



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
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In Reply Refer To:
AFWO

SEP 20 2010

Ms. Karyn Gear
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: Letter of Support for Freshwater Nature Trail Proposal-Northcoast Regional Land Trust

Dear Ms. Gear:

We are writing to support the Northcoast Regional Land Trust's (NRLT) recent funding request for design and permitting of the proposed Freshwater Nature Trail, located near the estuary of Freshwater Creek in Humboldt County, California. The proposed nature trail is located on Freshwater Farms Reserve owned by NRLT. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Partners for Fish and Wildlife and Coastal Programs in Arcata have provided technical assistance and funding support to NRLT for habitat restoration and outreach projects on the property. As a partner to NRLT, we have also provided assistance during outreach events to talk about the estuaries, wetlands, and native fish and wildlife resources. The Freshwater Nature Trail will enhance outdoor recreation and educational opportunities at Freshwater Farms Reserve as well as support existing events held by NRLT including outdoor school classroom programs.

The proposed ¾ mile nature trail addresses a Service priority initiative titled "Connecting People with Nature". This initiative was developed to focus Service efforts at creating opportunities for people to become more involved in a positive way with the natural world thereby encouraging a personal stake in the care of natural resources. From this initiative, Connecting People with Nature programs have been developed and are being implemented by the Service across the country. The Freshwater Nature Trail will be an important education and outreach focus for the local community and can provide an easily accessible venue to connect people of all ages with our local coastal natural resources. We look forward to assisting NRLT and their partners in providing a valuable experience along the Freshwater Nature Trail.

Sincerely,

Acting for 
Nancy Finley
Field Supervisor



FRESHWATER FARMS

A · WETLANDS · NURSERY

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

Re: Letter of Support for Freshwater Nature Trail

Hello Michael,

This letter is to support the Northcoast Regional Land Trust's recent application for funding for their Freshwater Nature Trail, located next door to the nursery. The trail is intended to provide outdoor recreation and educational opportunities to our local community, as well as support existing outdoor classroom programs facilitated annually by the Land Trust And by us at Freshwater Farms.

The Freshwater Nature Trail goes for $\frac{3}{4}$ mile around a recently restored 34-acre tidally influenced wetland, named Freshwater Farms Reserve. The Land Trust partnered with numerous federal, state, and local agencies, consultants, and educational institutions to complete the restoration project in fall 2009. Throughout the process the Land Trust hosted student groups, from middle school to university level, out to the property for educational walks. They also held general tours at the wetland to share the restoration story with interested community members. Education and outreach has been a focal point in the Land Trust's conservation work, and construction of the Freshwater Nature Trail will provide an easily-accessible venue to further this vision.

As a partner in the Land Trust's educational programs I support this project and the Land Trust's request for SCC funding for the design and permitting of the Freshwater Nature Trail.

With kindest regards,



Pacific Coast Joint Venture



North American Waterfowl
Management Plan
Plan nord-américain de
gestion de la sauvagine
Plan de Manejo de Aves
Acuáticas de Norteamérica

California Coastal Conservancy

1330 Broadway, 11th Floor

Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Letter of Support for Freshwater Nature Trail

To Whom It May Concern,

The Pacific Coast Joint Venture is a collaborative effort among local, state and federal resource agencies, private conservation organizations, corporations, and interested individuals. Our objective is to preserve and restore wetland habitats in five western states and one Canadian province. We were among several partners that contributed to the restoration at the Freshwater Farms Reserve. While we are not an environmental education oriented program we appreciate the importance of familiarizing the public to the importance of wetlands in order to gain their continuing support for our partner's programs. The Freshwater Nature Trail is the perfect opportunity to gain local support for continued estuarine restoration in Humboldt County. It is also an opportunity to showcase the Coastal Conservancy's local contributions to the voters of Humboldt County.

Carey A. Smith

Carey Smith

Pacific Coast

Joint Venture Coordinator

