



SISKIYOU RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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N C R W Q C B

FEB 12 2007

February 5, 2007

Bruce Gwynne
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

<input type="checkbox"/> EO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WMgmt <i>BAG</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Admin
<input type="checkbox"/> AEO	<input type="checkbox"/> Timber	<input type="checkbox"/> Legal
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Re: Delisting of a Currently-listed Impaired Water Body under CWA Section 303(d): Wooley Creek, Salmon River, Klamath Basin.

Dear Mr. Gwynne:

The Siskiyou Resource Conservation District (RCD) is supporting the delisting of Wooley Creek in the Salmon River watershed as a water quality limited segment that is impaired for temperature. The Salmon River was listed in 1994 for impairments with temperature and nutrients, and was delisted for nutrient impairment during the 2004 update of the 303(d) list. In 2005, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and the State Water Resources Control Board adopted the Salmon River TMDL and Implementation Plan for Temperature. More than 98% of the Wooley Creek watershed is administered by the U.S. Forest Service Klamath National Forest, and Six River Nation Forest.

The original 303(d) list inclusion of Wooley Creek was inappropriate for several reasons. There are no human-induced or controllable sources affecting stream temperature since the pristine Wooley Creek watershed is 96.7% within a federal Wilderness Area. The Marble Mountain Wilderness Area was designated by Congress in 1964 under the National Wilderness Preservation Act, and previously had been a Primitive Area under U.S. Forest Service administrative policy since the 1930s. Anthropogenic impacts to temperature do not exist. Natural impacts, such as from wildfire and debris slides, do exist and will continue to exist. The Clean Water Act in section 303(d) specifically refers to "effluent", "pollutants", and "thermal discharges", none of which exist to impair temperature in Wooley Creek's 95,150 acre watershed.

Secondly, the beneficial uses of Wooley Creek's waters are fully protected under current management. Besides Wilderness Act protection, the creek is also designated a "wild" river under the National Wild and Scenic River System. Wooley Creek supports excellent spawning, rearing and migration habitat for important coldwater fish species: steelhead – summer, fall and winter runs, and Chinook salmon – spring and fall runs. These anadromous fish would not be successfully reproducing here if temperature was a limiting factor.

As a result, the RCD board requests that the Regional and State Water Boards recommend the delisting of Wooley Creek as impaired for Temperature under your 303(d) process.

Sincerely,

William P. Krum, President

cc:
Craig J. Wilson
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100