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Assembly
California Legislature



WESLEY CHESBRO
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SECOND DISTRICT

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November 13, 2014

Doug Bosco, Board Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Support for *Blue Creek Preserve and Yurok Tribal Community Forest* land acquisition

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing in support of the *Blue Creek Preserve and Yurok Tribal Community Forest* land acquisition project. The Western Rivers Conservancy (WRC) in partnership with the Yurok Tribe, seek \$2 million in funds from the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) to acquire a portion these lands.

This 6,479 acre acquisition from Green Diamond, a willing seller, along the Klamath River will protect Blue Creek, a critical watershed for the survival of Klamath River salmon and steelhead as well as restore old-growth redwood habitat.

The Yurok Tribe has already significantly contributed to the overall acquisition using non-State of California resources. It is extremely rare that a willing seller is paired with such a dedicated and capable land manager. I believe the Blue Creek acquisition is an excellent opportunity for SCC's investment in a significant conservation acquisition. I understand the eventual property transfer conditions and enforcement of conditions are still being worked out and will need to be completed. Additionally, I encourage Western Rivers Conservancy and its project partners to continue to work with Del Norte County to resolve any outstanding issues related to the county's tax base.

The Yurok Tribe is an important partner in my district and I urge you to fund the proposal. Thank you for your consideration of this most worthwhile project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wesley Chesbro".

WESLEY CHESBRO
Assemblyman, 2nd District

WC:mh:tw

Cc: Thomas O'Rourke, Chairperson, Yurok Tribe

BANKING AND FINANCIAL
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CALIFORNIA'S WINE INDUSTRY
CHAIR

California State Senate

SENATOR
NOREEN EVANS
SECOND SENATE DISTRICT



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November 14, 2014

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th floor
Oakland CA 94612-2530

RE: Blue Creek Preserve and Yurok Tribal Community Forest land acquisition project

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I write to extend my support for the Blue Creek Preserve and Yurok Tribal Community Forest land acquisition project which is currently before the Coastal Conservancy for funding consideration.

The proposed acquisition of 6,479 acres from Green Diamond Timber Company will protect Blue Creek, an important salmon spawning tributary of the Klamath River watershed, and restore old growth redwood habitat. The Tribe and its' partner, the Western Rivers Conservancy, have contributed substantial non-State resources to this Project and have demonstrated experience managing a project of this scale and scope.

Additionally, Green Diamond has expressed strong interest in selling the forestlands proposed for acquisition. The Blue Creek lands acquisition would be a significant investment by the Coastal Conservancy in a conservation Project by a California Tribe.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to express my support for this important conservation acquisition and urge the favorable consideration of the Coastal Conservancy Board. Do not hesitate to contact Zuretti Goosby in my Eureka District Office if you have questions regarding my support for this project.

Sincerely,

NOREEN EVANS
Senator, 2nd District

NE:zg

O'Rourke, Chair, Yurok Tribe (PO Box 1027 Klamath, CA 95548)





YUROK TRIBE

190 Klamath Boulevard • Post Office Box 1027 • Klamath, CA 95548



Via First Class Mail

November 6, 2014

John P. Donnelly, Executive Director
Wildlife Conservation Board
1807 13th Street, Suite 103
Sacramento, CA 95811

Doug Bosco, Board Chair
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Support for Blue Creek Land Acquisition Project

Aiy-ye-kwee':

The Tribe enthusiastically supports funding the proposed 6,479 acquisition along the Klamath River and in the Blue Creek watershed as part of the *Blue Creek Preserve and Yurok Tribal Community Forest*. The Tribe welcomes this partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Board, the State of California Coastal Conservancy, Western Rivers Conservancy and the Wyss Foundation to conserve, protect and restore the land, forest and water resources, and the diverse species found in Yurok ancestral territory. This project will complement the Tribe's previous purchase of over 22,000 acres for water quality enhancement with the help of a State Water Resources Control Board loan, furthering natural resource protection on a landscape scale.

The Yurok Tribe is the largest Native American Tribe in California and approximately half of its nearly 6,000 members live in the local area. The Yurok people have depended on the Klamath River and Blue Creek for subsistence fishing, cultural rites and traditions since time immemorial. Blue Creek is the gateway to the cultural heart of the Yurok people and a vital coldwater refugia for the Klamath River ecosystem. The Yurok people have lived on this land from time immemorial, managing the great salmon runs and practicing stewardship of the land to improve fish and wildlife habitat. The Yurok Constitution directs the Tribe to restore and enhance the Tribal fishery, forests, and natural resources and to reclaim ancestral lands. The Blue Creek project will help do just that. It will establish the *Blue Creek Preserve and Yurok Tribal Community Forest* to protect and restore salmon and steelhead fisheries, improve habitat connectivity, restore watershed integrity, protect threatened and endangered species, and safeguard Yurok cultural resources.

