

06/07/06 Bmtg Item  
Scott River Watershed  
Deadline: May 10, 2006

**From:** Kathy Hayden <ranchre@yahoo.com>  
**To:** <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>  
**Date:** Wed, May 10, 2006 4:33 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Comment letter - Sediment & Temperature TMDL



Song Her  
Clerk of the Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

Dear Song Her,

I am a rancher in the Gazelle area of Shasta Valley. The arid climate of this area makes irrigation essential to the production of beef cattle and alfalfa hay. The profit margin is small and the return on our investment is minimal along with a high risk factor. I am concerned that a loss of even a fraction of my water rights will destroy my lively hood which has been a tradition and way of life for my family for five generations.

Besides the loss of production, loss of this water would result in the destruction of extensive habitat which supports a great variety of wildlife. Our water rights date back to 1856 and have been in continuous use since that time.

The court ordered an adjudication of these Shasta River Water Rights in 1932. The state water resources board has proposed to adjust water rights. Loss of our water rights would result in a loss of production and income from this ranch and a significant loss of our property value. If this occurs I will have no choice but to split my ranch into 60-70 parcels and sell them in an attempt to recover my investment and to provide an income for my family. I feel that the current ranching operation is more environmentally sound than any subdivision. My family has lived on this ranch for many years. We love the land and the way of life. Please do not take our water and our lively hood.

Sincerely,  
Tom Nielsen  
TN Cattle Company

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