



# COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

## Flood Control & Water Conservation District

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March 1, 2022

California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Watershed Restoration Grants Branch  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

### Re: Scott Watershed Meadow Restoration Project

To Whom It May Concern,

The Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, which acts as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Scott Valley groundwater basin, is writing in support of the **Scott Watershed Meadow Restoration Project**. As many groundwater basins within California have done, the Siskiyou County GSA has recently completed the Scott River Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) which outlines multiple projects and management actions (PMAs) necessary to achieve the Basin's sustainability goals. The Scott Watershed Meadow Restoration Project is tied to Tier II PMAs, "East Fork Scott Project" and the "Upslope Water Yield Project", mentioned in Chapter 4 of the Scott Valley GSP, and are planned for near-term initiation and implementation. These projects support GSP objectives by increasing water yield from the upper watershed, especially the East Fork and French Creek, through green infrastructure. Green infrastructure may include: fuel reduction, road improvements, canopy opening to manage snow shade and accumulation, and other actions that reduce direct runoff. These actions will assist in achieving the thresholds and objectives for the interconnected surface water sustainability indicator and avoiding additional stresses on interconnected surface water and their groundwater dependent habitats.

The GSA, supports the Scott River Watershed Council's (SRWC) project application. The SRWC has been an active, community-based watershed restoration coordination group since 1992 and is recognized by the GSA as an important partner in promoting watershed restoration and forest health. The Scott River Watershed is host to some of the most significant spawning and rearing habitat in the Klamath Basin for the Southern Oregon Northern California Coastal Coho Salmon and supports other cold-water dependent species including Chinook Salmon, Steelhead Trout, and Pacific Lamprey. The Scott River has also been listed on the Clean Water Act Section 303d list of impaired waters by the United States Environmental Protection Agency as impaired for elevated instream temperature, fine sediment, and biostimulatory conditions.

Water retention capacity in upland meadows is an important hydrologic reserve that may help augment water supply in late spring to early summer and support the development and preservation of cold-water refugial areas near the mountain front of the valley. SRWC has identified both public and private forest lands that offer unique opportunities to investigate the capacity of upland areas within the Scott River Watershed to support these outcomes and seeks to prioritize process-based restoration approaches to reduce fuel loading, conifer encroachment, and the loss/simplification of meadow habitat. The information produced from this approach can then be applied to the wider Klamath Basin and North Coast Region of California and significantly accelerate the scale and scope of restoration to achieve landscape scale, multiple ecological benefits.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Brandon A. Criss, Chair

Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District