



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1655 Heindon Road
Arcata, California, 95521
Phone: (707) 822-7201 FAX: (707) 822-8411

In Reply Refer To:
AFWO

OCT 30 2008

Michael Bowen
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Subject: Letter of Support for Acquisition of the McNamara Ranch, near the town
of Orick, Humboldt County, California

Dear Mr. Bowen:

We are writing in support of the partnership between the California Coastal Conservancy (CCC) and the North Coast Regional Land Trust (NCRLT) to acquire the McNamara Ranch near the town of Orick along the Redwood Creek Estuary. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Habitat Restoration Program has a long history of working with both the CCC and NCRLT in Humboldt County on several projects to protect and restore habitat for fish and wildlife while also assisting private landowners in preserving their agricultural lands and way of life.

Acquisition of the McNamara Ranch will not only preserve agricultural lands and protect it from development but eventually allow for opportunities to improve degraded conditions in the Redwood Creek estuary. Restoration Program staff of the Service have worked on many projects associated with Redwood Creek and are familiar with the area, its history, and current issues. Past project work funded by the Service contributed to improving instream conditions for many aquatic and terrestrial species including anadromous fish by helping to decrease erosion into the creek from road-related sediment sources upstream of the estuary. Current project work is focused on Strawberry Creek near the estuary, just upstream of Highway 101, on private agricultural land. The work involves removing the invasive reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinaceae*), restoring fish passage at stream crossings, and restoring the riparian area for both aquatic and riparian dependent species.

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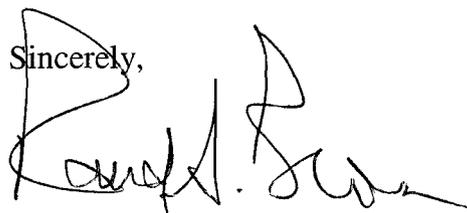
Exhibit 3: Project Letters

The Service continues to have funding sources available for protection, enhancement, and restoration projects through various grant programs but also through financial assistance programs such as the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and the Coastal Program at Humboldt Bay. Our Restoration Program staff are available to work with the CCC and the NCRLT in developing restoration and enhancement projects on the McNamara Ranch when interest and opportunities arise.

We recognize the importance of a functional estuary for Redwood Creek and understand that opportunities for improving the estuary are in their infancy. Therefore, we view the acquisition of the McNamara Ranch and subsequent management by the NCRLT as a positive step toward improving the estuary for the local landowners and for fish and wildlife.

If you have any questions, please contact Paula Golightly, of my staff, at 707-822-7201.

Sincerely,



Acting
for

Michael M. Long
Field Supervisor

cc: North Coast Regional Land Trust, Bayside, CA (Attn: Kevin McKernan)

Exhibit 3: Project Letters

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL: NO HARD COPY TO FOLLOW

United States Department of the Interior
California Department of Parks and Recreation
Redwood National and State Parks
1111 Second Street
Crescent City, California 95531

L3033

October 30, 2008

Michael Bowen, Project Manager
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Mr. Bowen:

We are writing in support of the North Coast Regional Land Trust's acquisition of the McNamara Ranch in Orick, California, and are grateful to the Conservancy for providing the necessary funds for the acquisition. The acquisition of the McNamara Ranch is a critical first step towards resolving the long-term conundrum between the Redwood Creek Flood Control Project and degraded aquatic habitat in the Redwood Creek estuary.

Originally designed for an estimated 250-year flood, current estimates place flood capacity of the Redwood Creek Flood Control Project below a 100-year flood due to channel aggradation, vegetation growth, and levee subsidence. Challenged by insufficient funds, multiple permits and their restrictions, and concerns for threatened and endangered species, Humboldt County has been unable to routinely maintain the levees. Because gravel extraction and vegetation removal conflict with protection of aquatic and riparian habitat under current environmental laws, standard levee maintenance methods are likely unsustainable.