This land is an integral link between interior and coastal forests on protected state, Tribal and federal lands in the Klamath-Siskiyou bioregion. It will be enhanced by Tribal management.

Exhibit 3: Project Letters

The Tribe will restore the Blue Creek watershed to old-growth redwood and establish it as a fishery preserve to improve fish and wildlife habitat, increase species diversity, and reduce sedimentation and runoff in the Klamath River consistent with the highest standards for salmonid recovery. Tribal management will promote biodiversity and wildlife habitat for rare and endangered species, including the marbled murrelet, fisher, northern spotted owl, California condor, and Humboldt marten.

The *Blue Creek Preserve and Yurok Tribal Community Forest* is a prototype for state, Tribal and private land acquisition funding to conserve biodiversity, return ancestral lands to indigenous peoples, and enhance forest carbon stocks to achieve permanent land protection. The Tribe wholly supports the efforts of the Wildlife Conservation Board and the Coastal Conservancy to make this project a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Th. P. O'Rourke, Sr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas O'Rourke, Sr.
Chairperson



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
West Coast Region
1655 Heindon Road
Arcata, California 95521-4573

In response refer to: 151422SWR2007AR00404

Western Rivers Conservancy
Attention: Sue Doroff, President
71 SW Oak Street
Portland, OR 97204

JUL 29 2014

Subject: National Marine Fisheries Service Support for Blue Creek Preserve

Dear Sue Dorroff:

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) strongly supports Western Rivers Conservancy's (WRC) acquisition of lands within the Blue Creek watershed in the Lower Klamath River, and its partnership with California's Yurok Tribe who are intended to become the eventual manager of the acquired lands. Blue Creek is a vital cold-water tributary in the Lower Klamath River, and serves an important role in the conservation and recovery of federally threatened Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast (SONCC) coho salmon Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU), as well as currently unlisted Chinook salmon and steelhead. NMFS understands that if WRC is successful in acquiring the Blue Creek lands, the goal will be to transfer the lands to the Yurok Tribe who will manage the lands as a Yurok ecological preserve. Currently, the lands in question are managed as industrial timberlands owned by the Green Diamond Resource Company and are included as covered lands in an Aquatic Habitat Conservation Plan (AHCP) NMFS has approved. Management and legal protection of Blue Creek as a preserve should, over the long-term, serve to diminish threats and stresses to salmonid species and their habitat that currently persist with industrial forestry practices.

NMFS has been working with WRC since before WRC's April, 2011 transfer of approximately 22,000 acres of industrial timberland along the Lower Klamath River to the Yurok Tribe. Through this work, we witnessed WRC's ability to guide multiple parties through an acquisition process that has already resulted in the improved protection of nearly 31,000 acres of forestland in the Lower Klamath. As WRC's acquisition efforts move into Blue Creek we have great confidence in an acquisition that will result in permanent protection of this remarkable stream.

For the reasons above, and others, the Draft Recovery Plan for SONCC coho salmon lists Blue Creek as essential for recovery of the species. Blue Creek is considered by many as a salmon stronghold, and by NMFS as one of the highest priorities for restoration among the tributaries to the Lower Klamath River.



Exhibit 3: Project Letters

In addition to the high value the Blue Creek watershed provides to salmonids, it is also considered a highly important cultural area to the Yurok Tribe, and holds special significance for tribal members. We urge WRC and the Tribe to continue its important work toward acquiring and protecting Blue Creek. If you have any questions please contact me at (707) 825-5160, or via e-mail at Irma.Lagomarsino@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,



Irma Lagomarsino
Assistant Regional Administrator
California Coastal Area Office

Cc: Troy Fletcher, Yurok Tribe
Galen Schuler, Green Diamond Resource Company
Cam Tredennick, Western Rivers Conservancy

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • MERCED • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO



SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISH, AND CONSERVATION BIOLOGY
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
FAX: (530) 752-4154

ONE SHIELDS AVENUE
DAVIS, CALIFORNIA 95616-8751

November 13, 2014

Doug Bosco, Board Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
Re: Blue Creek

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I understand from Cam Tredennick that the Coastal Conservancy is considering a funding proposal from Western Rivers Conservancy for the Blue Creek Preserve and Yurok Tribal Community Forest Project. I wanted to let you know that I am in full support of this project because it represents a big step towards assuring the future of salmon and steelhead in the lower Klamath River basin.

