

November 30, 2009

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
c/o California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group

Please accept my application for participation in the North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group. I am a Biological Technician in Wildlife Research at the United States Forest Service, Chair of the Conservation Committee of the Redwood Region Audubon Society, a Dive Master, and a longtime resident of the North Coast community. I have experience in identifying protected areas, I've been a recreational abalone diver and salmon fisherman, and I have strong working relationships with leaders of the Yurok and Karuk tribes. In sum, I feel well-qualified for the task, and would be honored to serve on the north coast stakeholder group.

Name and contact information:

Chester V. Ogan
811 O. Street
Eureka, CA 95501
(707) 825-2952 (w)
(707) 442-9353 (home)
(707) 496-9001 (cell)
cogan@fs.fed.us
oganc@sbcglobal.net

Statement on meeting criteria:

1. I have a strong working knowledge of many areas of the North Coast, especially Humboldt and Del Norte County, and Fort Bragg. Recreationally, over the years I've salmon fished and abalone dived and gone on many pelagic boat trips for seabird viewing. Professionally, I was part of the Oiled Wildlife Care Network, most notably for the Stuyvesant oil spill in 1996. In 1998 I led the effort to designate Humboldt Bay as a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve.
2. I realize the MLPA process must treat the whole study area as a unit, and it is counter-productive and against science guidelines to focus on one area. I will maintain a regional perspective.
3. I am a wildlife biologist and will represent the interests of conservation groups. I will use the MLPA science guidelines as the overarching framework and

“barometer” of progress in developing consensus products, and never assume a fixed position.

4. I have good experience in this realm and am comfortable working with divergent interests to reach consensus. Examples include: a) Participation on the Humboldt County Association of Governments Highway 101 Corridor Citizen’s Advisory Committee. The committee has members drawn from business, conservation, biking, and more, who sometimes disagree on policies and recommendations. I enjoy working through these disagreements. b) Working on the FERC relicensing process for the Klamath River where I developed relationships with the Yurok, Karuk, and Hoopa Tribes. C) Working on north coast Fire Safe Councils which include members from many stakeholder groups, with different ideas on how to manage fires, and prevent fires that damage life and/or property.
5. I will use my Audubon network reaching ~700-800 members, to inform them of progress and facts related to the MLPA process.
6. I am committed to completing all aspects of the process. The requirements are compatible with my position at the Forest Service.

Brief summary of involvement in MLPA or similar collaborative public processes.
Above in (4).

Willingness to commit the time for full participation:

After careful consideration, I am willing and able to commit the time required for all aspects of the project.

Description of the organizations and individuals with which the nominee will communicate:

I will communicate with Audubon chapters and with Audubon National via the Seabird and Marine program, and with any interested community organizations, groups and individuals.

Specific Communication and outreach mechanisms:

I will use my Audubon chapter list to raise awareness, and the National program will share our progress using California list of coastal chapter members. I will present the MLPA process at chapter and chapter council meetings. I will also make at least one presentation at a community event in my area.

Areas of knowledge relevant to project:

Wildlife and silviculture research