



County of Del Norte
Board of Supervisors
981 "H" Street, Ste. 200
Crescent City, California 95531

Work
(707) 464-7204

Fax
(707) 464-1165

February 22, 2022

Honorable Senator Jeff Merkley
531 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Senator Ron Wyden
221 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Support for the Smith River National Recreation Area Expansion Act (S. 1538) and the Southwestern Oregon Watershed and Salmon Protection Act (H.R. 980)

Dear Senators Merkley and Wyden:

Over the last eight years, the Del Norte County Board of Supervisors has voted consistently to oppose potential strip mining in the headwaters of the North Fork Smith River. Therefore, we are pleased to strongly support legislation to expand the Smith River National Recreation Area and as well as legislation which provides a permanent mineral withdrawal (ban on new mining claims) for 101,021-acre headwaters areas of the North Fork Smith River and its tributaries, Rough & Ready Creek, Hunter Creek, and the Pistol River.

In 2014, the Del Norte County Board of Supervisors (Board) voted unanimously to oppose the issuance of a limited water use license for Red Flat Nickel Corporation's Cleopatra Check Drilling Program based on the potential to cause significant adverse environmental impacts within the overall watershed of the Smith River and subsequent impacts on drinking water. This was followed by the Board's letter of support for State Senator McGuire's Smith River Watershed Protection Resolution (SJR-3), approved by the State Assembly and Senate in July 2015, urging the President of the United States and Congress to safeguard the North Fork Smith River. Later that year and again in 2016, the Board wrote in support for a permanent mineral withdrawal as provided by H.R. 980 and S. 1538.

Thank you for your leadership on this legislation. The Smith River is a primary water supply for our communities and it's also a world class attraction and centerpiece to our travel and tourism-based economy.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerry Hemmingsen, Chair

cc: U.S. Senators Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla
Representative Jared Huffman, U.S. Congress
Senator Mike McGuire, California State Senate
Assemblymember Jim Wood, California State Assembly



CRESCENT CITY - DEL NORTE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

1001 Front Street ■ Crescent City, CA 95531
(707) 464.3174 ■ delnorte.org

April 26, 2021

To Whom it May Concern:

RE: Support for the Smith River National Recreation Area Expansion Act

The Crescent City-Del Norte Chamber is comprised of over 300 businesses and as the largest business organization in the Del Norte County we understand what's important to our community.

Several years ago when a foreign mining company applied to the OR Water Resources Dept. for a limited water license to explore strip mining for nickel and other metals in the headwaters of the North Fork of the Smith, our water supply agencies swiftly responded in opposition.

State Senator Mike McGuire followed the lead of these and other agencies and in July 2015 the California Assembly and Senate approved his Senate Joint Resolution urging Congress to "permanently safeguard the currently unprotected North Fork of the Smith River watershed in Oregon from any mining activities that would have potential impacts on water supplies."

Therefore, it is with sincere appreciation that we recognize U.S. Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden for their leadership in introducing the Smith River National Recreation Area Expansion Act. This legislation provides a permanent ban on new mining claims on Oregon lands within the Smith River watershed which helps insure our community will continue to have high quality drinking water and one of the cleanest rivers in the USA.

On behalf of the Crescent City-Del Norte Chamber ---- thank you to all individuals and entities who are working to continue to protect the Smith River waterway; this very important resource to our communities in Del Norte County.

Sincerely,

Cindy Vosburg
Executive Director



P.O. Box 68
Korbel, CA 95550
(707) 668-4400
greendiamond.com

February 7, 2022

Honorable Joe Manchin, Chairman
Energy & Natural Resources Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Ron Barrasso, Ranking Member
Energy & Natural Resources Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for the Smith River National Recreation Area Expansion Act (S. 1538)

Dear Chairman Manchin, Ranking Member Barrasso and members of the Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests and Mining:

Green Diamond Resource Company has been a leader in forest stewardship for over a century. We own and manage working forest land in ten states in the western and southern United States, and we are the largest private landowner in California's Smith River watershed which includes the Smith River National Recreation Area.