Levee construction significantly impacted the physical and biological functions of the Redwood Creek estuary. The impacts are well documented and include: 1) the elimination of deepwater pools and natural water circulation patterns; 2) disruption to sediment transport processes; 3) increased water temperature, and; 4) a significant reduction to the overall size of the tidal prism, estuary, and lagoon. The Redwood Creek Watershed Assessment Report prepared by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) in 2006 states, "The present condition of the estuary/lagoon is considered a major limiting factor to the production of anadromous salmonids of the Redwood Creek basin." The Recovery Strategy for California Coho Salmon prepared by CDFG in 2004 recommends "restoring the historic form and function of the estuary/lagoon and slough channels, riparian forest, and adjacent wetlands."

Redwood National and State Parks is an active member of the Redwood Creek Watershed Group (RCWG). The group is a collaborative watershed

Exhibit 3: Project Letters

partnership whose purpose, among other things, is to improve watershed conditions in Redwood Creek. Membership includes private landowners, and local and federal agencies that manage more than 90 percent of the Redwood Creek watershed. Membership also includes non-profit organizations, and agencies with regulatory or scientific interest in the watershed.

In 2006, the RCWG prepared the Redwood Creek Integrated Watershed Strategy (IWS). The goal of the Redwood Creek IWS is to improve and protect water quality, water supply, and aquatic and riparian habitat throughout the Redwood Creek watershed, including the estuary and coastal areas. Among other issues, the IWS for Redwood Creek recognizes the need for a long-term solution to flood control that provides adequate flood protection for the Orick community, greatly reduces annual levee maintenance needs for the county, and provides for meaningful restoration of the estuary.

We believe a long-term solution to flood control and estuary restoration can be accomplished only with a significant modification to the existing levee system. The acquisition of the McNamara Ranch will provide opportunities to reach that long-term solution.

We truly appreciate the Conservancy's continued interest in restoring salmonid health in the Redwood Creek watershed. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Terry Hofstra (707-465-700) or Greg Bundros (707-825-5145) of my staff.

Sincerely,

/s/ Steve W. Chaney
SIGNED ORIGINAL ON FILE

Steve W. Chaney
National Park Superintendent

cc: Kevin McKernan, North Coast Regional Land Trust
Terry Hofstra, REDW
Greg Bundros, REDW



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
825 5TH STREET
EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501-1153 PHONE (707) 476-2390 FAX (707) 445-7299

November 3, 2008

Michael Bowen, Project Manager
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Mr. Bowen:

I am writing in support of the *North Coast Regional Land Trust's* grant request for acquisition of the 77-acre McNamara Dairy Ranch in Orick, California. Acquisition purposes include habitat preservation, open space protection, public access and agricultural use. I support the NRLT's goals for purchasing the property to 1) preserve the McNamara property for on-going productive agricultural operations, and 2) promote lower Redwood Creek estuary enhancement opportunities.

The NRLT proposes to acquire fee simple title for the McNamara property and will place restrictions on the properties that would prevent future development, and loss of agricultural productivity. Furthermore, I strongly support the NRLT's plan to lease the property, as a whole, to a party interested in maintaining agricultural operations at the site consistent with the environmental goals of the acquisition.

The McNamara property is also centrally located within the Redwood Creek Federal Flood Control Project, which is maintained by the County of Humboldt. Salmon restoration proponents have long sought restoration of the Redwood Creek estuary in general, and modification of the levee system in particular. The acquisition will protect open space and provide access for enhancement of the Redwood Creek estuary.

I sincerely appreciate the Conservancy's continued interest in maintaining coastal agricultural working lands and restoring salmonid health in the Redwood Creek watershed.

Sincerely,


Jill K. Geist
Fifth District Supervisor

cc: Kevin McKernan, North Coast Regional Land Trust



October 31, 2008

Douglas Bosco, Chair
Coastal Conservancy
Attn: Michael Bowen, Project Manager
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
FAX: (510) 286-0470

RE: Support for Coastal Conservancy Funding for the acquisition of the McNamara Dairy in Humboldt County

Dear Chairman Bosco,

California Trout fully supports Coastal Conservancy funding for the acquisition of the McNamara Dairy in Humboldt County, California. I understand that these funds will enable the Northcoast Regional Land Trust and its conservation partners to acquire the McNamara Dairy and further pursue protection and restoration of the fisheries and wildlife habitat in Redwood Creek.

