



Smith River Rancheria

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N C R W Q C B

FEB 02 2015

Kara Brundin Miller
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Tribal
Administrator

January 20, 2015

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
John W. Corbett, Chairman
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

<input type="checkbox"/> EO	<input type="checkbox"/> WMgmt	<input type="checkbox"/> Admin
<input type="checkbox"/> AEO	<input type="checkbox"/> Timber	<input type="checkbox"/> Legal
<input type="checkbox"/> Reg/NPS	<input type="checkbox"/> Cleanups	<input type="checkbox"/> Date

The Smith River Rancheria ("Tribe") is a federally recognized Tribe of Tolowa Dee-ni' (people) with ancestral lands in southern Oregon and northern California. The Tribe has a significant interest and an inherent obligation to care for, and protect the web of life of the important natural resources located within our ancestral lands.

The Smith River is under immediate threat from nickel/rare mineral strip-mining proposals. American Rivers currently recognize the Smith River as one of the most threatened rivers because of current strip mining proposals.

Designation as ONRW would better safeguard outstanding national values that include protection of critical habitat for California's last Endangered Coho Salmon, enjoyment of a recreational treasure, the longest stretch of National and State Wild and Scenic River (over 300 miles), and an aesthetic focal point for both Redwood National and State Park (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), as well as Smith River National Recreation Area. Also included in this long list of beneficial use is supplying most of Del Norte County with the highest quality drinking water, and an important cultural heritage resource of the Tolowa Dee-ni'. All of these features place the Smith River as a top quality ONRW.

The Tribe recommends that the North Coast Regional Water Quality Board elevate to a high priority, the Outstanding National Resource Water (ONRW) designation of the North, Middle and South forks of the Smith River, including its tributaries.

Respectfully,

Kara Brundin-Miller
Tribal Chairperson

On behalf of the Smith River Rancheria Tribal Council

Cc: Matt St. John, Executive Officer NCRWQCB
Alydda Mangelsdorf, Supervisor, Planning Unit NCRWQCB