The Smith River National Recreation Area Expansion Act is widely supported by local businesses, Chambers of Commerce, local government and we are pleased to join them in recommending its swift passage. Green Diamond Resource Company takes great pride in supporting programs and initiatives that benefit our operating communities --- and the subject legislation does just that.

Thank you for your assistance and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Elicia Goldsworthy".

Elicia Goldsworthy
Forest Policy and Communications Manager



Court Boice, *Commissioner*

94235 Moore Street, Ste. 122

Gold Beach, OR 97444

Ph.: (541) 247.3229

November 2, 2021

Chairman Joe Manchin III
Ranking Member John Barrasso
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: SUPPORT FOR EXPANSION OF THE SMITH RIVER NATIONAL RECREATION
AREA IN CURRY COUNTY

Dear Chairman Manchin and Ranking Member John Barrasso:

I am writing to express strong support for Senator Merkley's legislation to expand the beautiful Smith River Watershed that originates in Southwest Oregon.

This segment of the Kalmiopsis Wilderness and Smith River head waters is a national treasure and a valuable asset to our coastal communities. It is a stronghold in providing salmon and steelhead for commercial and sport fisheries and too as drinking water for our downstream residents. I am pleased to know that this legislation provides a permanent ban on new mining claims and that there is no private land involved.

Thank you for your efforts to expand the Smith River National Recreation Area. It is an excellent investment in the health of our region.

Sincerely,

Court Boice
Curry County Oregon Commissioner

David Brock Smith

State Representative
HOUSE DISTRICT 1
Curry, Coos, Douglas & Josephine Counties
900 Court St NE H-379
Salem, OR 97301
503.986.1401



Committees

Vice Chair-Environment & Natural Resources
Agriculture & Land Use
Education
Joint Ways & Means Sub on Natural Resources
Joint Legislative Policy & Research

OREGON STATE LEGISLATURE
900 COURT ST NE SALEM, OREGON 97301

November 2, 2021

Chairman Joe Manchin III
Ranking Member John Barrasso
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for expansion of the Smith River National Recreation Area within Oregon Legislative District 01.

Dear Senator Merkley,

I wanted to thank you for your efforts regarding the North Fork of the Smith River watershed in Oregon, which is within my Oregon Legislative District and the headwaters of the Smith River in Oregon.

The Smith River is an important watershed in Southern Oregon and Northern California, providing critical salmonid habitat, drinking water and recreational opportunities. Much of these benefits are linked to the Smith River in Oregon, within the Kalmiopsis Wilderness. The U.S. Forest Service's North Fork Smith River Watershed Analysis states in part, "The North Fork of the Smith River watershed provides near-pristine spawning and rearing habitat for a highly productive fishery ... Fall chinook, Klamath Mountain Province steelhead, anadromous cutthroat trout, resident rainbow and cutthroat trout use the watershed. The watershed appears to be an exceptional producer of anadromous cutthroat trout."

As you are aware, in July of 2017, the State of Oregon designated, not only the mainstem of the North Fork of the Smith River, but all its tributaries and associated wetlands, an Outstanding Resource Waters. These designations clearly outline Oregon's commitment to the importance of the North Fork of the Smith River watershed and its tributaries to Oregonians and Californians alike.

I support and thank you for your efforts and legislation to expand the Smith River National Recreation Area in Oregon's North Fork of the Smith River watershed. Please let me know how I may be of further assistance as your legislative process moves forward.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Brock Smith".

David Brock Smith
Oregon House of Representatives
District 01
Curry, Coos, Douglas & Josephine Counties
Email: Rep.DavidBrockSmith@OregonLegislature.gov
Website: <http://www.OregonLegislature.gov/SmithD>

Gasquet Community Services District

October 11, 2021

The Honorable Joe Manchin, Chairman
The Honorable John Barrasso, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Manchin and Barrasso:

RE: Support for the Smith River National Recreation Area Expansion Act (S. 1538)

On behalf of the Gasquet Community Services District, we write to express our support for the Smith River National Recreation Area Expansion Act (S. 1538), which will be heard in the Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining on October 19. We respectfully request this letter be included in the hearing record.

