

June 16, 2013

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Chairman, Senate Energy & Natural
Resources Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member, Senate Energy & Natural
Resources committee
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Thank you,
Chairman Wyden, Ranking Member Murkowski and Members of the Committee:

Senator Wyden I'm grateful for your leadership in organizing this important roundtable. My name is Becky Hyde speaking today on behalf of the Upper Klamath Water Users Association. We seek power, water and regulatory security through settlement for family farms and ranches that irrigate in the tributaries above Klamath Lake. I ranch on the Sycan with my husband and four children, and we also run cattle on the Upper Williamson, which has stayed in our family for over 100 years.

Unfortunately, the Klamath basin is known for its water crisis, not for the healthy food that hardworking families grow, our amazing wildlife refuges, or the tribes whose ancestors have lived in our basin for thousands of years. This year that water crisis is affecting around 96,000 irrigated acres of family farm and ranch land in my home community.

Just last Wednesday the water master delivered the news to my nine-year-old son at home while his dad was out irrigating, that our water, which enjoys some of the best priority dates in the basin, 1864, would be shut off. The adjudication creates winners and losers—and our family and others like us are on the losing end. That is why the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement--not adjudication--provides certainty for our operations.

The Klamath basins' \$550 million dollar a year Ag economy will be crippled this summer, and please imagine the spiral affect. The local timber industry, our other large economic driver, is slow to recover from hard times. Tourism, while helpful only generates \$20 million. We have already shipped a load of cows, and a load of yearlings off our ranch. The remaining grass will dry out quickly, forcing us to move more of our herd. Seventy thousand animals could be without feed because of the enforcement of the adjudication. To emergency feed hay just for four months could cost \$27 million dollars. Finding alternative forage will be difficult. We will

experience millions of dollars in lost hay crops and available livestock forage. We can't afford this.

I'm disappointed because we saw this crisis coming. We worked for years on a compromise and collaborative agreement, to avoid this suffering. If the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement were in place today, with it would come a reasoned plan for coping with the crisis of drought, and also a bedrock vision for long-term stability.

I care because a clear plan helps our children build communities based on following the "Golden Rule" rather than responding with violence and blame for decades on end. I want my nine year-old son to remember this as the summer when we, as a community, worked through tough times together, and not as the event that ended our ability to ranch near the Sycan.

Our Klamath Basin is a national treasure desperately waiting for your attention. Please join me in choosing to end the water wars and rotating crisis that has come to define this special place.

Sources of Information

Klamath County Agriculture 2012 Report, William W. Riggs, Director OSU Klamath Basin Research and Extension Center—this short report was prepared at the request of Klamath County Commissioner Tom Mallams in regards to the Farm Gate Value of Agriculture in Klamath County Oregon. Data sources include Oregon Agricultural Information Network, (OAIN), Modified IMPLAN for Klamath County 2007, and Methodology utilized in Riggs Testimony to Governor Kulongoski March 9, 2010.

Upper Klamath Water Users, Association, Danette Watson, consultant to the Upper Klamath Water Users, Association--has compiled GIS data from the Oregon Water Resources Department to estimate the number of surface water irrigators. UKWUA created a basic tally of minimum livestock numbers using local landowner knowledge. Emergency feed numbers were calculated by estimating the feed needed for 70,000 animals for four months at \$225. per ton, feeding each animal ½ a ton per month.

Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement, (KBRA), available at edsheets.com Sections in the KBRA that provide alternatives to adjudication include; Section 16, Off-Project Water Program. 16.2.1 calls for an Off Project Water Settlement. Section 16.2.2 B Water Use Retirement Program. Section 17.3.2 outlines the Off-Project Power Users, making off-project eligible to receive the benefits of the (KBRA) Power for Water Management Program. Section 19.5 Off Project Reliance Program, outlines a program intended to mitigate unforeseen circumstances in the off project like drought. Activities may include funding water leasing to increase water availability for irrigation in the Upper Klamath Basin, or mitigating the economic impacts of lost

agricultural production. Section 22.2.2 General Conservation Plan for Use in Application for Section 10 (a)(1) (B) Permit. Intended to provide the best regulatory protections for landowners to cope with the Endangered Species Act available under current law.

Golden Rule, Matthew 7.12, *Whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them.*