Project Name: Transforming the Beaver Valley Headwaters Preserve - a Holistic, Community Based Approach to Restoring a Klamath River Salmon Stronghold

Readiness to proceed: Ready for construction - when funded all project components will be completed within 4 years. By summer of 2024, fish passage and restoration designs will be 65% to 100% complete and environmental permits will be underway, all with full landowner support.

What will this project do? Our team will take a holistic and landscape scale approach to transforming aquatic resources on a large ranch in the heart of Northern California's salmon country. The Beaver Valley Headwaters Preserve, purchased by The Wildlands Conservancy (TWC) in 2021, is a 6,000 acre ranch on the East Fork Scott River that encompasses **6.8** miles of aquatic habitat for federally listed species. Approximately 85% of anadromous fish habitat in the Scott River watershed is on private property, which means that cooperation with private landowners such as TWC is pivotal to the recovery and conservation of aquatic species and their habitats. This project is an exceptional opportunity to support shared goals between TWC, CalTrout, and local project partners to restore ecological balance to the Preserve, protecting its beauty and biodiversity, and providing programs for community engagement.

Historic land use, development, beaver depredation, and climate change have all resulted in degraded aquatic habitat on the property. Through our project actions, we will improve climate resiliency, habitat quality and quantity on the Preserve by enhancing aquatic habitat complexity and reconnecting historic floodplains. We plan to build a series of Beaver Dam Analogs (BDAs) along Noyes Valley Creek, one of the largest tributaries to the East Fork Scott River, slowing and storing water to promote groundwater recharge. Along the East Fork Scott River, we will incorporate large wood structures to enhance side channel activation, floodplain connection, capture sediment and promote habitat creation for aquatic species. We will also incorporate riparian planting with native species to reduce bank erosion as well as provide shade. Our team will assess the points of diversion on the property and design appropriate fish protection measures, such as on-channel fish screens. One of the largest project components includes restoring volitional fish passage to **1.4** miles of salmonid (Coho) rearing and spawning habitat, currently blocked by a perched culvert on the Highway 3 crossing over Big Mill Creek. Additionally, we are working closely with the Siskiyou County Office of Education, The Karuk Tribe, and the Quartz Valley Indian Reservation (QVIR) to incorporate community engagement and youth programs, enhancing local interaction with the ecosystems and the history of the Preserve.

Why is this project important? This Project offers an exceptional opportunity to have a transformative impact on the recovery and conservation of federally threatened coho salmon and their critical habitat in an underserved community, with strong tribal support. The Klamath River is one of California's largest salmon producing rivers, currently at the precipice of a huge dam removal effort– globally one of the largest river restoration projects to date. The Scott River, one of the largest tributaries to the Klamath River, produces the greatest number of federally threatened coho salmon in the mid-Klamath Basin. The actions executed under this project are identified as top priorities for recovery in the NOAA Fisheries Final Recovery Plan for coho salmon. This project will create direct and measurable benefits for other native wild fish stocks including Chinook salmon, steelhead and Pacific lamprey by improving habitat quality and proving additional resilience throughout a range of water year types, temperature regimes and future conditions expected under climate change.

This project benefits from a diverse team of over a dozen project partners including TWC, QVIR, the Karuk Tribe, NOAA Fisheries, the Scott River Water Trust, the Scott River Watershed Council, Siskiyou County Department of Education, California Department of Transportation, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California State Waterboard and others. TWC, CalTrout and a host of project partners are working as a team to promote public engagement and education opportunities on the Preserve. The project will focus on employing local community members and tribal youth, boosting economic vitality to the 8,000 residents of the Scott Valley, which consists of disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities (US Census Bureau, 2018).

What benefits will the project provide? This project will provide landscape scale restoration to **6.8 miles** of anadromous fish habitat on the East Fork Scott River, significantly benefiting the recovery and conservation of federally threatened coho salmon, Chinook salmon, steelhead, and Pacific Lamprey. We will remove a fish passage barrier on Big Mill Creek, allowing access to **1.4 miles** of year-round cold-water habitat that has been inaccessible

for decades to federally listed species. Additionally, we will promote inclusion of tribal and underserved communities through education, outreach, and partnership. When the project is complete, we will have transformed the landscape of the East Fork Scott River and enhanced community and ecosystem resilience to climate change.

Cold water pouring out of a perched culvert during late summer during a historic drought, 2022. Coho Salmon listed under the Endangered Species Act are waiting below the culvert to move upstream to historical rearing habitats. This project would replace the culvert with a bridge- providing year-round access to high-quality upstream habitats.

The Beaver Valley Headwaters Preserve is a priority for recovery of Coho salmon, Chinook salmon, steelhead, Pacific lamprey and other native fish species. This project will restore ecological balance to all aspects of the aquatic resources on this 6,000-acre ranch.