

Humboldt County Supporters Include:

Businesses & NonProfits

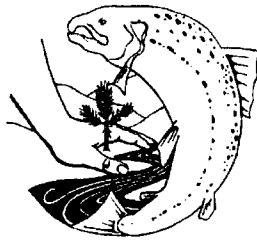
Ancient Forest International (see enclosed)
Chautauqua Natural Foods
Dancing Cranes Healing Arts
Democracy Unlimited of Humboldt County (see enclosed)
E.P.I.C. (see enclosed)
Friends of Small Place (see enclosed)
Healthy Humboldt (see enclosed)
Mattole Restoration Council (see enclosed)
Music for Little People
Restoration Leadership Project (see enclosed)
Salmonid Restoration Federation (see enclosed)
Sanctuary Forest
United Stand of Humboldt

Individuals

Francine Allen
Rio Anderson
Fred Bauer
Jon Beslow
Renee Crowley
Charely Custer
John Christianson
Lisa Deny
Liz Davidson
Bill Eastwood
Jeri Fergus
Mary Giardino
Richard Gienger
Eric Goldsmith
Virginia Grazianai
Jean Kullman
Scott Lamorte
Cecelia Landman
Karen Lawson
Linday Lowe
Rose Madrone
Lauren Oliver (see enclosed)
Leib Ostrow
Barbara Ristow
Jeff Spuck
Kristen Vogel
Kurt Volckmar
Steve Walter

Mattole Restoration Council

www.mattole.org



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F. Jeremy Wheeler

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Martha Spencer
Senior Planner
Community Development Services
Planning Division
3015 H St.
Eureka, Ca, 95501

Dear Ms. Spencer;

The Mattole Restoration Council is writing to support the inclusion of the restoration oriented language proposed by the Trees Foundation into the Humboldt County General Plan. After reviewing and commenting on the proposed changes in the Water, Biological, and Conservation and Open Space Elements, the MRC believes that the proposed language will provide increased and specific protections for habitat, water quality, open space, and overall watershed health.

Community watershed groups play an important role in implementing governmental policy, communicating citizen opinion to decision makers, and providing feedback on the effectiveness of conservation efforts in the rural areas of Humboldt County. Many of the proposed changes and language will help to create a more formal relationship between the County and community watershed groups, which will improve the effectiveness of policy implementation efforts.

The Mattole Restoration Council further urges the County to adopt the proposed language in order to help limit the impacts of existing and future rural residential development on the environment while sustaining both rural lifestyles and natural resources.

Thank you for considering these locally important and regionally significant issues in your planning process.

Sincerely,

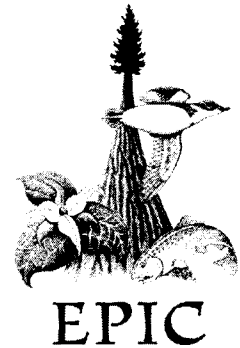
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. Jeremy Wheeler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jeremy Wheeler
Executive Director
Mattole Restoration Council

CC: Doug Wallace, The Trees Foundation
Eric Goldsmith, Sanctuary Forest Inc.

June 9, 2008

Martha Spencer
Senior Planner
Community Development Services
Planning Division, Humboldt County
3015 H. St
Eureka, CA 95501



Dear Ms. Spencer,

The Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC) endorses the comments on the Water Resources, Biological Resources, and Open Space and Conservation Elements submitted by the Trees Foundation on June 9, 2008 for inclusion in the development of the Humboldt County General Plan Update.

EPIC does believe that incorporation of these goals will help limit the impacts on the environment of existing and future rural residential development while sustaining rural lifestyles and natural resources. We also believe incorporation of these goals into the General Plan update will significantly improve its effectiveness to guide land use and resource management in rural residential communities and areas zoned for rural residential development, as well as for small non-industrial timber production parcels.

EPIC recognizes that the goals, policies, standards and implementation of the updated General Plan will have profound consequences for the future health of Humboldt County's rivers, forests, wildlife and other environment resources as well as the character of our communities and quality of life.

