November 7, 2023

Natalie McLenaghan
Competition Manager
NOAA Office of Habitat Conservation
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

**RE: NOAA Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grant – Transforming the Beaver Valley Headwaters Preserve - a Holistic, Community Based Approach to Restoring a Klamath River Salmon Stronghold**

Members of the Grant Selection Committee:

The County of Siskiyou Board of Supervisors is writing in support for California Trout’s application for grant funding for the *Transforming the Beaver Valley Headwaters Preserve - a Holistic, Community Based Approach to Restoring a Klamath River Salmon Stronghold Project*. The project team will take a landscape scale approach to restoring aquatic resources on a large ranch, owned by The Wildlands Conservancy, in the heart of Northern California’s salmon country. 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 project actions will improve climate resiliency, habitat quality and quantity on the Preserve by enhancing aquatic habitat complexity and reconnecting historic floodplains, and restoring 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. In partnership with CalTrans, the project will also 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, California Trout is promoting public engagement and education opportunities with local community members and tribal partners.

This project is ready for construction - when funded, all project components will be constructed within 4 years. Currently, fish passage and restoration designs are 65% to 100% complete, environmental permits are underway and will be acquired by summer 2024, and the project has full landowner support.

The County of Siskiyou Board of Supervisors is in support of this application for funding of the *Transforming the Beaver Valley Headwaters Preserve - a Holistic, Community Based Approach to Restoring a Klamath River Salmon Stronghold Project* and urge the Committee to consider California Trout’s application for the NOAA Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience grant.

This letter was approved by the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors on November 7, 2023 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Sincerely,

Ed Valenzuela, Chair

Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors