



FRIENDS OF THE EEL RIVER

Working for the recovery of our Wild & Scenic River, its fisheries and communities.

May 7, 2021

Dear Assemblymember Wood,

The Friends of the Eel River are writing today in support of The Wildlands Conservancy's (TWC) conservation acquisition of the 30,000-acre Lone Pine Ranch along the mainstem of the Wild and Scenic Eel River. This canyon is truly the heart of the watershed, and holds incredibly diverse and important habitat. TWC's effort to protect this beautiful landscape will benefit the Californians and local communities by protecting natural and cultural resources while providing free access for passive recreation and interpretive activities.

The acquisition aligns closely with local and state priorities including:

1. Protection of forests through active restoration and wildfire resiliency techniques.
2. Carbon sequestration in trees and the property's many wetlands which is estimated to secure 13,000 metric tons of carbon.
3. Expansion of landscape linkages and wildlife corridors for wildlife like elk, fishers, and yellow-legged frogs.
4. Opportunities to hike, paddle, and camp along the Great Redwood Trail, helping to diversify the region's economy.

For over 25 years Friends of the Eel River has been working on solutions that will aid in recovery of the Eel River, its fisheries, and our communities. The Eel River is home to several listed salmonids, and is considered key habitat for their recovery across the region. We are thrilled about the opportunity TWC is pursuing, protecting this landscape is of immense value for current and future Californians.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alicia Hamann
Executive Director

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