Sincerely,

/s/

Scott Greacen,
Executive Director



Planning Commission
c/o Martha Spencer
Community Development Service
Humboldt County
3014 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

June 10, 2008

Dear Commissioners:

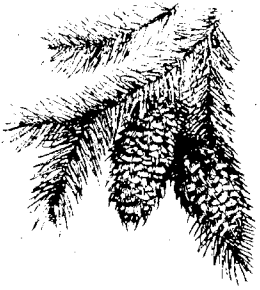
The Healthy Humboldt Coalition would like to add its support for the comments submitted by the Trees Foundation regarding the Water and Biological Resources elements within the General Plan Update.

The Healthy Humboldt Coalition is comprised of Humboldt Baykeeper, The North Group of the Sierra Club, Democracy Unlimited of Humboldt County, Green Wheels, Humboldt Watershed Alliance, and the Northcoast Environmental Center.

Sincerely,

/s/

Jonathan Beslow
Field Organizer
Healthy Humboldt Coalition



ANCIENT FOREST INTERNATIONAL

Martha Spencer
Senior Planner
Community Development Services
Planning Division
3015 H. St
Eureka, CA 95501

June 9, 2008

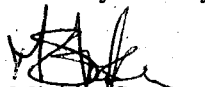
Dear Ms. Spencer,

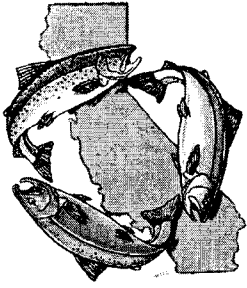
Ancient Forest International strongly supports the recommended changes identified in the Trees Foundation general plan update proposal. These community-based zoning recommendations evolved from an understanding of public trust resources preservation and restoration goals and experience by many rural landowners with success implementing those goals on-the-ground.

As a local nonprofit organization we have been leading proponents of successful conservation and restoration projects in the southern Humboldt rural landscape. These collaborative achievements included the Gilham Butte acquisition, nearly 300,000 acres of new federal wilderness in the region, and the Headwaters Forest Reserve. We also helped develop the Redwoods-To-Sea project, to aid rural landowners in coordinating sustainable stewardship goals in the Mattole, South Fork Eel watersheds. These private rural lands when stewarded in an ecologically sensitive manner provide: the functional connection between large public and private conservation lands throughout this section of the County, insure water quality, river and forest recovery, wildlife corridors, and are the foundation for thriving rural communities.

The proposed zoning amendments stated in the Trees Foundation package will assist the County in achieving its legal environmental obligations under County, state, and federal resource regulations and policies. We strongly support their inclusion in the Humboldt County general plan.

Thank you for your consideration.


Mishka Straka
President



Salmonid Restoration Federation

June 10, 2008

Martha Spencer
Senior Planner, Planning Division
Community Development Services
3015 H. St
Eureka, CA 95501

Dear Ms. Spencer,

Salmonid Restoration Federation is a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to promoting salmonid recovery through education, outreach, and advocacy. SRF is based in Humboldt County and we have been involved in habitat restoration training in this county for over 25 years. SRF is pleased to support the citizen-developed set of comments for inclusion in development of the Humboldt County General Plan Update submitted by Trees Foundation and we have additional suggestions that would benefit salmon recovery efforts.

We believe that incorporation of these goals will help limit the impacts of existing and future rural residential development on the environment while sustaining both rural lifestyles and natural resources. These amendments will improve land use and resource management in areas zoned for rural residential development, as well as for small non-industrial timber production parcels. SRF is especially concerned about encouraging aquaculture and mariculture as it says in item WR-S9 C because of the known perils of fish farming and its impact on wild stocks.

Within rural residential communities there is a proliferating network of community-based groups and non-governmental organizations representing incredible commitment, community cohesiveness and tens of millions of grant and cost share dollars invested. The Humboldt County General Plan must build upon and support the success of these watershed planning and resource stewardship efforts.

