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RE: TPZ zoning

I feel that conversion of THP Zone land will ultimately negatively impact not only our ability to produce timber resources for market demand, but also will negatively impact our salmon and steelhead resources in local Humboldt Co. watersheds. In my personal opinion rural subdivision has resulted in non-permitted water withdrawals (Calif. Dept. of Water Resources Water Rights Permit Process), resulted in sub-standard road design and alignments (neighbors don't always cooperate with each other on sharing their ownerships for proper road design and placement) and these two impacts will, again in my opinion hinder building fish populations to levels that will facilitate de-listing under the Endangered Species Act.

Background:

I received a BS Degree from Humboldt State University in Fisheries in 1976 and did post-graduate work in Watershed Management at the same institution.

I was born and raised in Humboldt Co. and during this time have worked in the fishing industry, logging industry and the watershed/fisheries restoration industry.

In doing so I have interfaced with numerous private landowners, and am a landowner myself; with properties in the Miranda area and in the Eureka area. I have a Non-industrial Timber Management (NTMP) on my Miranda property and maintain two (2) water rights, and file water use and pay the newly implemented water rights fees, on my Miranda property.

Input:

When I have talked with rural landowners in Souther Humboldt County about the recent fees imposed on DWR Water Rights Permits, I am mostly always responded to with a "blank stare". Most rural landowners in my opinion probably do not have permitted water use for their ownerships (non-documented personal opinion). Fish need water to survive, and currently listed salmonid species require adequate water quantity and quality to restore their populations and at some future date be removed from listing status. Rural subdivision will in all likelihood result in more loss of our fisheries resource and may be in direct conflict with the ESA listing. At the present time many populations rely on private forest ownerships for their very survival and recovery efforts (along with public lands such as US Forest Service, BLM, State and National Parks). The establishment of my Non-industrial Timber Management Plan required revue by many agency pesonnel, in order to protect natural resource values. Road alignment, drainage and surfacing was done with agency oversight to protect water quality. Conversion to rural subdivision will, in my opinion, result in poor road design (grading ordinances are supposed to address this I think), greater water extraction (non-permitted) and more dogs and cats introductions that negatively impact wildlife populations. It will also negatively impact the forest products industry by removing timber production as a goal beneficial to our local economy.

Therefore I strongly urge your consideration of the values associated with, and that will be lost with loss of our productive TPZ that exists in Humboldt County.

Thanks for your consideration,

