

Application for the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group.

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Name and Contact Information:

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Office of the Secretary

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RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Meeting Selection Criteria: Communication and Outreach Experience.

I have resided in Del Norte County for fifty-seven years and was raised in a commercial fishing family. My father fished off the coast of Crescent City for twenty-five seasons on the boat, Eagle Eye. I fished as a partner with Dad during the salmon seasons of 1966, 67, and 68. During those seasons it was not uncommon for us to catch 600lbs. of Silver, King and Chinook in a single day. I also participated in numerous Dungeness crab seasons as a part time hand. During the early 1970's, we began to see a striking decline in the salmon fisheries industry, which prompted Dad to sell the Eagle Eye in 1972, to begin working in the maintenance department for Redwood National Park. Hence, I understand the need to protect and enhance fisheries habitat while encouraging our local fisheries based economy.

For the past thirty-seven years I have worked as a teacher for the Del Norte County Unified Schools District, from which I recently retired in July 2009. I now have the time to participate fully in this important MLPA process.

Though I have never worked in marine resource management, I have worked since 1975 to educate our local citizenry on the importance of protecting and creating good salmon habitat in the Smith and Klamath River Watersheds. For twenty-five years, 1975 to 2000, I helped sponsor, create and present a booth at the Del Norte County Fair, for The Friends of Del Norte, explaining how and why we should protect healthy spawning grounds in our local rivers and tributaries. We also presented charts explaining the decline of the salmon fisheries industry along our coast.

In the summer and fall of 1981- 1983, I had a small business, Water Brothers, which contracted with the U.S. Forest Service, on what was then the Six Rivers National Forest, to create better fisheries habitat on our local streams. We installed gabion-weirs, anchored logs, moved boulders, and actually removed two logjams, on streams like Myrtle Creek, Rowdy Creek, Monkey Creek, and numerous others.

In the early 1980's I was an original member of the Smith River Advisory Council. I had to resign after three years due to a conflict with our early afternoon monthly meetings and my teaching schedule.

With these experiences I have kept my finger on the pulse of our local fishing industry; however, I presently do not have the knowledge and experience of knowing what coastal habitat is best to protect or where the best fishing grounds are. I have not fished the ocean for many years. I will be willing to listen to and represent local fishermen points of view for this type of information.

Involvement in Similar Collaborative Public Processes:

During the late 1980's, I worked to help pass legislation to create the National Recreation Area within the Six Rivers National Forest Area. At the time I was the president of the Smith River Alliance and wrote letters and attended meetings to help write and pass the existing legislation. This was an extensive process lasting over two years. The NRA bill was passed in 1990. This process forced me to address many local concerns about losing Forest Service land available for logging, which would be a drain on our local economy. Numerous and varied interests had to be addressed in getting this federal legislation passed.

In the 1970's I worked through the Friends of Del Norte, a local environmental watchdog group, to encourage the 40,000 acre Redwood Creek expansion of Redwood National Park. During this same time period, I met with congressmen and wrote letters to encourage the creation of the 175,000 acre Siskiyou Wilderness Area. My underlying interest was to protect and enhance salmon spawning gravel in upper river tributaries.

In the late 1970's, I made three trips to Sacramento to lobby Congressman Doug Bosco to include the Smith River in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Legislation. This process also included several presentations to our local Del Norte County Board of Supervisors before the legislation finally passed in 1979. In 1980 I again worked collaboratively to list the Smith River under the Federal Wild and Scenic legislation.

With each of these quests I communicated with a wide variety of people with differing interests and opinions about what we were attempting to accomplish. I effectively communicate in email and hard mail modes.

Commitment to the MLPA Process:

I feel that the MLPA is an important and viable plan to protect our coastal wildlife habitat while insuring a vibrant commercial and sport fishing industry in perpetuity. We have seen our local commercial fishing industry decline for decades. Fishermen complain about being 'regulated out of business' as they

continue to extract fish. It is time to protect the resource that we have with hopes of building on it in the future. This is what I would like to see happen.

As previously stated, I have recently retired from a thirty-seven year teaching career. I have the time to commit to and fulfill the stakeholder requirements to see this process through to a successful conclusion. I like working with people, I respect this legislation and what it is mandated to do, and I am willing to travel when necessary.

Description of Organizations Enhancing Communication, and Outreach Mechanisms:

I am the past president of and current board member to The Friends of Del Norte. We have worked for the past thirty-five years to protect and guide local policy on numerous environmental issues. Prominent amongst our interests has been fisheries habitat protection and enhancement.

I am a past president of and current board member for The Smith River Alliance. This group has worked tirelessly for the past twenty-five years to protect and enhance fisheries habitat on the Smith River Watershed. We have created and financially support a Watershed Institute at Rock Creek Ranch, on fifteen acres of land we purchased on the Smith River. We facilitated the purchase of the Mill Creek watershed in conjunction with The Save The Redwoods League. This land has been turned over to the Redwood National Park and is managed to enhance and protect fisheries habitat. We worked tirelessly to purchase the Goose Creek drainage, and have turned that land over to the U.S. Forest Service for proper management and fisheries habitat enhancement and protection.

Over the past forty years I have written numerous letters to the editor of our local newspaper, The Daily Triplicate, explaining environmental positions and reasoning. I am willing to do the same for this important MLPA process.

I am very familiar with the guidelines of CEQUA, the California Environmental Quality Act. I have made numerous presentations to our county Board of Supervisors explaining the importance of this legal document and how it relates to local environmental policy.

Areas of Knowledge and Expertise:

I have a Masters Degree in Education, specializing in Curriculum Development. For the past thirty-seven years I have taught U.S. and World History, Language Arts and Algebra at both the junior high and high school levels. The experiences that I have listed above show that my greatest expertise that apply to the MLPA process is that of communicating important ideas to the general public when developing and establishing state and federal policy. This is what I have to offer if chosen as a member of the Stakeholder Group.

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