SRF supports the goal to create a County program of stewardship incentives encouraging and supporting rural residential landowners in taking collective and individual actions to sustain, restore and conserve natural resources under private ownership. We also support the creation of community-based planning processes appropriate to the structure of rural residential communities guiding implementation of the general plan at the watershed sub-basin level.

We believe that reducing sources of potential pollution, would require the creation of ordinances to address sources of toxic run-off, as well as transportation, storage, and receptacles of toxics.

Here are some specific recommendations to integrate into the proposed Watershed Resources tasks:

WR-P5. Projects and ministerial actions, including building permits, must provide evidence of water availability and DFG LSAA if required prior to recordation of map.* (3361.5)

WR-P12. Rivers, streams, ponds, and wetlands shall be integrated into new development in such a way that they enhance the aesthetic and natural character and the ecosystem functions of the site while disturbance to the resource is avoided or minimized and fragmentation is limited.

WR-P18. Continue to support local storm water and community watershed group efforts to inform the public about and implement practices and programs to minimize water pollution and restore watersheds and salmonid and other fisheries and aquatic wildlife habitat.

WR-P20. The availability of groundwater should be used as a prime factor in determining the desirable amount of residential development in a particular area and should be regionally determined by a groundwater management plan in order to protect groundwater resources from depletion or contamination, or depletion of surface flows. (3361.5)

WR-P23. Be willing to modify policies and programs as new information becomes available through recommendations from groundwater management plans...

WR-P26. Require consideration of naturally occurring and human caused contaminants in groundwater in new development projects. Work with the NCRWQCB, watershed groups and others to educate the public on evaluating the quality of groundwater through integrative basin-level groundwater management planning.

WR-P51 Encourage community-based watershed groups and groundwater management plans to support research and monitoring of local ground water conditions, aquifer recharge, watersheds and streams.

WR-P28. Support to the extent feasible the actions and facilities needed by public water systems to supply water sufficient to meet the demands which are estimated in adopted master facilities plans, consistent with adopted general plans, urban water management plans, watershed management plans and the sustainable yields of the available resources and in a manner protective of the natural environment. Plans should also consider the seasonality of the water supply and the effects of climate change. Policies for public services need to recognize that water sources are frequently dependent upon watershed management upstream.

WR-P29. Assist public water suppliers in assuring that proposed water supplies and facilities, including adequate storage, are consistent with adopted general plans, that all planning jurisdictions are notified of and consider potential water supply deficiencies, particularly on a seasonal basis, during the preparation of such plans, and that adopted general plans accurately reflect secure water sources consistent with watershed management principles.

WR-G4. Increase the roles of conservation, storage, and safe, beneficial recharge and re-use in meeting water supply needs of both urban and rural users. Utilize natural bioremediation systems such as the Arcata Marsh.

Sincerely,

Dana Stolzman
Executive Director
Salmonid Restoration Federation



**Friends of
Small Places**

Post Office Box 1181, Blue Lake, CA 95525 (707)768-1943
www.friendsofsmallplaces.org

Martha Spencer
Senior Planner
Community Development Services
Planning Division
3015 H. St
Eureka, CA 95501

June 10, 2008

Dear Ms. Spencer,


I represent the community advocacy group Friends of Small Places. Our organization, members and supporters whole heartedly support the citizen-developed set of comments submitted by the Trees Foundation for inclusion in development of the Humboldt County General Plan Update.

We believe that incorporation of these goals will help limit the impacts of existing and future rural residential development on the environment while sustaining both rural lifestyles and natural resources. These amendments will improve land use and resource management in areas zoned for rural residential development, as well as for small non-industrial timber production parcels.

Within rural residential communities there is a proliferating network of community-based groups and non-governmental organizations representing incredible commitment, community cohesiveness and tens of millions of grant and cost share dollars invested. The Humboldt County General Plan must build upon and support the success of these watershed planning and resource stewardship efforts.

