

Wr401program

From: Hans Cole <Hans.Cole@patagonia.com>
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2016 10:42 AM
To: Wr401program
Subject: Clean Water in the Klamath Depends on Dam Removal

Dear Members and Staff of the California Water Board,

We are writing to comment on the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to support Clean Water Act compliance for the Klamath Hydroelectric Project. The outdated dams on the Klamath are responsible for major declines in the salmon fishery, blocking native salmon from accessing 420 miles of habitat, and contributing to an overall decline in Coho and fall Chinook salmon populations to 10% of historic numbers. Critical to full understanding of this story are the dangerous toxic algae blooms and other water quality impacts caused and exacerbated by the dams, which pose a major threat to both fish and to the human communities who live near and depend on the river for food, fishing (sport, commercial and traditional), and recreation.

The dam owner, PacifiCorp, has not demonstrated that it can achieve Clean Water Act compliance through their proposed mitigation measures. The only solution that would allow compliance is dam removal. These dams have been out of compliance with the Clean Water Act for many years, and it is unlawful to continue delaying mitigation of water quality impairments caused by PacifiCorp's facilities.

We urge you to complete the EIR process, addressing all water quality standards developed for the Klamath River, and issue a water quality certification requiring dam removal in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

Yvon Chouinard
Founder, Patagonia, Inc.

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