

Public comment regarding proposed Kelly Bar restoration project:

My husband and I have lived 8 years part-time on the north fork Salmon River in Sawyers Bar, CA. We have enjoyed becoming part of this wonderful and friendly river community. During this time, however, we have seen a dramatic decline in salmon numbers going up river to spawn, or spawning in front of our house.

I am not a scientist or biologist, neither do I have old memories of prior Forest Service attempts to build ponds and other restoration projects. The prior attempts did not work out as hoped, which isn't to say we should never try again. Considering the previous attempts, it is apparent that the Forest Service as well as the SRRC has been aware of the problem of declining fish population, increasing temperature of the river in spring and summer, and yearly snowmelt fast-flowing river events in late winter/spring.

I have attending several meetings and talks focusing on this project. I have read the project information documents. Therefore, I feel informed sufficiently to be able to state my support of this urgently-needed attempt to help the salmon maintain a viable population, and even expand to previous numbers.

Due to 150 years of physical degradation of this beautiful river from various large-scale mining activities, I believe we have an obligation to make this well-researched restoration project happen.

Of course old-timers don't want to see heavy machinery and workers making this project happen, but to try to heal the river for salmon health and population, it will be worth the effort and temporary disruption in the area.

I understand that the project has been approved by many water-related federal and state agencies. This project has the best engineering and modeling that we now have available.

Please add my name to the list of informed local people that are strongly in favor of this restoration project at Kelly Bar, to begin as soon as feasible. Time is not our friend as far as salmon population is concerned, and I applaud these efforts to counteract their continued decline.

Sincerely, Janice Keith