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Nancy

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Quality
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Dear Ladies and Gentlemen;

I am a former resident of Happy Camp, CA for over fifty years. I am a fifth generation resident of the Happy Camp area gold rush miners more than a century ago. I am a member of the Karuk Tribe of the Klamath River. I hiked the mountains hunting animals and birds, and spent time fishing lakes, creeks, and the Klamath River. I have worked on areas of the Klamath, Trinity, Salmon, Smith, Rogue, and other rivers.

I mined for gold as my mother's and father's families had done in the past. I panned for gold, hiked the mountains for lost gold mines, and helped my grandfather and uncles in suction dredge mining in the 1960s.

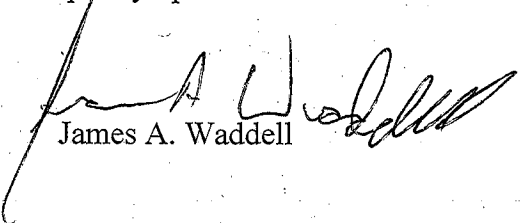
From 1970 to the 1990s, I was a CA licensed guide for Steelhead fishing by drift boat and/or jet boat. In the 1980s near Happy Camp in my fishing trips of a day, I would encounter as many as 5 to 8 suction dredge mine locations in my tours of 8-12 miles of the Klamath River. My fishermen and women caught Steelhead in fast water, slow water, suction dredge miners' water, in left-over miners' areas. Miners often told us of Steelhead and salmon in their mine tailing gravels and in their mining areas; some fish even bumping the miners on their heads, arms, and legs.

With information from many studies and reviews done regarding suction dredge mining, all that I have read from credible people indicates that **such mining does not damage water quality, ocean-going fish, or other water creatures.**

Some of those studies are:

- ✓ Huber and Blanchet, 1992.
- ✓ Lewis, 1962.
- ✓ Griffith and Andrews, 1981.
- ✓ Hassler, 1986.
- ✓ Oregon Siskiyou Dredge Study, 2001.
- ✓ California Department of Fish and Game, 1997.
- ✓ Prussian, Royer, and Minshall, 1999.

At times, dredge miners even privately hired Fishery Biologists to study water quality upstream and downstream of dredges; no water quality problems were found.


James A. Waddell