

McClenagan, Laura

From: Tim Bailey <tim@thewatershedcenter.com>
Sent: Monday, November 22, 2021 2:40 PM
To: Planning Clerk
Subject: PLN-2019-15661 Marshall Ranch flow enhancement

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Attention: Humboldt County Planning Commission,
Record Number: PLN-2019-15661

I am writing in support of the Marshall Ranch Flow Enhancement project that has been developed by the Salmonid Restoration Federation and the Marshall Ranch. After extensive review of the documents, as well as conversations with interested community members I believe that this project serves the communities best interests and the proposal should be approved.

I believe that the project proponents and their consultants have drafted a plan that will produce significant improvement in the salmonid carrying capacity of the watershed. I have reviewed data from several other flow augmentation projects in the Coast Range. These projects have shown promising results. Small increases in dry season baseflow produce dramatic increases in survival.

My family has owned land in an adjacent watershed for over 50 years. The Southern Humboldt area is facing escalating natural resource challenges. Climate change and changes in land use have put our native fisheries on the brink of extinction. In many cases incremental decline of watershed values occurs on a parcel by parcel basis. I have come to consider this plan a necessary watershed mitigation, to maintain the viability of Redwood Creek as a Salmon rearing creek.

The South Fork Eel is a critical refugia for the Southern Oregon Northern California population of Coho Salmon. The productivity of cooler westside tributaries like Redwood Creek will be vital to any future recovery. The resilience of our watersheds in the face of growing climate risks is likely going to require more similar interventions to prevent the extinction of keystone species.

Sincerely,

Tim Bailey

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