July 17, 2018

Ted McArthur

ATTN: Maija Meneks

Salmon/Scott River Ranger District

11263 N. Highway 3

Fort Jones, CA 96032

**Re: Kelly Bar Habitat Enhancement Project**

Dear Maija Meneks,

Thank you for accepting these comments on behalf of Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center (KS Wild) for the proposal to enhance off-channel fisheries and riparian habitat on Kelly Bar at the mouth of Kelly gulch and West Bar on the North Fork Salmon River. This enhancement project would improve connectivity, enhance side channels, and create alcoves on Kelly Bar and West Bar. This project would also improve two-off channel ponds on Kelly Bar. The overall goal of this project is to create habitat qualities needed for coho and other salmonid recovery in the Salmon River.

**I. Support**

The Kelly Bar Habitat Enhancement Project addresses five critical elements of long-term restoration and maintenance of water quality on the Salmon River, including access to slow water habitat for juveniles and migrating fish, access to over-summer rearing habitat through pool development, access to an off-channel spawning habitat, and restoring riparian vegetation that provides shade and consequently, cooler water temperatures. Additionally, one of the results of this project is that dissolved oxygen in the water will increase. This is great for the surrounding environment and for future use by salmon and other anadromous fish.

Moreover, this project would restore the distribution, diversity, and complexity of watershed and landscape-scale features for aquatic systems in the project area. We are supportive of the Forest Service’s action to repair the impacts from historical mining in this watershed. We are also supportive of the focus on long-term benefits to temperatures of the waterbodies within the project area through increased vegetation and subsequent shading around the area. As the Salmon River is listed as impaired by the California State Clean Water Act for stream temperature this is a good issue to focus on.

This project would maintain the physical integrity of the streambanks, shorelines, and channel bottoms. Additionally, the quantity and quality of habitat for riparian-dependent animals and plants and aquatic animals and plants would be maintained. Further, restoration efforts would provide habitat to many species of wildlife, including neotropical migratory birds. We are supportive of these maintenance and restoration efforts.

Lastly, the proposed action would not remove any suitable Northern Spotted Owl habitat and is not expected to pose a danger of mortality, harm, failed breeding attempts, or displacement of Northern Spotted Owls. We are supportive of these Forest Service actions that do not disturb or remove Northern Spotted Owl nesting, roosting, and foraging habitat.

Thank you for accepting these comments.

Sincerely,

Kaitlin Loomis

Law Clerk

Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center

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