



CLERK OF THE BOARD
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

825 FIFTH ST. EUREKA, CA 95501-1153
PHONE: 707-476-2384 FAX: 707-445-7299

**APPLICATION TO SERVE ON THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY
GREAT REDWOOD TRAIL AUTHORITY BOARD**

APPLICANT NAME: Susannah Ferson
MAILING ADDRESS: [REDACTED] Rd., Trinidad, CA 95570
TELEPHONE: Home: [REDACTED] Work: _____ Fax: _____
E-MAIL ADDRESS: humbology1@gmail.com
OCCUPATION: retired biologist, project manager

PERSONAL REFERENCES:

1. Carol Vander Meer PHONE: [REDACTED]
2. Emily Sinkhorn PHONE: [REDACTED]

PRIOR ADVISORY BOARD OR BOARD OF DIRECTORS EXPERIENCE? Yes

**WRITE A BRIEF STATEMENT DESCRIBING WHY YOU ARE INTERESTED IN
SERVING ON THE PLANNING COMMISSION.**

I am interested in serving on the Humboldt County Great Redwood Trail Authority Board because I care deeply about the long-term stewardship of our region's landscapes and the thoughtful development of projects that connect people to them. With more than 20 years of experience in natural resource management and restoration ecology in Humboldt County, I have worked collaboratively with agencies, tribes, landowners, and community partners to balance ecological integrity with public benefit.

I would bring a perspective grounded in habitat restoration, project implementation, and planning experience. The Great Redwood Trail presents a unique opportunity to enhance
PLEASE ATTACH A CURRENT RESUME OR ANY INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE

DATE: 4/22/26

SIGNATURE: Susannah Ferson Digitally signed by Susannah Ferson
Date: 2026.04.22 12:55:35 -07'00'

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct.

Applications will be accepted via email at cob@co.humboldt.ca.us or by mail to Humboldt County Planning Commission, Clerk of the Board, 825 Fifth St., Suite 111, Eureka, CA 95501

For county use only.

DATE RECEIVED _____ DATE APPROVED _____ NOT APPROVED _____

2/1/2024

SUSANNAH LYNN FERSON

Trinidad, CA | [REDACTED] | humbology1@gmail.com

EDUCATION

M.S., Natural Resource Management – Estuarine Ecology, Cal Poly Humboldt (2008)

B.S., NR Management – Wildlife Emphasis, Minor in Zoology, Cal Poly Humboldt (2001)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Division Director / Senior Biologist – Natural Resource Services Division

Redwood Community Action Agency (RCAA), Eureka, CA | July 2021 – July 2025

- Directed a multidisciplinary team implementing watershed restoration, salmonid habitat improvement, and community planning initiatives across Humboldt County.
- Secured and managed multi-agency grant funding from sources including WCB, SCC, CDFW, and NOAA Fisheries; oversaw fiscal and programmatic compliance for multi-million-dollar budgets.
- Supervised technical staff, consultants, and field crews; provided mentoring, training, and capacity building to support organizational growth.
- Collaborated with tribes, landowners, and public agencies to build long-term partnerships supporting watershed recovery and community resilience.
- Established transparent systems for financial tracking, reporting, and performance evaluation in alignment with nonprofit funding requirements.

Project Coordinator – Watershed Restoration Programs

Redwood Community Action Agency (RCAA) | Feb 2018 – July 2021

- Coordinated salmonid restoration projects including fish passage improvement, riparian enhancement, and erosion control under federal and state grant programs.
- Developed and submitted successful grant proposals, budgets, and scopes of work for habitat restoration and planning efforts.
- Ensured CEQA/NEPA compliance, conducted rare plant and wetland surveys, and managed construction contractors for habitat restoration implementation.
- Facilitated regional collaborations including the Humboldt Weed Management Area and Spartina Working Group to align restoration priorities across partners.

Owner / Senior Biologist

Humbology Environmental Consulting, Humboldt County, CA | May 2013 – Feb 2018

- Operated a small environmental consulting business specializing in grant-funded restoration monitoring and regulatory compliance services.
- Managed full project lifecycles including contracting, fieldwork, and reporting; maintained positive relationships with local agencies and funders.
- Example contract: Implemented the Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Program eelgrass monitoring component, preparing reports and GIS analyses for the Humboldt County RCD and state/federal partners.

Environmental Scientist Intern

California State Parks – North Coast Redwoods District | Oct 2014 – Feb 2018

- Supported state-funded restoration projects ensuring adherence to permit conditions and habitat management plans.
- Developed final reports and mitigation documents; conducted field data collection and RTK GPS mapping for restoration performance monitoring.

Comprehensive list of experience available upon request

CERTIFICATIONS & AFFILIATIONS (partial list)

- CA Landscape Contractor License (Restoration) #518874
- Wetland Delineation Certificate
- Co-Director, Humboldt Weed Management Area
- Former Board President, Friends of the Dunes
- Former Steering Committee, NorCAN (Northern California Association of Nonprofits)
- Presenter: California Invasive Plant Council Symposium (2022–2024)
- Annual participant: Salmonid Restoration Federation Conference, Humboldt Bay Symposium (2005–2025)
- Member, Sigma Xi – Scientific Research Honor Society

PUBLICATIONS

Shaughnessy, F.J., S.L. Ferson, A.J. Frimodig, D.C. Barton, M. Hurst, & J.M. Black. (2021). Growth and Flowering Responses of Eelgrass to Simulated Grazing and Fecal Addition by Brant Geese. *Ecosphere*, 12(8): e03690.

Frimodig, A., S.L. Ferson, F.J. Shaughnessy, & J.M. Black. Invertebrate Community Response to Habitat Dynamics in Eelgrass Beds, Humboldt Bay, CA. (In Progress)

SUMMARY OF STRENGTHS

- 20+ years of experience advancing watershed restoration, salmonid habitat improvement, and ecosystem recovery in Northern California.
- Proven success managing grant-funded projects, from proposal to completion, ensuring fiscal accountability and compliance with agency requirements.
- Strong record of interagency collaboration with funders, regulators, tribes, and nonprofits to achieve regional restoration goals.
- Skilled in technical field implementation, permitting, and adaptive management using data-driven approaches.
- Committed to mentoring emerging professionals and fostering equitable, community-centered conservation outcomes.