I support the goal to create a County program of stewardship incentives encouraging and supporting rural residential landowners in taking collective and individual actions to sustain, restore and conserve natural resources under private ownership. I also support the creation of community-based planning processes appropriate to the structure of rural residential communities guiding implementation of the general plan at the watershed sub-basin level.

Sincerely,



Carlos Quilez
Exec. Dir.
Friends of Small Places



Democracy Unlimited of Humboldt County

Planning Commission
c/o Martha Spencer
Community Development Service
Humboldt County
3014 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

DUHC

Steering Committee

June 10, 2008

• Kaitlin Sopoci-Belknap
Executive Director

• David Cobb
National Projects Director

• Shannon Tracey
Outreach Director

• Jared Wilken
Operations Director

• Jon Zaiglin
Local Projects Director

Our Mission

We educate citizens about the illegitimate seizure of our authority to govern ourselves. We design and implement grassroots strategies that exercise democratic power over corporations and governments. We seek to create a truly democratic society in Humboldt County that can serve as a model for other communities across the United States.

Dear Commisioners:

On behalf of the 2,000+ local supporters of Democracy Unlimited, we would like to submit our endorsement for the thoughtful comments provided to the County by the Trees Foundation with regard to the Water and Biological Resources Elements for the General Plan Update.

Sincerely,
/s/

Kaitlin Sopoci-Belknap, David Cobb, Shannon Tracey, Jared Wilken, Jon Zaglin
Democracy Unlimited of Humboldt County Steering Committee

mail: Post Office Box 610 Eureka, California 95502-0610

phone: (707) 269-0984 • **web:** www.DUHC.org • **email:** info@DUHC.org

Richard Gienger
Box 283, Whitethorn
<rgrocks@humboldt.net>
California 95589
707-923-2931
707-223-6474
10 June 2008

Planning Division
Humboldt County Community Development Services Department
Clark Complex
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501-4484

Dear Planning Division:

I writing this letter in regard to the General Plan Update and related matters on behalf of myself and the "Restoration Leadership Project." Rather than focusing on the myriad details involved in the complex and seemingly unending process of the General Plan Update and critical related issues, I am going to try and outline some overarching principles and actions that could make the General Plan a success with broad public support. Some more detailed actions will be referenced.

The perspective I bring to this process stems from the experience of a young bright-eyed couple moving to the Painter Creek watershed in the Mattole Valley in 1971, through the subsequent raising of a family, and the related trials and tribulations of homesteading, of a watershed restoration vocation, and a dedication to the recovery of damaged forests and fisheries habitat. My own particular experience has evolved into trying to find common ground whereby the range of interests of the various so-called stakeholders can coalesce into a economically and socially viable future in harmony with the lands, waters, and wildlife. In venues such as CalFire's Forest Stewardship Working Group, in the recent past, and in the current Buckeye Conservancy's Forest Project Group and in the respective Forest Futures Projects of the Mattole Restoration Council (MattoleRC) and the Institute for Sustainable Forestry (ISF), many persons of many persuasions continue to work hard to achieve 'relief and incentives' for non-industrial landowners to maintain resource lands in resource conservation and productivity.

In order for people to work together toward those ends, they must be secure in their dwellings and lands and willing to take responsibility for future generations. The county needs to facilitate such well-being and responsibility. County actions should not be intimidating to persons and families that do not pose an actual threat to health and safety. County actions should encourage

responsibility and innovation, such as the Sanctuary Forest Mattole Flow Program, and not be an impediment.

I think the county needs to examine the history of the last 30 years or so, learn from it, and enable a current clean slate (see the 1982 Mendocino County ordinance) so that homeowners will be secure and that only the real problems to health and safety will be addressed. A crucial factor in attaining a good health and safety starting point would be having qualified third-party consultants carry out inspections and certifications.

It is with those kinds of approaches in mind, that I drafted "restoration zoning" language twice in the last three years. That language is attached.

