

Northern California Council & Fly Fishers International News

Status of the Klamath River Dam Removal Negotiations



The Northern Calif Council FFI continues to participate in the work to decommission the 4 Lower Klamath River dams. We started this effort in 2003, and great progress has been made. However, we are facing stiff pressure from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). They have not yet approved transfer of the license to operate from PacifiCorp to the Klamath River Renewal Corp. We have been waiting since last fall.

As you may know, we are on a time schedule to start removal in January, 2022. Because of slow action from FERC we may not be able to meet that schedule. If we have to move it forward into 2023, we may not have enough money. We have \$450 million in the bank today, but if we don't stay on schedule we likely will have to find some additional funds to ensure the project can be completed as planned. Stay tuned as we press forward. A free flowing Klamath into Oregon is our goal, with salmon & steelhead returning to their historic spawning grounds in the Sprague, Wood & Williamson rivers.

Club Outreach and Efforts to Improve Club-Council Communications

Over the past year+ the NCCFFI has been working to Re-connect with the fly fishing clubs in Northern California & Nevada. We've held 2 **President's lunches** at the Fly Fishing Show in Pleasanton to discuss and present our reasons why building a stronger and more connected community of fly fishers is important. We also started monthly calls with all club Presidents to improve regular communications & find out what your club is doing. I will be sending out these monthly reports so everyone knows what we're doing, and get FFI news.

Local clubs are focused primarily on local waters and the local community. The Council, on the other hand, can represent Club interests on state-wide issues that influence and impact both local waters, or the fisheries you travel to enjoy, like the Klamath River or S.F. Bay-Delta. There are decisions being made daily that impact the health of all of our watersheds, and these decisions are both at a state level and federal. The Council takes the responsibility to be representative of the Fly Fishing Community in order to make sure these state and federal decisions are in the best interest of our member clubs and the watersheds of our states. We participate in meetings and actions by the Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish & Wildlife and others where the voice of fly fishers needs to be part of the dialogue.

We strongly feel that it is in the best interest of all of us to work together - your club & this Council. By doing so we can make a difference. We can better represent the needs of our

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fisheries, help keep adequate water quality in our lakes and rivers, and be a voice of reason in the decisions our elected officials make at the state and federal level. We are your eyes and ears on issues going on in Sacramento & Washington.

Additionally, the Council & Fly Fishers International bring resources to member clubs like discounted club liability insurance, certification of fly casting instructors, fly tying instruction and certification, and the ability to connect local clubs & members to the larger community in our states. Simply stated - **We are stronger together, and have greater impact if we connect and act as a community of fly fishers. Our goal is to build and tighten this community, and protect our fly fishing heritage for our kids and our grandchildren.**

Fly Fishers International (FFI) - Building a New Reality for all of Us

There is a new and exciting reality in FFI today. They have a new President/CEO - Patrick Berry, who is an avid Fly Fishers, and comes from a history of business leadership and success in managing outdoor businesses. At the Board level FFI has recognized they need to make significant changes, and initiate new activities and programs to better engage the fly fishing community. The good news - FFI is on the move!

Greater benefits to Councils & Clubs - NCCFFI and our member clubs:

- Expanded education & conservation grants
- College scholarship program for fishery related degrees
- Expanded insurance programs
- A discounted fly fishing equipment program with fly fishing manufacturers
- Developing a new and more user friendly website
- A new annual FFI Expo designed to be more local and connected to regional Councils
- A new series of Webinars - focused on fly fishing locations, Conservation and instruction for fly tying and casting
- An enhanced Learning Center on the website for all fly fishers to access
- A more inclusive connection with Councils on decision making through Board-Council combined meetings on Zoom
- Generating a new look and feel through new communication, website & social media
- Engaging with more partners to enhance fly fishing and have a national presence in important decision making in Washington D.C.

The new FFI is moving to be a better partner for all of us, and to enhance our fly fishing experience and help both the clubs and council be more successful. Some of the new benefits are available today, and others are coming. Stay tuned!

For an experience of the **New FFI**, tune into the new Webinars each week. Here's a link to the schedule: <https://flyfishersinternational.org/FFI-Online>

For past webinars go to this link:

<https://flyfishersinternational.org/Events/FFI-Online/Previous-Webcasts>

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We look forward to a tighter relationship with all of you. Together we can have more fun, accomplish more for our watersheds & fisheries, and have more opportunity to fish. Contact me any time for information or if you have questions or concerns.

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