



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
NOAA Restoration Center  
Southwest Region  
777 Sonoma Ave., Room 219-A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404-6528

September 19, 2016

Michael Bowen  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway  
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Neefus Gulch (Navarro River watershed) Coho Salmon Barrier Removal Design Project,  
Mendocino County, California

Dear Michael,

The NOAA Restoration Center is writing to express our support for the application submitted by Trout Unlimited to the State Coastal Conservancy for funding consideration for the Neefus Gulch Coho Salmon Barrier Removal Design Project. This project is located in the North Fork Navarro River watershed, within the Rancho Navarro area in Mendocino County. The North Fork Navarro River watershed is considered a stronghold for endangered Central California Coast (CCC) coho salmon and this project will develop the designs necessary to remove two complete barriers and allow unimpeded access to about a mile of spawning and rearing habitat in Neefus Gulch.

It is with our understanding that with this funding, Trout Unlimited and its partners, including the NOAA RC, will develop designs to restore fish passage and hydraulic function to almost a mile of habitat on Neefus Gulch. Currently, two stream crossings prohibit fish passage for juvenile and adult coho salmon and steelhead trout. It is critical that the Appian Way culvert barrier and the earthen barrier at the pond be removed and the upstream habitat be reconnected and restored to historical conditions. The results of this proposal – the engineering designs and restoration plan – will not only lead to the reconnection of this important coho habitat, it will also help prevent sediment from entering Neefus Gulch in the event of catastrophic barrier failure. The efforts of this proposal will have a direct and beneficial result to salmonids within Neefus Gulch.

This funding, if received from the California State Coastal Conservancy, will complete funding of two 100% designs for these important barrier projects. Partial funding has already been received from California Department of Fish and Wildlife. If you have any questions, please contact Joe Pecharich of my staff at (707)575-6095 or [joe.pecharich@noaa.gov](mailto:joe.pecharich@noaa.gov).

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Rutten  
Southwest Region Supervisor  
NOAA Restoration Center





September 7, 2016

To: Michael Bowen  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway  
Oakland, CA 94612

From: Patty Madigan, Senior Conservation Programs Director

Subject: Neefus Gulch Coho Salmon Barrier Removal Project Designs, Mendocino County, California

Dear Michael,

On behalf of the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District (MCRCD), I'm writing to express MCRCD's support for Trout Unlimited's application to the State Coastal Conservancy for funding consideration for the Neefus Gulch Coho Salmon Barrier Removal Project Designs. The Neefus Gulch Coho Salmon Barrier Removal Project Designs, located in the Navarro River watershed, is within the Rancho Navarro area in Mendocino County. The North fork Navarro watershed, considered a critical stronghold for the survival of California Central Coast coho salmon, is the subwatershed this project will address. The funding TU's requesting will be used to develop the designs necessary to remove two total barriers and allow unimpeded access to 0.89 miles of spawning and rearing habitat in Neefus Gulch, tributary to the North Fork Navarro River.

Trout Unlimited and its partners will develop designs to restore fish passage and hydraulic function to 0.89 miles on Neefus Gulch. Currently, two complete barriers inhibit fish passage for juvenile and adult coho salmon and steelhead trout. It is critical that the identified barriers, at the Appian Way culvert and the earthen barrier at the pond, be removed and the upstream habitat be reconnected and restored to approximate historical conditions. The results of this proposal, the engineering designs and restoration plan, will lead to the reconnection of 4,700 feet of important coho habitat, and will prevent sediment from entering Neefus Gulch in the event of catastrophic barrier failure. The objectives of this proposal will have a direct and positive result within Neefus Gulch. As a side note, 12 adult coho were documented in lower Neefus Gulch in December 2014, and confirmed by Scott Harris of CDFW.

This requested funding will leverage and augment the \$138,034 award from the CDFW Fisheries Restoration Grant Program, to enable Trout Unlimited to complete 100% designs, positioning TU and their restoration partners to apply for funding for the removal of two total salmonid passage barriers.

**MENDOCINO COUNTY**  
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT



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We very much urge you to recommend allocating \$49,412 to Trout Unlimited for the 100% design development for the Neefus Gulch Coho Salmon Barrier Removal Project Design Project. This project will lead to an implementation project that will greatly benefit efforts to recover CCC ESU salmon to a naturally sustainable condition, which will have multiple social, economic, and ecosystem benefits.

MCRCD sincerely appreciates your consideration for this project.

Best regards,

Patty Madigan  
Senior Conservation Programs Director

September 7, 2016

To: Michael Bowen  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway  
Oakland, CA 94612

From: Kirk Vodopals, Rancho Navarro Association Board Vice President,  
[vodopalsk@gmail.com](mailto:vodopalsk@gmail.com)

Subject: Neefus Gulch Coho Salmon Barrier Removal Project Designs, Mendocino  
County, California

Dear Michael:

On behalf of the Rancho Navarro Association (RNA) Board, I'm writing to express our support for the application submitted by Trout Unlimited to the State Coastal Conservancy for funding consideration for the Neefus Gulch Coho Salmon Barrier Removal Project Designs. The Neefus Gulch Coho Salmon Barrier Removal Project Designs is located in the Navarro River watershed, within the Rancho Navarro area in Mendocino County. The Navarro watershed is considered a stronghold for wild runs of coho salmon and this project will develop the designs necessary to remove two total barriers and allow unimpeded access to 0.89 miles of spawning and rearing habitat in Neefus Gulch.

Trout Unlimited and its partners will develop designs to restore fish passage and hydraulic function to 0.89 miles on Neefus Gulch. Currently, two complete barriers are located on Neefus Creek, a tributary to the North Fork Navarro River. The current two stream crossings inhibit fish passage for juvenile and adult coho salmon and steelhead trout. It is critical that the Appian Way culvert barrier and the earthen barrier at the pond be removed and the upstream habitat be reconnected and restored to historical conditions. The results of this proposal – the engineering designs and restoration plan – will lead to the reconnection of 4,700 feet of important coho habitat and it will help prevent sediment from entering Neefus Gulch in the event of catastrophic barrier failure. The efforts of this proposal will have a direct and beneficial result within Neefus Gulch.

This funding leverage and augment the \$138,034 award (secured) from CDFW Fisheries Restoration Grant Program to enable Trout Unlimited to develop and complete 100% designs which will lead to the removal of two total salmonid passage barriers.

We urge you to assist in allocating \$49,412 to Trout Unlimited for the 100% design development for the Neefus Gulch Coho Salmon Barrier Removal Project Design Project. This project will lead to a restoration project that will greatly benefit efforts to recover CCC ESU salmon to a naturally sustainable condition, which concurrently can result in a wide array of economic, societal and ecosystem benefits.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirk Vodopals', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Kirk Vodopals**  
**Rancho Navarro Association Board Vice President**