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Comments: Hello Natalie Kelly and Danika Carlson,

I am a Marine Habitat Restoration Specialist with the NOAA Restoration Center in Arcata, CA and I am writing to provide support for the Red Bank Habitat Enhancement Project. Due to significant anthropogenic changes to the Salmon River including mining, logging and disruptions to the pre-contact fire regime, habitat conditions on the Salmon River have degraded which have had deleterious effects on our NOAA trust resources which includes ESA-threatened coho Salmon and Chinook salmon. This project will increase the abundance of complex off-channel habitat for SONCC coho salmon, spring-run Chinook salmon, and other salmonids by providing both winter high flow and summer thermal refugia.

Within the project area, much of the alluvial bar has been degraded by historical placer gold mining and dredging. The Red Bank river bar consists of a poorly vegetated, large alluvial floodplain with one discontinuous, generally plane-bed primary side channel, several discontinuous generally plane-bed high-flow secondary side channels. These off-channel areas are currently considered marginal habitat for coho, spring-run Chinook, and other salmonids. This project will significantly improve habitat conditions by enhancing and increasing the area of thermal refugia, creating high-flow off-channel refugia with large wood complexity and enhanced riparian vegetation and shading. In addition, this project meets the restoration objectives identified in NMFS's Final Recovery Plan for the Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast Evolutionarily Significant Unit of Coho Salmon by meeting Task item SONCC-SaIR.2.1.8.2 (2014).

In addition, the Salmon River Restoration Council (SRRC) has the experience and expertise to implement a restoration project of this scale as demonstrated by recent successful projects implemented in Knownothing, Methodist, and Nordheimer Creeks and a large floodplain restoration project on Kelly Bar.

For these reasons, I look forward to SRRC implementing this project and improving habitat conditions for NOAA trust resources.

Thank You,

Bob Pagliuco