California Trout's mission is "*to protect and restore wild trout and steelhead waters throughout California*". The McNamara Dairy acquisition is an excellent opportunity to protect and restore steelhead and coastal cutthroat trout populations in Redwood Creek. California Trout is partnering with other conservation organizations, state and federal agencies and private landowners to restore the estuary and will provide technical expertise and assistance towards the restoration efforts of Redwood Creek.

We have consistently supported monitoring and restoration efforts in Redwood Creek and will continue to commit our resources toward estuary restoration. We agree with the Coastal Conservancy and other partners that the estuary is a limiting factor for salmonid production and an extremely high priority for funding.

We appreciate your efforts towards this project and look forward to our continued cooperation. Please let us know how we can be of further assistance in expediting this project.

We strongly support staff's recommendation for funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Thomas J. Weseloh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thomas J. Weseloh, Northcoast Manager



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Arcata Fish and Wildlife Office
1655 Heindon Road
Arcata, CA 95521-5582
Phone: (707) 822-7201 Fax: (707) 822-8411

In Reply Refer To:

JUN 08 2004

Michael Bowen
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: Coastal Wetland Grant Program Proposal for the Redwood Creek Estuary near the town of Orick, Humboldt County, California.

Dear Mr. Bowen:

We are writing in support of a proposal submitted by the California Coastal Conservancy (Conservancy) to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program. The proposal requests funds to acquire the 108 acre McNamara Ranch adjacent to the Redwood Creek estuary near the town of Orick in northern California. Accompanied by restrictions to the property, the acquisition will protect the property from development, provide opportunities to enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and allow for compatible agricultural practices to be established. These efforts will be key to begin improving the function of wetlands on the property and ultimately the estuary. The proposal is the first step in the process towards active enhancement of the area.

Staff Biologists at the Arcata Fish and Wildlife Office (AFWO) have worked on many projects associated with the Redwood Creek estuary during the past several years and are familiar with the area, it's history, and current issues. Historical accounts, photographs, and current information show that the estuary once functioned as a coastal lagoon with periodic closures and breaches as a part of natural coastal processes. The estuary and lower valley area included an extensive Sitka spruce forest along with coastal scrub and dune plant communities. Redwood Creek had access to it's floodplain, which provided off-channel forested and wetland habitats for birds, fish, amphibians and other species dependent on diverse aquatic areas.

Abundant fish resources existed, including coho and Chinook salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout, eulachon, tidewater goby and others. Many wildlife species also frequented the area, including bald eagles, neotropical migratory birds, waterfowl, seabirds, and Roosevelt elk.

Exhibit 3: Project Letters

Michael Bowen

While it is unlikely that future enhancement efforts will fully restore the estuary, it is important to understand how the area functioned historically so that enhancement efforts can mimic selected parameters aimed at benefitting species such as salmon and migratory birds that were once abundant in this area.

The AFWO supports voluntary partnerships with landowners and agencies to improve estuary function. Future efforts should focus on improving the tidal prism, considering levee setbacks to allow Redwood Creek access to its floodplain including the north slough channel and the former south channel meander. Re-development of a diverse riparian area along with other key plant communities is also important when considering future enhancement of the estuary. A well-developed riparian area can eventually provide wood structure to the channel, stream bank stability, and important habitats for birds, fish and other species.

Several species have the potential to benefit from improved conditions and land use in the Redwood Creek estuary. These include coho and chinook salmon, steelhead, cutthroat, tidewater goby, brown pelican, bald eagle, other migratory waterbirds, seabirds, and sensitive amphibians. Many of these species are federally listed as endangered or threatened.

Two of the most significant factors limiting anadromous salmon species in Redwood Creek are degraded conditions at the estuary and sedimentation of instream conditions in the upper watershed. Millions of dollars have been spent on enhancement and restoration projects during the last 20 years upstream of the estuary in Redwood National and State Parks (Park) and on private land. These projects have contributed to improving instream conditions for many aquatic and terrestrial species including anadromous fish by helping to decrease erosion into the creek from road-related problems. The projects have been funded through various state and federal sources including the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and have focused on helping interested landowners and land managers improve the watershed. While the focus of enhancement work has been upstream, the estuary remains in need of critical improvement for the benefit of anadromous fish but also for many other species.

