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About eighteen and a half years ago, my husband and I came to Cope Lake to retire due to complications of his Parkinson's Disease. If he had to retire early, Steve wanted to be able to fish near his back door. And fish he did - for perch, bass, catfish, crappie and trout, often from his small Boston Whaler. Though the boat now sits idle, he can still fish from our dock when it's warm enough. He can also view the many beautiful woods of the lake from our dock and from his all-terrain scooter.

Many forms of wildlife can be spotted on these excursions, always the inquisitive deer, many times geese, ducks and occasionally a fox. One time, standing still, a family of coyotes, suddenly moving in unison, made it look like the hillside across the road, was moving. We've also seen a bobcat take a goose in our yard, otters through our dock, ospreys take fish away from bald eagles over the lake and cougars leap in front of our car near our lakeside home. Herons fish from our shore or sit on our dock watching pelicans find their fish.

Now, dam removals threaten our relatively tranquil existence by polluting our surrounding

land with dust, noise, traffic and toxic sediment that will kill fish, mammals and waterfowl. Our own health and safety will be compromised by the blockage of ingress and egress routes along the lake with heavy machinery that will disallow our passage and that of medical and fire vehicles in times of emergency. We won't have the deep lake for fire suppression in remote areas of the canyon by quick-fill fixed wing planes and helicopters.

Should dam removal occur, the heavy toxic sediments discharged from behind the dams will change the river channel bed, destroying spawning habitat for salmon while poisoning the water and the river shelves. The lighter sediments will deoxygenate the water for the fish and other aquatic life dependent upon it.

As retirees who live on the lake, we will watch a toxic mud flat appear in place of the lovely reservoir of water we've come to know. Our property values have already been decimated and will plummet in the event of dam removal.

The water storage of Copco Lake on the Klamath that has provided clean green energy for man and that has enabled many a fish run to occur in periods of drought, will be

destroyed forever with dam removals, much like our retirement dream of living by a lake.

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