



# *Quartz Valley Indian Reservation*

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Date: July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018

To: Ted McArthur  
ATTN: Danika Carlson, Salmon/Scott River Ranger District  
11263 N. Hwy 3  
Fort Jones, CA 96032

From: Crystal Robinson  
Environmental Director  
Quartz Valley Indian Reservation

**RE: Opportunity to Comment on the Kelley Bar Habitat Enhancement Project**

Mr. McArthur,

Thank you for this opportunity to review the Kelley Bar Draft Environmental Assessment. The Quartz Valley Tribal members are descendants of both the Karuk and Shasta people and projects located in the sub-basin of the Salmon River are of great interest to the Tribe. Cultural resources depend on a healthy ecosystem and efforts to restore those natural processes are supported.

The Salmon River's off-channel habitat has been degraded due to multiple legacy impacts and salmonid survey data indicate a high level of use for this specific river reach of the North Fork Salmon. This project has the potential to increase the degraded side channel habitat offering instream-cover and food for juvenile salmonids, as well as suitable spawning habitat during high flows for adults. Multiple species will benefit from the restoration of a riparian forest and hydraulic conditions: coho, spring Chinook, resident and steelhead trout, Pacific lamprey, willow flycatcher, American dipper, western pond turtles, multiple frog species and salamanders.

The proposed project has been carefully evaluated by a robust group of diverse stakeholders and designed by qualified engineers. We believe the outcomes will meet the objectives the project is aiming to achieve while utilizing the most current best management practices and instream restoration standards.

We conclude that this project meets the following ecosystem recovery plans and therefore support the selected alternative:

1. Final Recovery Plan for the Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast Evolutionary Significant Unit of Coho Salmon (NMFS 2014) – specifically Task item SalR.2.1.7
2. Recovery Strategy for California Coho Salmon (CDFG 2004) – specifically SA-HA-09

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3. Klamath Project Biological Opinion (NMFS and USFWS 2013) – specifically Appendix C Restoration Project Type 5
4. The Salmon River Total Maximum Daily Load (NCRWQCB 2005) – specifically 5-2
5. The Aquatic Conservation Strategy of the Northwest Forest Plan (Reeves et al. 2006) – specifically 6-46
6. California Water Action Plan (CNRA et al. 2016) – page 12
7. California Coastal Conservancy's Strategic Plan (CCC 2017) – specifically Objectives 6D and 6E
8. State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP 2015) – specifically page 5.1-81

There has obviously been a tremendous amount of effort that has gone into the planning and design of this project, which we truly appreciate.

Sincerely,



Crystal Robinson  
Environmental Director  
Quartz Valley Indian Reservation

## References

California Coastal Conservancy, 2017. *Strategic Plan 2018-2022*, pages 33 and 34.

California Department of Fish and Game, 2004. *Recovery Strategy for California Coho Salmon*. Report to the California Fish and Game Commission.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife, 2015. *State Wildlife Action Plan*, pages 5.1-81

California Natural Resources Agency, California Department of Food and Agriculture and California Environmental protection Agency, 2016. *California Water Action Plan*. Page 12

National Marine Fisheries Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service, 2013. *Biological Opinions on the Effects of Proposed Klamath Project Operations from May 31, 2013, through March 31, 2023 on Five Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species*.

National Marine Fisheries Service, 2014. *Final Recovery Plan for the Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast Evolutionary Significant Unit of Coho Salmon (Oncorhynchus kisutch)*. National Marine Fisheries Service, Arcata, CA.

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, 2005. *Salmon River, Siskiyou County, California Total Maximum Daily Load for Temperature and Implementation Plan*. Page 5-2.

Reeves, Gordon. Jack E. Williams, Kelley M. Burnett and Kirsten Gallo. 2006. *The Aquatic Conservation Strategy of the Northwest Forest Plan*. Conservation biology: the journal of the Society for Conservation Biology. 20. 319-29. 10.1111/j.1523-1739.2006.00380.x.