Egregious violations in the Scott Valley

Felice Pace <unofelice@gmail.com> Sat, Aug 27, 2022 at 1:40 PM
To: Tom Cannon <[redacted]>

Tom,

I apologize for not remembering your work which, although I have never seen you in action, I should be more aware of. I have, of course, read the documents you've worked on but did not note your role.

I have great respect for CSPA and its history as an advocate for fish and streams. I am 75 years old and I am a bit forgetful, especially of things in the near past. But that is no excuse.

In consequence, I would be most grateful to receive your help but I confess to not knowing what that might be. How would you like to help, or, said another way, what do you think needs to be done?

The role I choose or find myself in on things Klamath these days is as a witness to both the history and the current realities. Having worked for and with the YT, KT, QVIR, HVT and RR over the course of many years, and directly for Klamath Forest Alliance and before that Marble Mountain Audubon, I am convinced that we can not rely on the tribal governments to get the flows our rivers need (they have many other agendas) and, therefore, I aim to continue to let as many of their members, and as many folks living within the Klamath River Basin know, when I believe they are not getting the job done.

That includes pointing out that these "restoration" projects on which they have come to depend in several ways are not what, at this point, is required. We ought to put all the focus post dam removal on securing the flows needed in the Klamath River and that includes:

- Completing a year-around post dam removal flow needs assessment for the Klamath River.
- Putting all federal "restoration" funding to work reducing irrigation demand by purchasing and retiring water rights from willing sellers in the Upper Basin (below UKL) and in the S&S in order to meet Klamath, Shasta and Scott River flow needs.
- Enforcing Public Trust flow rights in the S&S and also (in the case of the Scott) adjudicated flow rights, including via groundwater management plans currently being developed by SisCo.
- Instituting and institutionalizing the whole basin water management (for the K-T

Basin) that has been recognized as needed for decades but not pursued for a variety of reasons.

Maybe what you and I should work on is a new report to federal and state managers and the relevant committees of Congress and state legislatures (from CSFPA and the Sierra Club chapters?) that describes why more "habitat restoration" is not what is needed and won't "restore" the River or Klamath Salmon and which makes the case for what needs to be done, post dam removal mitigation, if we really want to restore the Klamath River and Klamath Salmon.

Part of why I do what I do is because the environmental community (especially since I got the YT connected to Earthjustice Seattle some years back) leaves the Klamath mostly to the tribes. I do, however, have the Sierra Club organized to the extent that, when there is Klamath related legislation in Congress, the Club gets involved.

So mostly I am witness and goad, except on the Scott where I work more actively and directly as a landowner and for the North Group Redwood and Mother Lode chapters of the Sierra Club. There I am looking for lawyers to challenge the anticipated approval by SisCo of a major new water use in Scott Valley: a four fold expansion of a Chritian youth camp into a three season all age recreational development and I "encourage" water board and other officials to enforce CWA/Basin Plan Scott TMDL Implementation Plan. I wish i had access to a good, free CWA.Porter-Cologne lawyer to challenge failure to implement key Basin Plan requirements in the S&S. Also, to redo the KT/Daniel Cooper litigation against Dwinell and this time take it out!

So Tom. This is what I am doing and thinking needs to be done. What do you want to "help" with? Also, where do you live and when can we meet?

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