

Good day,

I am reaching out to you as in the past you have supported public access on Fisher Rd to the Van Duzen River along Highway 36 in Hydesville. I am a board member of the Humboldt Trails Council and that group is a member of the Great Redwoods Trails Friends coalition. On January 22 at the coalition sent a letter to the Board of Supervisors (BOS). We followed up on January 30 at the BOS meeting with three of us speaking about public access at that location. There is a long history of public use of this road and to the river bar below it. The Van Duzen River is both navigable and designated as "Wild and Scenic."

We need evidence of public use prior to 1972 because of changes the California Legislature made to various civil codes affecting the implied dedication doctrine. The following paragraph is from "A Legal Guide to the Public's Rights to Access and Use California's Navigable Waters, 11/20/2017." Reference pgs. 26-27 - section 4. "Restrictions on Implied Dedication," [Right's to River Access](#).

"Consequently, implied dedication will not be found unless a government entity improved or maintained the alleged public access, and public access to the waterway can be demonstrated by evidence of public use and other acts occurring before March 4, 1972. Such evidence may include testimony from members of the public who used the land, from owners during the pertinent period, and perhaps documentary evidence."

We are looking for people who can document access to the river before March 4, 1972. You will give "testimony" to that effect. Please provide your contact information (name, email, phone #), and a description of your use of Fisher Road to access the Van Duzen River prior to 1972 to Friends of the Eel River, Alicia Hamann, foer@eelriver.org. This information will be forwarded to the County.

If you know of someone else who might meet this criteria, please forward this email to them, or send me their email or phone number to contact.

Please call me with questions or if you need more information.

Thank you,
Karen Underwood
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Humboldt Trails Council
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