

**Karuk Tribe • Yurok Tribe • Klamath Riverkeeper • Pacific Coast Federation  
of Fishermens' Associations**

**P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

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**Klamath River Tribes and Fishermen Declare Mission Accomplished  
Groups succeed in disrupting Warren Buffett's Woodstock of Capitalism**

*Omaha, NE* – Today, Klamath River Basin tribal leaders, native activists, and sport and commercial fishermen, and conservationists return home to the West Coast after spending the weekend disrupting the Berkshire Hathaway shareholder meeting. The group is demanding the removal of four Klamath River dams that kill salmon and create massive blooms of toxic algae.

“We went to Omaha to send Warren Buffett and his executives a clear message that as long as there is no business as usual on the Klamath, there will be no business as usual for him, Mid American Energy, or PacifiCorp,” said Karuk Vice-Chair Leaf Hillman.

Tribal members, commercial and sport fishers, and Regina Chichizola of Klamath River Keeper, camped out in front of Omaha's Qwest Center at 1 a.m. the night before in a cold rain. This allowed the group to get at the head of the cue to ask Buffett questions during a six hour question and answer session in front of 30,000 shareholders.

Karuk World Renewal Priest, or Fatawana, Chook-Chook Hillman spearheaded the strategy and was the third person to speak at the meeting. After introducing himself in his native tongue, Chook-Chook challenged Buffett by saying, “as a European-American you are the visitor in our country...will you not meet with the native people impacted by your fish killing dams. You say you want to address poverty and disease in the third world. But you are creating those same third world conditions right here in America. We want to meet and resolve the issue in a way that saves you money and saves our culture!” Chook-Chook then presented a dam removal agreement.

As he spoke, Georgiana Myers and Annalia Norris of the Yurok Tribe unfurled a large banner that read “Klamath Dams equal Cultural Genocide.”

Before lunch two more questions came from the group, one from Klamath River Keeper Regina Chichizola focused on the toxic algae blooms in Buffett's Klamath Reservoirs

and another from Mike Polmateer of the Karuk Tribe. Each time Buffett passed the question off to Mid American CEO David Sokol and each time another banner was unfurled. One read “Buffett’s Dams kill salmon, communities, and jobs.” Another read “Warren: Un-dam the Klamath - sign the agreement now!”

Sokol answered each time by describing the issue as “complex” while security escorted the Tribal members from the building. There were no arrests.

After the lunch break, Buffett announced that he would not field any more questions about the Klamath. Commercial salmon fishermen Dave Bitts, Karuk fisherman Ron Reed, and Karuk Medicine Woman Cathy McCovey were denied access to the microphones despite being next in the cue to speak.

Bitts, who had to navigate around a snow storm in Denver to make the meeting was clearly disappointed. “Buffett spent a lot of time today explaining what he couldn’t do for us. I wanted to ask the richest man on the planet what he *could* do for us,” said Bitts.

“We return him home having accomplished our mission. We sent a clear message to Buffett, Sokol, and every other executive involved that as long as there is no justice on the Klamath, there will be no peace for them,” said Karuk Tribal Member Jess McLaughlin who was involved in erecting the banners.

Pictures from Omaha events can be downloaded from the following ftp site:  
<http://maps.hostgigs.com/php-bin/filemanagement.php?username=kideaudio>

login: KIDE Audio  
Password: sounds!

Pics from Omaha under heading “uncategorized”

### **Learn more about the Klamath Crisis on YouTube :**

Tribes and Fisherman at Berkshire Hathaway Shareholders cocktail reception at Borsheims Jewelers:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbvsJshzJdM>

Un-dam It Commercial:

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=pFoyzZvuXxs>

Klamath River Toxic Algae:

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=tDny8jvd950&feature=related>

Tribes and Fisherman at Berkshire Hathaway Shareholders meeting 2007:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SasDF5b9rks>

Pics from this year's protests are available from the Associated Press and will be posted on line soon at <http://www.klamathriver.org>

For more information:

<http://www.berkshireshareholders.com>

<http://www.salmonforsavings.org>

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