of scientific information. They focused on where they felt, based on what they did know, that there may be gaps. Their expressed concern for the implementation of the restoration program, not its effectiveness, illustrates this point. When reading expert reports recall that they are opinions.

All of these documents will be posted to Klamath Restoration.gov on or before September 22.

The model in question was subject to Monte Carlo runs to identify the uncertainty and all of that was incorporated in the output. All of the documents we have produced explicitly recognize that this restoration program is not intended to restore historic conditions or solve all natural resource problems in the basin. Conclusions in the press release are supported by the data.

As degreed government employees who may be called as expert witnesses, please carefully consider the depth of familiarity you have with the body of science surrounding Klamath dam removal before creating discoverable records of your personal opinions. All government e-mail is captured in a discoverable data base and the confidentiality notice you included is not valid on government correspondence.

Christine D. Karas
6600 Washburn Way
Klamath Falls, OR 97603
(O) 541.880.2555
(C) 541.281.2582
(F) 541.884.9053