

MIKE THOMPSON
1ST DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE:
WAYS AND MEANS



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

June 13, 2006

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Doug Bosco, Chair,
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

SUBJECT: Big River/Salmon Creek Project

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I understand that the Coastal Conservancy Board will soon consider a grant to The Conservation Fund to assist with the purchase of approximately 16,100 acres of forestland in the Big River and Salmon Creek watersheds in Mendocino County. I am writing to express my support for this project.

The coastal forests of Mendocino County are a remarkable resource. However, the increasing pace of residential and agricultural development of forestland throughout the region presents a serious threat to the future integrity of these important coastal ecosystems and the biological, scenic, economic and recreational benefits they provide for residents and visitors alike.

The Conservation Fund's proposal presents an innovative and cost-effective approach to combating this irreversible loss of our treasured coastal forests. The purchase of the Big River and Salmon Creek properties will be invaluable for protecting and restoring streams and fish habitat.

Thank you for your consideration of this important proposal, which is essential to securing a sustainable future for the coastal forests of Mendocino County.

Sincerely,

MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress

MT:ca

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Assembly
California Legislature



PATTY BERG
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FIRST DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:
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FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE, CHAIR
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SUSTAINABILITY, CHAIR
WINE

June 14, 2006

Doug Bosco, Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Big River/Salmon Creek Grant Request

Dear Chairman Bosco: *Doug*

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for grant funding of The Conservation Fund to assist with the purchase of approximately 16,100 acres of forestland in the Big River and Salmon Creek watersheds in Mendocino County. for this project.

As you know, the coastal forests of Mendocino County are a remarkable resource for all Californians. However, the increasing pace of residential and agricultural development presents a serious threat to the future integrity of these important coastal ecosystems.

The Conservation Fund proposal represents an innovative and cost-effective approach to combating this irreversible loss of our treasured coastal forests. The purchase of the Big River and Salmon Creek properties will maintain important habitat linkages; permanently prevent subdivision; protect crucial streams and tributaries; protect and restore habitat; and serve as a valuable demonstration of large-scale forest management.

By funding the proposed Big River/Salmon Creek purchase, the Coastal Conservancy can play a leading role in securing a sustainable future for the coastal forests of Mendocino County. I urge you to approve this grant for the acquisition of the Big River and Salmon Creek properties.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patty Berg".

PATTY BERG
Assemblywoman, 1st District





MENDOCINO COAST AUDUBON SOCIETY

POST OFFICE BOX 2297
FORT BRAGG, CA 95437

June 13, 2006

Warren Wade
President

David Jensen
Vice-President

Tanya Smart
Secretary

Judy Steele
Treasurer

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Charlene McAllister
Art Morley
Virginia Wade

Doug Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Big River/Salmon Creek Project

Dear Mr. Bosco,

The Mendocino Coast Audubon Society seeks Coastal Conservancy approval of a grant to the Conservation Fund to assist with the purchase of some 16,000 acres of the Big River and Salmon Creek watersheds in Mendocino County.

To say that the MCAS supports this acquisition is an understatement. Our society is deeply involved in study, appreciation, and protection of bird species on our coast and in our forests. This effort has made us speak out about more than birds. Our pursuit of knowledge about birds and their habitat has sent us back to school and out into the field where we have looked at water, wildlife, plants, timber harvest procedures, geology, history, sewage treatment plants, weather, local economics, agriculture, building permits, and habitat restoration.

For three years, our members have worked with the staffs of the Mendocino Land Trust and of State Parks and Recreation to survey birds in Big River State Park. We have learned that the heroic acquisition of Big River was only the start. All life in the area is connected to water, and connecting Big River and Salmon Creek watersheds (with the significant habitat link to Jackson Demonstration State Forest) is one giant step toward protection and survival of this precious environment.

If we learned anything from the 20th century, it surely is to sustain and preserve our earth – not with construction, but with good sense and careful choices.

