



Dave Steindorf
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February 27, 2015

Alydda Mangelsdorf
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
Santa Rosa, California 95403
Sent via electronic mail to: Alydda.Mangelsdorf@waterboards.ca.gov

Re: Three Forks of the Smith River—Outstanding National Resource Water

Dear Ms. Mangelsdorf,

American Whitewater writes to encourage the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board to designate the Smith River and the North, Middle and South Forks of the Smith River, and their tributaries, as “Outstanding National Resource Waters” during the Triennial Review and Basin Planning process.

American Whitewater is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a mission to conserve and protect America’s whitewater resources and enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely. Founded in 1954, American Whitewater has over 5,700 members and 100 locally-based affiliate clubs, representing the conservation interests of whitewater enthusiasts across the nation. A significant percentage of our members reside in California and the Pacific Northwest, and enjoy the recreational values provided by the Wild and Scenic Smith River and its North, Middle and South Forks.

Additionally, our members place high importance on healthy and highly functioning riparian ecosystems, and they value the Wild and Scenic Smith River and its Forks for crystal clear waters, the critical habitat that they provide, and stunning scenery. In addition to the recreational value of the Wild and Scenic Smith River and its Forks, these outstanding values are deserving of the highest water quality protections. As you are likely aware, the headwaters of the Smith River are currently under threat by strip-mining proposals in Southwestern Oregon. Designation as ONRW would better safeguard the outstanding national values that these rivers possess.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dave Steindorf".

Dave Steindorf
California Stewardship Director

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Megan Hooker".

Megan Hooker
Associate Stewardship Director