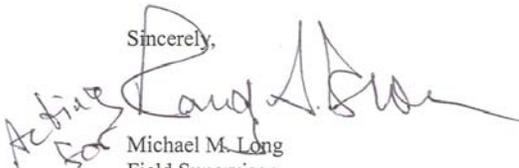
The Service continues to have funding sources available for enhancement and restoration projects. Restoration staff of AFWO will be available to work with willing landowners or their representatives, and other agencies at developing projects for funding when interest and opportunities arise.

The estuary is an essential part of the watershed. Realistic opportunities for improving this area have not existed until now and the Conservancy proposal is the first step to partner with landowners on improving the condition of this important estuary.

Exhibit 3: Project Letters

Michael Bowen

If you have any questions, please contact Paula Golightly, of my staff, at 707-822-7201.

Sincerely,

Michael M. Long
Field Supervisor

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JUN 09 2004

COASTAL CONSERVATION
OAKLAND, CALIF.

cc:
CDFG, Fortuna, CA (Attn: Scott Downie, Gary Flosi, Mark Wheatley)
Redwood National and State Parks, Orick (Attn: Terry Hofstra)
Northcoast Regional Land Trust, Bayside (Attn: Maya Conrad)
NOAA Fisheries, Arcata (Attn: Irma Lagomarsino)
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, OR (Attn: Verlyn Ebert)

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06/18/2004 09:54 FAX 707 464 1812

REDWOOD NATL & ST PARKS

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**United States Department of the Interior
California Department of Parks and Recreation**

Redwood National and State Parks
1111 Second Street
Crescent City, California 95531



L1425 (McNamara)

June 17, 2004

Michael Bowen
Project Manager
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Mr. Bowen:

Redwood National and State Parks is pleased to provide this letter of support for the McNamara Dairy acquisition project. We are excited about this project because it includes the community of Orick in a plan to provide a degree of flexibility that will be necessary when considering options to rehabilitate the Redwood Creek estuary. It will also help to create a continuum of fish and wildlife habitat, as the property is near already protected parklands.

Coastal bottomlands, including working dairies in northern Humboldt County, are home to migratory birds such as Aleutian geese. The McNamara Dairy is adjacent to Redwood Creek, an important salmon-bearing creek provides a wonderful opportunity for the community of Orick to balance habitat enhancement with sustainable agricultural production and we are pleased that you have their support for it.

Redwood National and State Parks is committed to implementing restoration and public education projects on coastal wetlands in and around the park, and will be a partner in the restoration and educational efforts afforded by this acquisition. Thank you for the opportunity to be involved. Please contact me if you would like to further discuss this project or our participation.

Sincerely,

Bill Pierce
Superintendent



June 3, 2004

Michael Bowen
Project Manager
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
FAX: (510) 286-0470

Dear Mr. Bowen,

On behalf of the Melvin F. & Grace McLean Foundation, I am writing to express our support of the partnership between the Coastal Conservancy and the Northcoast Regional Land Trust to acquire the McNamara Dairy. We are pleased to be considering a matching grant in the amount of \$5,000 for the McNamara Dairy project whose goal is to benefit the economy of Humboldt County through open space, fisheries protection and maintenance of sustainable agricultural operations.

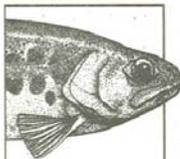
The McLean Foundation has worked with the Northcoast Regional Land Trust in the past, having provided a start-up grant for the organization in 2000. We are pleased to have seen the progress of this organization in the past few years, and the benefits it is bringing to our community.

Thank you for joining in this project to protect coastal wetlands in Humboldt County. Please contact me if I can be of assistance or provide you with any additional information.

Sincerely,



Leigh Pierre-Oetker
Executive Director
McLean Foundation



**SMITH
RIVER
ALLIANCE**

P.O. Box 2129, Crescent City, CA 95531

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- Gregory A. Thomas
*Natural Heritage Institute**
- Tom Weseloh
*California Trout**
- Bill Yeates

*Organizations listed for identification purposes only.

