

Humboldt County Planning Commission and  
Community Development Services  
3015 H Street  
Eureka, California 95501-4484

**Subject: Humboldt County General Plan Update**

**Salmon Forever proposes that the County formally adopt a resolution committing the County to the restoration of viable, wild, salmonid populations in our coastal drainages. (A stronger expression of an unequivocal commitment than simply an unambiguous commitment to resource protection).**

Salmon Forever supports Option A, and endorses the points raised by Cal-DFG, Healthy Humboldt, EPIC, Baykeeper, Greenwheels, CATS, and CNPS; the RCEA submittals to the energy element as modified by Zoellick and Schaefer; and those from the Humboldt County Department of Public Health.

Salmon Forever recognizes the critical linkages between watershed development and impacts to fish habitat, and therefore endorses efforts to concentrate development in the urban areas. It is imperative to retain and restore as much functional, connected habitat as possible, if we are to maximize the potential for fishery recovery.

In addition, Salmon Forever advocates a separate County Department of Water Resources, which would inventory, assess and regulate water and riparian assets and use in the county, in order to prevent degradation and nuisance, and restore and enhance water quality.

Salmon Forever recommends planning be conducted on the watershed scale in order to plan with habitat connectivity and the cumulative effects of development in mind.

Other issues include:

Limiting watershed development, including human habitation, deforestation, grazing, and gravel mining, is critical to watershed health and the restoration of viable salmonid populations. Protection of streams from cows, chemicals, and waste, and unsustainable water diversion by people, are essential.

Sediment delivery to Humboldt Bay, and to the Mad River Raney well filters, is costly to the taxpaying public and inhibits commerce. Sediment production and delivery should be monitored and mitigated.

Herbicide use in watersheds should be discouraged by County policy, and user-paid downstream monitoring (including the Bay) for breakdown products made mandatory.

The County should be more active in reviewing, commenting on, and participating in THPs, which affect forestlands, water quality and quantity, and infrastructure.

The County should discourage TPZ and Ag conversion to residential use, as well as limiting residential development on TPZ lands. Limiting development in these zones keeps the value of the properties correlated to their resource use, rather than as real estate. Such values allow for community forestry at the interfaces with urban areas.

The County should acquire community forestlands and encourage conservation easements to restore wild salmonid populations, protect our watershed-based communities, help balance greenhouse emissions, provide recreational and educational opportunities, and generate future revenues.

Thank you,

Ken Miller  
For Salmon Forever