Doug Bosco, Chairman, California Coastal Commission

June 13, 2006

We think this is an excellent opportunity to make a careful - and good - choice. We are willing to work to make this happen and we ask you to support this grant to help us keep this promise to our future.

Sincerely,



Mendocino Coast Audubon Society
Warren F. Wade, President



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

**Sierra Club
Mendocino Group
PO Box 2330
Fort Bragg, CA 95437**

Doug Bosco, Chair,
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100,
Oakland, CA 94612

Big River/Salmon Creek Project

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I understand that the Coastal Conservancy Board will soon consider a grant to The Conservation Fund to assist with the purchase of approximately 16,100 acres of forestland in the Big River and Salmon Creek watersheds in Mendocino County. I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for this exciting project.

As you know, the coastal forests of Mendocino County are a remarkable resource for all Californians. However, the increasing pace of residential and agricultural development of forestland throughout the region presents a serious threat to the future integrity of these important coastal ecosystems and the biological, scenic, economic and recreational benefits they provide for residents and visitors alike.

The proposal by The Conservation Fund represents an innovative and cost-effective approach to combating this irreversible loss of our treasured coastal forests. In particular, the purchase of the Big River and Salmon Creek properties will:

- Maintain important habitat linkages between Big River State Park and Jackson Demonstration State Forest.
- Permanently prohibit subdivision, development and forest conversion.
- Protect and restore 34 miles of Class I streams and 41 miles of Class II tributaries.

- Protect and restore wildlife habitat for listed animal species including northern spotted owl, coho salmon, and steelhead trout.
- Demonstrate ecologically based forest management of large-scale coastal forests for potential implementation on other forestlands in the region and contribute to the local economy.

By funding the proposed Big River/Salmon Creek purchase, the Coastal Conservancy can play a leading role in securing a sustainable future for the coastal forests of Mendocino County. I urge you to seize this opportunity and approve funding for the acquisition of the Big River and Salmon Creek properties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Perkins".

Linda Perkins, Chair
Mendocino Group
Sierra Club

P.O. BOX 224 • BRANSCOMB, CALIFORNIA • (707) 984-6181
FAX: (707) 984-6631



June 13, 2006

Doug Bosco, Chair,
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Big River / Salmon Creek

Dear Doug:

I understand that the Coastal Conservancy Board will soon consider a grant to The Conservation Fund to assist with the purchase of approximately 16,100 acres of forestland in the Big River and Salmon Creek watersheds in Mendocino County. I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for this exciting project.

Due to competing economic pressures, North Coast Redwood forestland is slowly being converted from productive forests providing jobs, clean air, clean water and healthy ecosystems to something quite different including subdivision and vineyards with the negative ecological and economic things that go with them such as erosion, loss of jobs, habitat degradation etc.

The Big River / Salmon Creek acquisition is the first step in an innovative new way to slow this conversation of forestland. What makes it unique is that it brings the community into the equation from an input and access standpoint which will help to diminish controversy over timber harvest on the North Coast. As importantly, this model utilizes low cost financing which combined with conservation dollars means that we can protect large landscapes with the limited conservation dollars available. The fact that you have to log to pay off the loans makes this project very appealing. That this logging must be done sustainably while protecting if not enhancing eco-systems makes it a win / win situation for all.

There is a broad cross section of people on the North Coast working together to create a new paradigm in regards to forest ownership and management. Conservation funders like the Coastal Conservancy are an important part of making this a reality. I urge the Coastal Conservancy will step forward and be part of this exciting new reality.

Sincerely;

Art Harwood



Celebrating 30 Years of Land Conservation in Mendocino County, 1976-2006

June 19, 2006

Doug Bosco, Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, California 94612

Big River/Salmon Creek Project

Dear Chairman Bosco:

The Mendocino Land Trust is aware the California Coastal Conservancy Board will be considering a grant to The Conservation Fund to assist with the purchase of approximately 16,100 acres of forestland in the Big River and Salmon Creek watersheds in Mendocino County. We are writing to express our enthusiastic support for this project and explain why the context for your action buttresses our own efforts.