The Smith River provides drinking water to thousands of people in Del Norte County. Presently, the water we distribute to our customers is of the highest quality --- and this is critically important to our community. Our service district is small and we could not afford additional treatment costs if mining waste and activity polluted our water supply.

During the last decade, we read about mine accidents in British Columbia and Colorado that polluted rivers that previously provided clean drinking water to downstream communities. We do not want to see such a tragedy happen here. Thank you for your support for the Smith River National Recreation Area Expansion Act which will provide a permanent ban on new mining claims in the headwaters of the North Fork Smith River.

Sincerely,



Mark Dodd
Gasquet Community Services District
P.O. Box 86
Gasquet, CA 95543

**BIG ROCK
COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT**

P.O. BOX 453
Crescent City, CA 95531
(707)

November 18, 2021

Honorable Senator Jeff Merkley
531 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Senator Ron Wyden
221 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Support for the Smith River National Recreation Area Expansion Act and the
Southwestern Oregon Mineral Withdrawal

Dear Senators Merkley and Wyden:

Over the last several years the Big Rock Community Services District has written letters in support for temporary and permanent mineral withdrawals for the 101,021 acre headwaters areas of the North Fork Smith River and Baldface Creek, Rough & Ready Creek, Hunter Creek, and the Pistol River. Accordingly, the Big Rock CSD is writing to support the subject legislation that provides a permanent mineral withdrawal (ban on new mining claims) for these areas.

The Big Rock CSD is a California Special District with Constitutional governance authority over its place of use. One of the Special District's key municipal obligations is to supply drinkable water to the commercial businesses and community residents within its jurisdiction. Big Rock CSD's jurisdiction includes the Redwood National Park and California's priceless Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park that collectively host tens of thousands of visitors to this area each year. Moreover, the general health of Del Norte County's businesses at large is dependent upon tourism and recreation throughout the year. A critical component of commercial dynamics in this county and a vital contributor to the attractiveness of the entire region is the pristine Smith River.

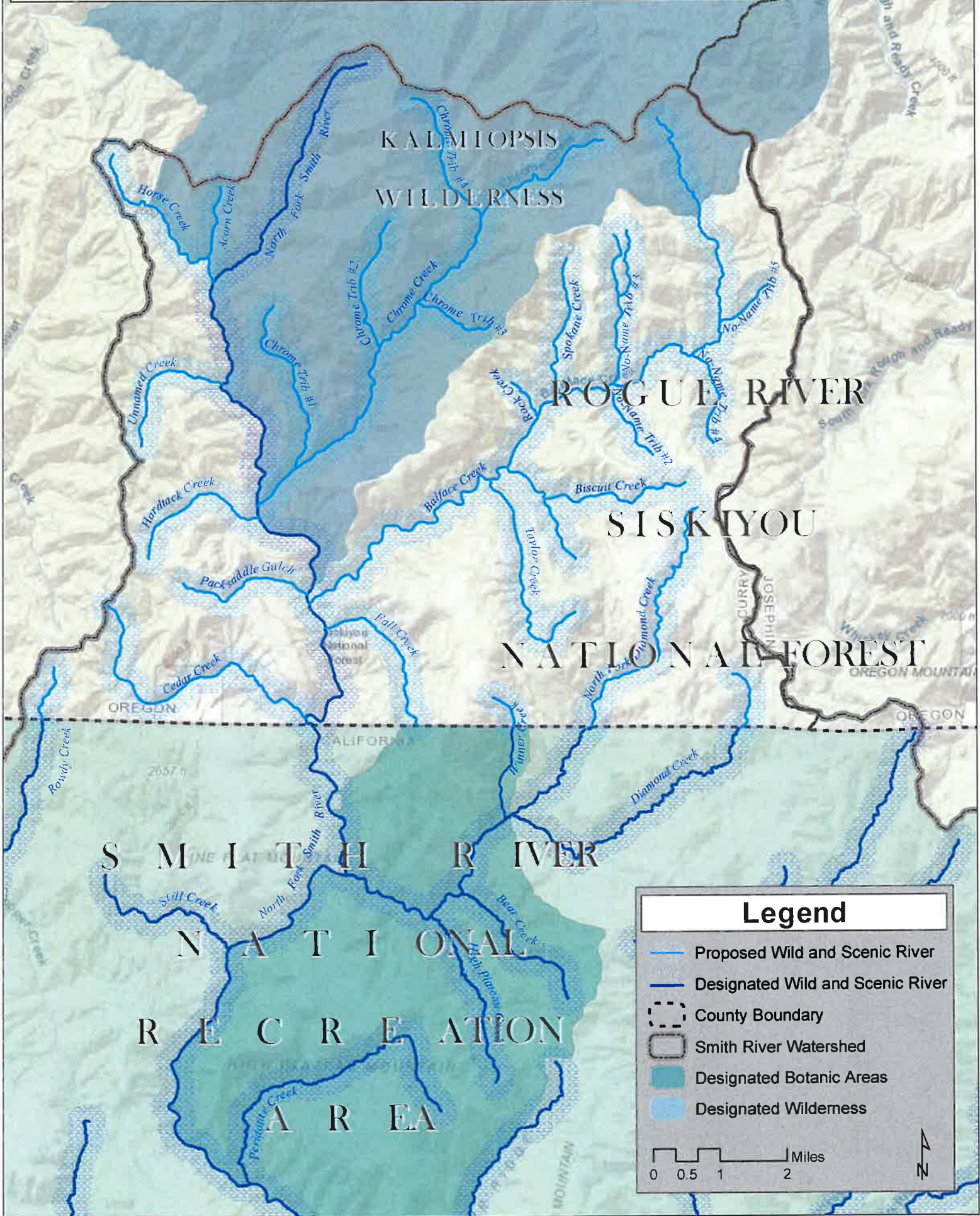
Thank you for your work to advance this important legislation. Please contact us if you have questions.



