



Court Boice, *Commissioner*

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RE: Proposed Lower Sixes Salmon Restoration Project - - Curry County

Dear NOAA Review Committee -- Your Great Work Is Appreciated.

I am a life-time Oregonian, Curry Resident and local County Commissioner. To my family, friends and Citizens -- the Sixes River represents nothing short of a sacred stream to us. It is without question one of the jewels of the Oregon Coast, yet it has been badly damaged by erosion in its lower tidal reach over the past 20 years. We all hope to one day delist the Oregon Coast Coho from the Endangered Species inventory. This plan is exactly the type of project that will help us to accomplish that, especially in a river like the Curry Sixes that is managed as a wild fish river. I can't stress strongly enough how important salmon projects like this one is for Curry County, so it's why I'm proud to endorse and hopefully assist with this important comprehensive and environmentally sound plan.

This restoration will restore approximately 2,600 feet of 20 to 30 foot high severe bank erosion just upriver from the estuary. To accomplish this it will add significant salmonid habitat like large willow clusters and big wood fish houses to the bank, recreating a natural riparian corridor. In addition to repairing the river's badly damaged corridor in this area, it will also save a heritage agricultural property that has been successfully ranched for generations. This reach of the river is impaired for sediment, temperature, and it's lacking in-river big wood habitat and off-channel over-winter habitat.

This restoration will create new off-channel salmonid rearing habitat along the river's upper bank area by creating 4 significant overwinter, off-channel habitat pools (for juvenile salmonid rearing and shelter on adjoining Green Creek). This type of "feed lot" habitat is especially important for out-migrating juvenile Coho, as it virtually allows them to double their growth rate, giving them a much greater chance at return.

This restoration also develops a very cost-effective bio-remediation model which will create a "diamond necklace" of large fish houses, willow clusters and living willow sediment baffles along the erosion run. This non-traditional but effective remediation approach took estimated construction costs from \$2.6 million dollars to approximately \$450 thousand (which again includes the new off-channel habitat pools on Green Creek).

I'm most happy that my lifelong friend Cam Parry of River Docs is leading the team that will tackle this ambitious restoration. Like me, he spent many hours on these rivers as a young man, learning every twist and turn...and learning to love our once healthy and unique Oregon Coastal Salmon Runs. Cam has become a leading

restoration and fisheries policy voice in our state and he and his team have been honored across North America for their outstanding salmon enhancement work.

Sports and commercial fishing, active and passive tourism use of our fishery resources, and wildlife habitat for raptors, migratory birds and fur bearing mammals will all greatly benefit from this project. To all of us in this rural coastal county and community...that means everything!

Every resource-based dollar we can generate is so important to our families, our visitors, our culture and certainly our future. Please support this wonderful project. This critically important restoration means everything to the people of Curry County.

Sincerely,

Court Boice
Curry County Oregon Commissioner