June 5, 2004

Michael Bowen, Project Manager
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
FAX: (510) 286-0470

RE: Support for USFWS Grant for the acquisition of the McNamara Dairy

Dear Michael:

The Smith River Alliance (SRA) strongly supports your request to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for a Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant for the acquisition of the McNamara Dairy in Humboldt County, California.

SRA also supports and appreciates the work of the Northcoast Regional Land Trust and its conservation partners to protect and restore the salmonid habitat in Redwood Creek.

The McNamara Dairy acquisition is an excellent opportunity to protect and restore steelhead and coastal cutthroat trout populations in Redwood Creek. Moreover, we agree with the Coastal Conservancy and other partners that the estuary is a limiting factor for salmonid production and that estuary acquisitions should be a high priority for funding.

We deeply appreciate your efforts on this project and look forward to our continued collaboration with you to protect and restore salmonid habitat along the North Coast.

Sincerely yours,

Grant D. Werschkull, Executive Director

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JUN 07 2004

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CA



June 4, 2004

Paul Morabito, Chair
c/o Michael Bowen, Project Manager
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
FAX: (510) 286-0470

RE: Support for USFWS Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant for the acquisition of the McNamara Dairy in Humboldt County

Dear Mr. ^{Michael}Bowen,

California Trout fully supports your request to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for a Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant for the acquisition of the McNamara Dairy in Humboldt County, California. I understand that the acquisition of this ranch will enable the Northcoast Regional Land Trust and its conservation partners to pursue protection and restoration of the fisheries and wildlife habitat in Redwood Creek.

California Trout's mission is "to protect and restore wild trout and steelhead and their waters throughout California". The McNamara Dairy acquisition is an excellent opportunity to protect and restore steelhead and coastal cutthroat trout populations in Redwood Creek. California Trout is partnering with other conservation organizations, state and federal agencies and private landowners to restore the estuary and will provide technical expertise and assistance towards the restoration efforts of Redwood Creek.

We have consistently supported monitoring and restoration efforts in Redwood Creek and will continue to commit our resources toward estuary restoration. We agree with the Coastal Conservancy and other partners that the estuary is a limiting factor for salmonid production and an extremely high priority for funding.

We appreciate your efforts towards this project and look forward to our continued cooperation. Please let us know how we can be of further assistance in expediting this project.

We strongly support your request for funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas J. Weseloh". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Thomas J. Weseloh, Northcoast Manager

RECEIVED

JUN 07 2004

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

1976 Archer Road • McKinleyville, CA 95519
Phone/Fax: (707) 839-1056 • E-mail: caltrout@reninet.com

Paul Morabito, Chair
c/o Michael Bowen, Project Manager
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Support for USFWS Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant for the acquisition of the McNamara Dairy in Humboldt County

Dear Chairman Morabito,

I am a retired biologist with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and have served on the Aleutian Canada Goose Recovery Team since 1975. Although the goose was delisted as an endangered species in 2001, the team is continuing the required monitoring to determine the security of the bird for next 5 years.

I fully support the Conservancy's request to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for a Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant for the acquisition of the McNamara Dairy in Humboldt County, California. I understand that the acquisition of this ranch will enable the Northcoast Regional Land Trust and its conservation partners to pursue simultaneously the protection of valuable agricultural land, and the protection and restoration of the fisheries and wildlife habitat in the Orick Valley.

Fertile coastal grazing lands such as the Orick Valley provide important habitat for waterfowl including the Aleutian Canada goose. As the goose population has increased, the traditional spring staging area of the bird has expanded from the Crescent City/Smith River area in Del Norte County to the Humboldt Bay area. Acquisition and management of agricultural lands in the Orick Valley between the two locations would provide additional secure habitat for the geese and other migratory birds.

I understand the Conservancy and NRLT's primary goals for purchasing this property are two-fold; 1) to preserve the 108-acre ranch as a sustainable, viable coastal agricultural property and 2) to provide willing partnership in lower Redwood Creek estuary enhancement. As the owner of the property, NRLT's intention would be to maintain the property as private, sustainable agricultural land that also provides estuary enhancement. A management plan would be developed that supports fish and wildlife habitat needs for species that include, among others, the Aleutian Canada goose and four Pacific salmonid species.

I strongly support the Conservancy's proposal to this program.

Sincerely,

Paul Springer