



COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

Board of Supervisors

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October 21, 2025

Jennifer M. Norris, PhD
Executive Director
Wildlife Conservation Board
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Subject: Board of Supervisors Oppose Marble Peaks Land Acquisition (Project ID: 2025087)

Dear Dr. Norris,

The Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors is submitting this letter in opposition to the proposed land acquisition of approximately 455 acres in Etna, California, by The Nature Conservancy (Project ID: 2025087).

The Board is concerned about the ongoing loss of taxable land within Siskiyou County and the corresponding reduction in local control over land management. More than sixty percent of land within Siskiyou County is already managed by federal and state agencies. The proposed acquisition represents yet another reduction in our local tax base and further diminishes opportunities for local engagement in land management decisions that impact our communities. While The Nature Conservancy indicated their intention to pay property taxes, they may still pursue a tax exemption in the future, and if they ultimately sell the property to a state agency, Siskiyou County would likely lose this source of tax revenue.

Additionally, the Board has concerns regarding the project's stated objectives. The Nature Conservancy's goals of conserving property and maintaining agricultural productivity, while simultaneously increasing streamflow for coho salmon habitat, appear contradictory. Based on past experience, properties acquired under similar conservation goals often become unmaintained and unproductive, resulting in heightened fire risk and noxious weed vectors for surrounding properties and residents.

The Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors remains committed to preserving our local tax base, supporting responsible land management, mitigating wildfire risk, and sustaining agricultural productivity. For these reasons, the Board does not support The Nature Conservancy's proposed acquisition of this property or any future large-scale land acquisitions that further reduce local ownership and management within the County.

Jess Harris
District 1

Ed Valenzuela
District 2

Michael N. Kobseff
District 3

Nancy Ogren
District 4

Ray Haupt
District 5

Sincerely,

Nancy Ogren, Chair
Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors

CC: Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange
Rural County Representatives of California
Assemblywoman Heather Hadwick
Senator Megan Dahle