



# COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

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## Board of Supervisors

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May 5, 2022

Mr. Matt Baun  
Klamath Coordinator  
United States Fish and Wildlife  
1655 Heindon Road  
Arcata, CA 95521  
Sent Via Email: [matt\\_baun@fws.gov](mailto:matt_baun@fws.gov)

**Re: Support Letter for MWCD's proposal to USFWS Klamath Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Law**

Dear Mr. Baun:

The Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors would like to express our strong support for Montague Water Conservation District's (MWCD) multi-discipline project titled, *MWCD-Upper Shasta River Infrastructure Improvement for Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Project*. MWCD will submit the proposed project for funding to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, through the Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Law.

MWCD is proposing a multi-discipline project that includes project implementation, completion of design and permitting for two important instream flow enhancement projects and continuance funding to attain State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) approval to provide conserved flows for instream benefit. The projects share a common goal to enhance the upper reaches of Parks Creek and the Shasta River with an emphasis to improve and protect cold, dependable over-summering habitat, the assumed primary limiting factor in the Shasta River for Coho Salmon. The proposed projects seeking funding from this proposal are not all projects resulting from MWCD's conservation strategy. Two of the proposed projects are for neighboring properties of MWCD whom collaborative projects have been developed to benefit both the upper reaches of Parks Creek and the Upper reach of Shasta River below Dwinnell Reservoir. The cumulative benefits will be felt throughout the watershed during extended periods of the year when implemented.

The project components in MWCD's proposal are summarized below:

1.) MWCD-Canal Lining- Upper Shasta River: MWCD is proposing to line 1.19 miles of MWCD's Main Canal where transmission loss has been identified to be significant. In exchange for funding, MWCD will permanently provide 718 acre feet annually for instream benefit during an average water year. MWCD also commits to ensure that the water temperature at MWCD's monitoring and verification site located on the Shasta River below Dwinnell Dam remains less than 18°C throughout the calendar year, providing critical over-summering habitat as well as flow enhancements throughout the calendar year. MWCD has developed a daily flow schedule for instream benefit with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) throughout the calendar year based on 5 water year types determined by storage in Dwinnell Reservoir and snow pack.

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Brandon Criss  
*District 1*

Ed Valenzuela  
*District 2*

Michael Kobseff  
*District 3*

Nancy Ogren  
*District 4*

Ray Haupt  
*District 5*

2.) Design and Permitting of Hole in the Ground Ranch Diversion Combination Project: This project would connect two existing diversions via a proposed pipeline. The proposed project would provide an estimated .9-1.4 acre feet per day of conserved water that would be provided for instream benefit as a result of project implementation. The project design would allow a critical spring to be isolated during the summer, expanding cold water habitat. The current design is roughly 75% completed but permitting and approval processes have not been conducted. This proposal is seeking design, permitting and approval completion, moving the project to a shovel ready condition with 18 months from receipt of contract.

3.) Design and Permitting of Edson-Foulke Ditch and Parks Creek Ranch compliant diversion and water conservation project(s): MWCD, Parks Creek and Edson-Foulke Ditch Association comprise of the parties that developed the Upper Parks Creek Flow Strategy with the CDFW and NOAA that considers all life stage needs for Coho Salmon in the upper Parks Creek Reach. In exchange for a complaint diversion infrastructure and water conservation projects, Parks Creek Ranch and Edson-Foulke Ditch Association will provide up to 5.8 cfs of their combined water rights to instream benefit, prior to diverting. Completed design and permitting of this project will allow one of the most impactful projects on Parks Creek to seek implementation funds. The conserved water will be protected for over 22 stream miles as a result of Safe Harbor Agreements and an existing forbearance agreements. Instream dedications through submittal of a SWRCB petition including WC 1707 are a requested component of this proposal.

4.) Continued funding to secure instream dedication for multiple participants: MWCD is seeking funds to continue professional support that is assisting MWCD, Grenada Irrigation District, Hidden Valley Ranch and Cardoza Ranch acquire SWRCB approval to provide and protect conserved water for instream benefit in both Parks Creek and the Shasta River. Combined, the participants would provide over 5,700 acre-feet of conserved water for instream benefit on an average year. The parties also contribute conserved water to critical stream reaches that are providing over-summering habitat.

MWCD and participating ranches will work with the Shasta Watershed Conservation Group to continue broad collaboration, transparency and commitment to implement the above-mentioned projects. We encourage the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to give MWCD's proposal consideration and provide funding for this important project through the Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Law.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Brandon A. Criss

Chair, Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors