



United States Department of the Interior

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FFMC

Mr. Frank R. Warrens
Chairman, Pacific Fishery Management
Council
2000 SW First Avenue, Suite 420
Portland, Oregon 97201

Dear Mr. Warrens:

Secretary Babbitt asked me to respond to your letter of December 8, 1993. I apologize for the delay. Secretary Babbitt shares your concerns regarding the economic hardships currently being experienced by both the Indian and commercial fisheries.

As you may know, precipitation has been abnormally low so far this year in the Klamath Basin. In your letter, you asked for a summary of the specific water management actions already taken and those planned to optimize natural production from the 1993 brood year of Klamath River fall chinook. To meet the reservoir elevation required by the Biological Opinion (issued under the Endangered Species Act) on the long-term operation of the Klamath Project and protection of the short nose and lost river suckers, the Bureau of Reclamation's Klamath Basin Area Office has made the following decisions:

1) At this time, it does not appear that surplus ("C") water will be available to Klamath Project water users. A final determination will be made after the April 1 forecast, in consultation with the fisheries resource agencies. Michael Ryan, Reclamation's Project Manager for the Klamath Project Office, will discuss the water supply conditions and operating strategies at the Klamath River Task Force Meeting in Brookings, Oregon on April 19.

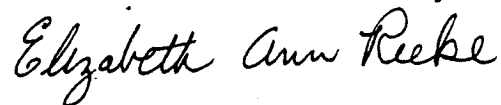
2) River flows will vary below Iron Gate Dam until conditions warrant a change. A minimum flow of 250 cubic feet per second will be maintained below Keno Regulating Dam.

3) Flows below Iron Gate Dam will be increased to assist in the out-migration and spawning of Chinook salmon. This action will be coordinated with fisheries resource agencies, upstream and downstream users, and Pacific Power.

It will take continued efforts on the part of everyone involved to restore anadromous fish populations within this basin. As updates on project water conditions become available, Reclamation will provide them to the Pacific Fishery Management Council and other interested groups.

If you or anyone else on the Council have any questions, please feel free to contact Reclamation's Klamath River Basin Coordinator, Chip Bruss, at (916) 978-4956.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Ann Rieke
Assistant Secretary
for Water and Science

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