

Merkel, Karynn

From: Joyce King
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 3:06 PM
To: Planning Clerk
Subject: Comment on Biol Resources
Attachments: JK BiolComment3-11.docx



Please give to Planning Commissioners

Thank you
Joyce King
McKinleyville
Comment to Planning Commission on Biological Resources

Wild salmon is an indicator species for the health of this bioregion. It has been a critical link in the food chain for humans & wildlife for millennia, and important to the regional economy for over a century --and its commercial value is rising steadily with demand for foods that are healthy for people and the environment. The UC Berkeley Wellness Newsletter pretty much snubs the heart benefits from non-fish Omega 3 oils, and advises at least a weekly serving of mackerel, sardines, or salmon. Which would you choose?

In Feb 2011 National Marine Fisheries Service status reported that --since the 2005 Central Coast Calif Coho salmon status review, which declared them *in danger of extinction* --- coho populations have declined and conditions have worsened. The North Coast may be doing only slightly better. The NMFS report on us is coming soon.

Now may be our only opportunity to avoid the extinction threat & expense of the mandatory recovery process faced by neighboring coastal units.

In my past volunteer work with Salmon Forever's sediment monitoring of Freshwater Creek and Elk River, - two of Hum Bay's best local salmon-bearing tributaries, - much of the sediment impacts to salmon spawning and feeding were observed to be increased by historically and currently altered streamside vegetation, -- resulting in increased surface erosion, streambank scour, and reduced inputs of large woody debris. Adequate streamside management & riparian buffers are *essential* --and given the inevitable variances and difficulties of enforcement-- the Alternative A policies are probably the *minimum* necessary.

As we have seen here, Humboldt is blessed with scientists possessing national, even international, expertise on biological resource issues. And there are many others, including Dr. Leslie Reid, research geologist with Arcata 's USFS Redwood Sciences Laboratory - who has scores of academic and professional publications, including *extensive studies of local sediment issues and riparian buffers*.

Please *carefully* weigh the opinions which come with *highly regarded scientific credentials* against those with special financial interests. We have seen too much polarization and incomplete information driving this process. We need a plan which will help end the *decline of the natural resources on which this county's long term well-being depends*. Our *biological diversity* is a critical indicator of the health of those resources.