The coastal forests of Mendocino County are a remarkable resource for all Californians. However, the increasing pace of residential and agricultural development of forestland throughout the region presents a serious threat to the future integrity of these important coastal ecosystems and the biological, scenic, economic and recreational benefits they provide for residents and visitors alike.

The Mendocino Land Trust has an ongoing land conservation interest in the Big River watershed. In July 2002, the Land Trust acquired 7,334 acres (with the support of 1,400 contributors including the Coastal Conservancy) in the estuary portion of the Big River watershed and conveyed the property to California Department of Parks and Recreation. In 2003, the Mendocino Land Trust completed the *Mendocino County Coastal Conservation Plan* – funded by and subsequently adopted by the California State Coastal Conservancy as an adjunct to the Conservancy's own strategic plan. The Big River watershed was identified as a "high priority conservation area" in the MCCCCP.

The proposed acquisition will also complement restoration work in the estuarine portion of Big River. The Land Trust continues to partner with State Parks to restore and manage one of California's most significant coastal estuaries. In March 2005, the Land Trust completed the Big River Preliminary Plan, again funded by the Conservancy, in an effort to jumpstart management activities. Expanding protection in the watershed immediately adjacent to the Big River Unit of Mendocino Headlands State Park will build on this concept: fostering comprehensive conservation from estuary to headwaters.

The proposal by The Conservation Fund represents an innovative and cost-effective approach to combating this irreversible loss. In particular, the purchase of the Big River and Salmon Creek properties will:

- Maintain important habitat linkages between the Big River Unit (the estuarine acquisition) and Jackson Demonstration State Forest.
- Permanently prohibit subdivision, development and forest conversion.
- Protect and restore 34 miles of Class I streams and 41 miles of Class II tributaries.
- Protect and restore wildlife habitat for listed animal species including northern spotted owl, coho salmon, and steelhead trout.
- Demonstrate ecologically based forest management of large-scale coastal forests for potential implementation on other forestlands in the region and contribute to the local economy.

By funding the proposed Big River/Salmon Creek purchase, the Coastal Conservancy can continue to play a leading role in securing a sustainable future for the coastal forests of Mendocino County. We urge you to seize this opportunity and approve funding for the acquisition of the Big River and Salmon Creek properties.

Sincerely,



James R. Bernard
Executive Director

cc: Chris Kelly, The Conservation Fund

Redwood Forest Foundation, Inc.

Working Community Forests

Doug Bosco, Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100,
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Big River / Salmon Creek

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I understand that the Coastal Conservancy Board will soon consider a grant to The Conservation Fund to assist with the purchase of approximately 16,100 acres of forestland in the Big River and Salmon Creek watersheds in Mendocino County. I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for this exciting project.

The coastal forests of Mendocino County are a remarkable resource for all Californians. However, the increasing pace of residential and agricultural development of forestland throughout the region presents a serious threat to the future integrity of these important coastal ecosystems and the biological, scenic, economic and recreational benefits they provide for residents and visitors alike.

The proposal by The Conservation Fund represents an innovative and cost-effective approach to combating this irreversible loss of our treasured coastal forests. In particular, the purchase of the Big River and Salmon Creek properties will:

Maintain important habitat linkages between Big River State Park and Jackson Demonstration State Forest.

Permanently prohibit subdivision, development and forest conversion.

Protect and restore 34 miles of Class I streams and 41 miles of Class II tributaries.

Protect and restore wildlife habitat for listed animal species including northern spotted owl, coho salmon, and steelhead trout.

Demonstrate ecologically based forest management of large-scale coastal forests for potential implementation on other forestlands in the region and contribute to the local economy.

By funding the proposed Big/Salmon Creek purchase, the Coastal Conservancy can play a leading role in securing a sustainable future for the coastal forests of Mendocino County. I urge you to seize this opportunity and approve funding for the acquisition of the Big River and Salmon Creek properties.



Art Harwood
Chairman of the Board
Redwood Forest Foundation Inc.