Alan Porteous, President

c: Senators Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla

North Fork Smith Addition to Smith River National Recreation Area





OREGON'S SENATOR JEFF MERKLEY

The Smith River National Recreation Area Expansion Act

Cosponsors: Senators Wyden, Feinstein and Padilla

Background

In 1990, Congress enacted legislation to establish the Smith River National Recreation Area (NRA) that protected the Smith River watershed in California. Unfortunately, the boundary of the NRA stopped at the Oregon border, leaving the North Fork of the Smith River and its tributaries, unprotected. The *Smith River National Recreation Area Expansion Act* expands the NRA to include 58,000 acres of the North Fork Smith River watershed including tributaries which contain coho and Chinook salmon, and Coastal Cutthroat trout.

The Smith River is home to a rich life forms – from the diverse Siskiyou Mountains forests to unique plants found nowhere else on earth to ancient, towering redwoods along the lower river. The Smith River NRA offers exceptional recreational activities, including water sports, fishing, hunting, camping, and sightseeing because the scenic beauty, world class fisheries, exceptional water quality, and abundant wildlife.

Elements of the Legislation

- **Boundary Adjustment:** The legislation would adjust the NRA boundaries to add approximately 58,000 acres of the North Fork Smith watershed in Oregon to the Smith River NRA.
- **Permanent Mineral Withdrawal:** The legislation would protect all land located inside the National Recreation Area by permanently withdrawing them from new mining claims, helping protect this sensitive area from proposed nickel strip mines.
- **Wild and Scenic River Protection:** The legislation would designate 75.22 river miles of wild and scenic rivers, including Baldface Creek, Chrome Creek and nearby streams.
- **Recreation Planning:** The legislation would direct the U.S. Forest Service to prepare an updated recreation plan to reflect the expansion of the recreation area into Oregon.
- **A Special Study:** The legislation would require a special study of streams, fens, wetlands and potentially unstable and vulnerable aquatic habitat areas.
- **Wildfire Management:** The legislation would continue to allow the Secretary to continue (in cooperation with other Federal, State, and local agencies, as appropriate) to conduct wildland fire operations within the recreation area, consistent with the purposes of this Act.
- **Travel Management Plans:** The legislation makes no changes to completed Travel Management Plans on both the Smith River NRA and in the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest where the expansion will occur.