

DATE: June 13, 2007  
TO: Forestry Review Committee  
FROM: Maggy Herbelin  
RE: General Plan Draft Forest Resources Document

The Humboldt Bay Watershed Advisory Committee (HBWAC), a community stakeholder group comprised of a cross section of parties having an interest in and responsibility for fish habitat conditions spent several years developing the Salmon and Steelhead Habitat Conservation Plan for the California Department of Fish and Game. The Plan outlines the current conditions of fish habitat in each of the seven watersheds of Humboldt Bay and identifies specific areas for improvement and enhancement of current conditions. Many identified spawning and rearing habitat areas are in the upper reaches of the watershed and consequently in forest areas.

With this in mind I would like to suggest that wording be added to this document recognizing the interdependence of forest lands and fish habitat. I have taken the time to go through the document and add wording in the appropriate places. Specifically stating the importance of fish habitat rather than using "compatible uses" will give more direction to those using this document for guidance in development here in Humboldt County. Included in the review are also comments about fish passage and connectivity of waterways for fish access to spawning and rearing areas.

In addition, some comments address permeable pavement usage for upgrading existing roads and construction of new roads. Roads are the number one contributor to sedimentation of our waterways and consequently have adverse effects on our fish. At a recent workshop presented here in Humboldt County experts from throughout the country educated about 150 local agency people, contractors and the public about the benefits of permeable pavement usage to control pollution and runoff issues. Currently one of the difficulties in promoting the usage of permeable pavement is the lack of ordinances and guideline for its use. I would like to see Humboldt County be a forerunner in advancing the usage of permeable pavement.

Thank you for listening to my comments and hopefully integrating them into the document.