

April 2022 NCCFFI Report to Clubs & Members, Mark Rockwell

Well, it's that time of year when we all start thinking about spring fishing, be it trout, stripers, bass or other prey. To say the least, this has been the worst start to any year in history relative to precipitation in California. As I write this we're hearing that a good storm is coming in tomorrow, but I've heard that several times before without success. Let's hope we do get at least something to help.

Last year you may remember the summer cautions about not fishing during the mid day if the water temperatures are above 67 degrees, and to consider not fishing at all if the days are hot and the water conditions are not good for fish. All of this is likely to hold true again in 2022. I just hate to think we're going through this again, but sometimes the reality does not meet our expectations. So, let's be cautious if conditions again are bad for cold water fish like trout.

Klamath Dam Removal Moves into the Home Stretch

I spoke a lot last year about the progress on dam removal in the Klamath, with a start date of January, 2023. Well, we receive the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in late February. In comparing the impacts of dam removal to current conditions, the DEIS concludes that dam removal provides significant economic, environmental, and cultural benefit to northern California and southern Oregon. This conclusion is



consistent with the findings of two other Environmental Impact Studies that evaluated dam removal over the past two decades. This was the best we could have hoped for from FERC, as it means the agency responsible for dams in America is on our side.

However, it came with 20 recommended actions by FERC that benefit us in the long run because it reduces the chance of legal action and makes conditions better for local communities. The Klamath River Renewal Corp and the signatories (NCCFFI & others) agreed to the listed actions. The problem for all of us was that it pushed the start date into 2023, and dam decommissioning to January, 2024. Here's a link: <https://klamathrenewal.org>

All of us are disappointed for this additional year, but also realize that if we have to litigate it's likely to take much more than a year, and the recommendations are important and impactful. So, Pre-construction work will begin in mid-2023 to include alterations to bridges, road work for construction, and other infrastructure changes, as well as water system improvement for Yreka. Included in this pre-construction will be the teardown of Copco II dam, as it is small and does not have silt behind it. So, Copco I will come out next year, with the other 3 out starting in January, 2024, and completion of removal by October that year.

Following the removal, restoration of the dam footprints begins in earnest. **RES - Resource Environmental Solutions** will immediately start to bring back the river banks and surrounding

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watershed to its natural appearance and stability. This is a multi-year project with a 2 years implementation and 7 year monitoring and restoration plan in place. We are lucky to be working with such good contractors and partners. Here's a link to more info on the plan:
<https://res.us/home/restoring-at-scale/klamath-river-restoration/>

Northern California Council - What to look for in 2022



Our 2022 Board of Directors is hard at work developing our work plan for the next couple of years. Here's a brief summary of what is coming:

We are developing a Communication & Marketing plan to allow us to connect with our clubs and members better. We'll be using our new website to connect in better and different ways, including continuing all we are doing now and adding blogs on fishing and learning, as well as allowing our Club Presidents to communicate together easier.

We hope to have at least 2 Fly Fishing events in 2022 that will bring all of us together around Fly Fishing and fun. **We're starting to plan our 2nd YubaFest** which will be a weekend party to celebrate our sport. It will include classes, fishing opportunities, the FFI casting challenge, music, food and fun. We're also hoping to offer a few on-stream learning & fishing opportunities guided by members of our Board.

We are also working to create an easy-to-use program on teaching fly fishing. We call it our NCCFFI Fly Fishing 101. We know many clubs already teach fishing skills, but this will make what you do easier and more complete. It will be in a powerpoint format, and easy to adapt to your current classes. For clubs that want something new, this will be a "Plug & Play" type of program, with easy modules for each section. It also is tried and tested, developed by Clay Hash, past President of Gold Country Fly Fishers.

We are also working on organizing both casting & tying events. It is fun to bring people together to learn these skills, and our goal is to bring value to what you, at the club level, are doing. We hope to make the process professional and fun.

Our goal is still focused on bringing value to our fly fishing clubs and their members. We will stay focused on this as we work to develop new and exciting programs and events for 2022 and beyond. Remember - we need your input. Always feel free to contact me - Mark Rockwell, mrockwell1945@gmail.com, 530-559-5759. NCCFFI functions to make our sport of fly fishing more fun and respected in our communities. We're in this together!