The primary goals of the project are to establish a salmon sanctuary and tribal preserve along Blue Creek, while also helping revitalize the economy and culture of California's largest Indian tribe through sustainable forestry. I have long advocated for such protections on Blue Creek as one of the most important actions the State of California could take to protect the Klamath fishery. After spending some time on Blue Creek, I became more impressed than ever with its importance to salmon and steelhead conservation, especially in the face of climate change. I have also been greatly impressed with the dedication of the Yurok Tribe towards the watershed's long-term conservation. It is so rare that such a great steward is in place to care for such a remarkable place at such an opportune time.

The reason I have been so interested in Blue Creek is that it is the largest tributary to the lower Klamath River that is still in the fog belt; this means its water stays cool and it is resistant to climate change. The watershed is intact, although it has been logged, and is beautiful. The water still flows clear and blue. When snorkeling, I could see four species of juvenile salmonids in one place! My postdoc, Rebecca Quinones, and I have published two major papers recently dealing with declining wild salmon and steelhead trends in the Klamath Basin. Our results from both papers show the importance of improving salmon and steelhead conservation in the Basin. Blue Creek and the Yurok Tribe can play an important role in maintaining wild stocks of salmonids. Not only does it serve as a rearing stream for juveniles but the large pool at its mouth provides a cool resting place for upstream-migrating adult salmon.

If you would like to read a more detailed expression of why I am so enthusiastic in my support of the Blue Creek project, please read the blog I wrote for the Center for Watershed Sciences at UCD:

<http://californiawaterblog.com/2014/03/06/yurok-stewardship-of-klamaths-blue-creek-bodes-well-for-fish/>

Blue Creek provides a very special conservation opportunity. I urge the Coastal Conservancy to fund WRC's request as an investment in the future of Klamath River salmon and steelhead.

Let me know if you have any questions or want to discuss this further. Thanks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Moyle". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Peter B. Moyle
Distinguished Professor, Fish Biology
Associate Director, Center for Watershed Sciences

Cc C. Tredennick



November 17, 2014

Doug Bosco, Board Chair
State of California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I understand that the Coastal Conservancy is considering a funding proposal from Western Rivers Conservancy to acquire Blue Creek and to work with the Yurok Tribe to establish *The Blue Creek Preserve and Yurok Tribal Community Forest*. We commend Western Rivers Conservancy and the Yurok Tribe for creatively putting together a durable plan for the long-term protection and management of the Blue Creek watershed, and we fully support the grant proposal.

CalTrout is heavily invested in the Klamath Basin. Our work on the Trinity River, Shasta River and working with diverse interests as a signatory to the Klamath River Agreements underscore this commitment. Through our work, we have come to realize that Blue Creek is an essential piece of the puzzle of ensuring a sustainable fishery in the Klamath basin. Consequently, CalTrout encourages the Coastal Conservancy to approve the grant request, and thereby lend essential support to this unique effort to secure Blue Creek as a salmon sanctuary and working forest.

Sincerely,

Curtis Knight
Executive Director



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

825 5TH STREET

EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501-1153 PHONE (707) 476-2390 FAX (707) 445-7299

John P. Donnelly, Executive Director
Wildlife Conservation Board
1807 13th Street, Suite 103
Sacramento, CA 95811

Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Support for Blue Creek Preserve and Yurok Tribal Community Forest land acquisition

Dear Mr. Donnelly and Mr. Schuchat:

I am writing to express the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors support for the *Blue Creek Preserve and Yurok Tribal Community Forest* land acquisition project. This 47,000 acre acquisition from Green Diamond, a willing seller, along the Klamath River will result in the permanent protection of Blue Creek -- the anchor tributary for the survival of salmon species on the Klamath River. Once acquired, the Yurok Tribe will restore over 20,000 acres to old-growth redwood that will permanently protect habitat for several species. The Yurok Tribe and Western Rivers Conservancy are seeking funds from the Wildlife Conservation Board, Coastal Conservancy, the federal government and private foundations to acquire these lands. I urge you to work closely with them to complete the project.

The Yurok Tribe has worked with Western Rivers Conservancy to contribute nearly one third of the acquisition purchase price using non-State of California resources. The Yurok Tribe's continued, relentless commitment to the natural resources of our beautiful state would be an outstanding choice for the Wildlife Conservation Board's first investment in a significant conservation acquisition by a California Tribe.

This Community Forest land acquisition is important to Humboldt County and I urge you to fund the proposal. If you have questions, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Chair, Rex Bohn
County of Humboldt

RECEIVED

NOV 10 2014

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.