Some of the more detailed language that complements and/or would help define "restoration zoning" or "restoration initiative areas" has been submitted under the auspices of Trees Foundation and others. The basic concept is that areas that have already been 'settled', and have associations of landowners that can agree to implement a certain number of precepts such as fuel hazard reduction, road improvements, erosion control, watershed & forest restoration activities, and certain alternative low-impact technologies would be eligible for some kind of relief or incentives from the county. One kind of assistance the county could offer is fundraising for implementation of restoration activities.

Lastly, a sane approach to conservation of productive forest and agriculture lands needs to be attained. The chances of this happening are greatly increased if such programs as described above are implemented. ISF and the Humboldt Watershed Council (HWC) have both submitted various proposals that could enable keeping the most valuable resource lands in productivity in perpetuity, while respecting private property rights and having development directed in the least damaging direction.

Positive visions for the future need to be emphasized rather than punitive threats and fear provoking actions. In order to work on common goals of personal and public benefit, the county needs to support domestic security, health & safety -- while facilitating a strong, healthy, and economic conservation relationship with the natural resources that support us.

Sincerely,

Richard Gienger

**Proposed Policy and Action
to be Included in the General Plan Update**

Rural residential areas need to have "Restoration" zoning alternatives that give some form of "Relief/Incentives" to landowners, and especially to associations of landowners, that agree to cooperate and carry out activities reducing adverse impacts to forestland, wildlife, and water. Such activities would include infrastructure improvement/simplification, reduction of erosion & sedimentation, reduction of fuel hazards, increase of the commercial and wildlife values of forestland, watershed/fisheries restoration, and other related/similar activities.

**Proposed Language Changes
in the Humboldt County General Plan
to Incorporate Zoning for Small Nonindustrial Timber Ownerships
and Communities that Encourages and Facilitates Cooperation in the
Implementation of Measures to Reduce Fuel Hazards,
Increase Timberland Productivity & Sustainability,
and Restore & Maintain Healthy Watershed Conditions --
and to endorse certain specific processes
such as the PTEIR/PTHP to help achieve the above goals**

ADD: Option 3.2.d. The County shall create a special zoning for watersheds (Calwater Planning watershed scale) that have a significant proportion of non-industrial timberland owners -- a zoning that will encourage and facilitate activity by Firesafe Councils and other entities that will result in cooperative efforts to reduce fuel hazards, and also to implement measures to recover and enhance timberland productivity along with watershed, wildlife, and fisheries health.

ADD: Option 3.4a. The County shall encourage and facilitate the preparation and approvals of Program Timberland Environmental Impact Reports (PTEIRs), that enable forestland owners to use simplified Program Timber Harvesting Plans (PTHPs) to accomplish such appropriate goals as fuel hazard reduction, sustainable forestry, stable and low impact road systems, and watershed recovery measures for fisheries and other important watershed values and resources.

To: Martha Spencer
Senior Planner
Community Development Services
Planning Division, Humboldt County
3015 H. St
Eureka, CA 95501
From: Dr. Lauren J. Oliver
Date: June 8, 2008

Dear Ms. Spencer,

I strongly support inclusion in the Humboldt County General Plan Update of the citizen-drafted restoration-based comments on the Water, Biological Resources, and Open Space & Conservation Elements, being submitted through Trees Foundation.

I am calling for these "watershed-based" goals to be added to the next draft of the General Plan Update. They are relevant to rural residential as well as small non-industrial timber production parcels, and will advance common conservation and restoration goals across Humboldt's rural landscape. These are the goals that will sustain the beauty and uniqueness of Humboldt County - the natural resources which draw most of us to live here.

I believe that incorporation of these goals will help limit the impacts of existing and future rural residential development on the environment while sustaining both rural lifestyles and natural resources. I also believe incorporation of these goals into the General Plan update will significantly improve its effectiveness to guide land use and resource management in rural residential communities and areas zoned for rural residential development, as well as for small non-industrial timber production parcels

I look forward to your serious consideration, and recognition of the value to the General Plan Update.

/s/
Dr. Lauren J. Oliver
15 Cinch Court
Shelter Cove, CA

Office: 176 Rusk, Redway
707-923-0152