

KLAMATH SLUDGE

News reports that BIA lawyers are pursuing a plan to trade away Indian treaty rights to Klamath Basin fish, along with the water needed to sustain suckers and salmon, are deeply disturbing. The lawyers want to trade these treaty rights for some low quality forest land, which will then be managed by the BIA "on behalf of" the tribes. In every instance in which the BIA has taken over management of forest land, the forest has been clearcut and most of the proceeds disappeared into the maw of the BIA without ever being seen by any Indian.

The lawyers insist that the Indians must have federal timber land, not private land in the Klamath Basin. They insist that the deal must protect farmers in the Klamath Basin who are sucking the life out of the lake and marshes and decimating wildlife by using most of the water and dumping polluted irrigation run-off into the lake.

This deal, proffered by lawyers supposedly working for the tribes, but actually serving the federal government and special interest groups like the farmers, threatens the Klamath Basin water supply, wildlife such as eagles that depend on the Klamath Marshes for survival, as well as the fish upon which the tribes have heretofore depended. It trades away treaty rights that have been defended by the tribes for over 100 years, in return for control over timber by an agency well known for mismanagement.

Indians will be cheated and driven into dependency, again, and white farmers get to go on destroying the Klamath Basin to grow potatoes, in perpetuity or until the water is so

filthy and the basin so parched that even potatoes will not grow.

Meanwhile, the eagles and pelicans and other migrating waterfowl will die, the salmon and other fish will die, and the former streams will be nothing but seasonal trickles of sewage sludge.

*Ann Tattersall
Eugene*

GREEN SPACE GOING

I attended Wednesday night's (10/29) meeting at Willakenzie Elementary regarding the fate of that property. I was appalled to learn from the city and 4J that there is a possibility of a net loss in that neighborhood's green space.

I was there not because of some NIMBY issue I have with the development; I live 70 blocks and a river away. I attended as a representative of Eugene Rugby Football Club, Ltd. (www.EugeneRugby.com), the umbrella nonprofit organization for the two local adult teams and two local high school teams as well as active supporter of the two collegiate teams.

Our organization can attest to the shortage of green space in Eugene. If it is green and semi-flat, some group — adults, children, or pick-up players — will be having an organized game or practice there. This town is so desperate for green space that athletes are continuously relegated to ankle-breaker fields. This is unacceptable.

If the kids that play on Willakenzie are displaced to another stretch of green space, a chain reaction of displacement occurs around the city. This is not just a north Eugene prob-

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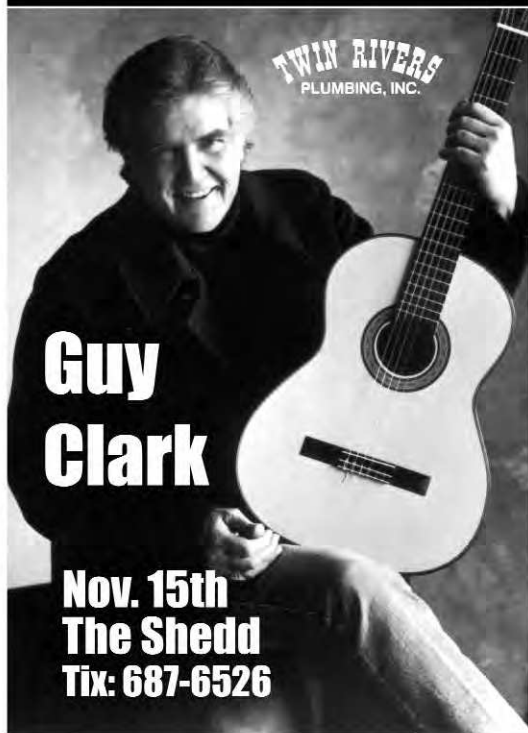
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