



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Region 1 – Northern
601 Locust Street
Redding, CA 96001
www.wildlife.ca.gov

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



July 27, 2018

Ted McArthur
District Ranger
Klamath National Forest
1711 South Main Street
Yreka, CA 96097

Subject: Kelly Bar Off-Channel Fisheries and Riparian Habitat Enhancement Project Phase II

Dear Mr. McArthur,

I am writing to express support for the fisheries restoration project at Kelly Bar (Project) on the North Fork Salmon River. The Salmon River Restoration Council (SRRC) has received funding for the Project from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (Department) Fisheries Restoration Grants Program for both project design and construction. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document prepared by the SRRC for the Project is currently under review by the US Forest Service, Klamath National Forest (KNF).

KNF submitted comments to SRRC regarding the water quality conditions at the Willow Pond feature. The Basis of Design Report for Project identifies Willow Pond as a promising site for creating summer and winter juvenile salmonid rearing habitat. As part of the design process, SRRC collected water temperature and dissolved oxygen (DO) data in a well installed in Willow Pond. The data showed unfavorable DO levels in the pond during the spring and water temperatures approaching unfavorable conditions during the summer during drought years. However, there are factors that indicate that DO and water temperature levels will be more favorable under the proposed conditions.

Willow Pond will be excavated to connect to cooler groundwater and maintain enough depth to develop thermal stratification. In addition, surface area will be expanded from existing conditions and will improve DO levels with exposure to atmosphere exchange. The seasonal channel connecting Willow Pond will maintain connectivity with the Salmon River well into late spring providing salmonids the ability to relocate as flow recedes. Continuing water quality measurements show that temperature and DO levels have improved since the end of the drought.

An Effectiveness Monitoring Plan is included with the design and SRRC has funding for three years for effectiveness monitoring. Pre and post implementation monitoring for water quality, biological, vegetation, channel profiles, and flow along with as-built plans and a memorandum will be completed after implementation of the Project.

Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870

Ted McArthur
Klamath National Forest
July 27, 2018
Page 2 of 2

SRRC is committed to three years of monitoring at Kelly Bar. Understanding how these restored habitats function post implementation is important as we continue implementing these projects. SRRC will produce annual monitoring analysis reports summarizing activities, findings and recommendations. The report will identify any issue or impact that would warrant adaptive management action, initiate a consultation with the appropriate agencies, including the Department.

The Department understands that the Project's ultimate goal is to improve juvenile salmonid habitat for summer and winter rearing by restoring floodplain function. This goal is in direct alignment with the mission of the Department to manage California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public. Further, the Project directly addresses three of the six highest priority recovery actions listed for the Salmon River watershed in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Southern Oregon Northern California Coast Coho Salmon Recovery Plan (2014). These include increasing large woody debris, boulders, and other instream structure; constructing off-channel habitats, alcoves, backwater habitat and old stream oxbows; and protecting existing or potential cold-water refugia.

SRRC continues to be a valuable partner to the Department in efforts to recover SONCC Coho salmon. SRRC has extensive knowledge of salmonid behavior in the Salmon River watershed, develops scientifically defensible and detailed restoration project plans with well qualified subcontractors, and oversees high quality and timely construction projects. Due to the benefits for floodplain enhancement and summer and winter fish-rearing habitat and the strong partnership between SRRC and the Department, we support Phase II of the Kelly Bar Fisheries and Riparian Habitat Enhancement Project.

Sincerely,



Neil Manji
Regional Manager

cc: Lyra Cressey Neil Manji, Jason Roberts,
Jennifer Bull, Trevor Tollefson, Marjorie Caisley, Mark Elfgen
lyra@srcc.org, neil.manji@wildlife.ca.gov, jason.roberts@wildlife.ca.gov,
jennifer.bull@wildlife.ca.gov, trevor.tollefson@wildlife.ca.gov,
marjorie.caisley@wildlife.ca.gov, mark.elfgen@wildlife.ca.gov