



COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

Board of Supervisors

P.O. Box 750 □ 1312 Fairlane Rd
Yreka, California 96097
www.co.siskiyou.ca.us

(530) 842-8005
FAX (530) 842-8013
Toll Free: 1-888-854-2000, ext. 8005

January 22, 2019

Eric Sklar, President
California Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 944209 Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Subject: Considering of Petition to List the Upper Klamath-Trinity River Spring Run Chinook Salmon as Endangered

Dear President Sklar:

The Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors is submitting this letter to express our opposition to the proposed listing of the Upper Klamath-Trinity Rivers Basin ("UKTR") Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawtscha*), as petitioned by the Karuk Tribe and Salmon River Restoration Council.

A previous listing petition was determined a "not warranted" finding made in 2012. Although the more recent petition has been determined that it "may be warranted", the findings are narrowly related to two underlying causes; 1) disease and 2) regulatory mechanisms. Both are tangible, discrete findings that can be addressed to the benefit of future spring runs through proper management and decision making.

Siskiyou County believes there are other options and avenues to addressing the needs of UKTR Chinook, many of which are already under development or are being addressed through volunteer, local, state and federal efforts. Currently, a large group of stakeholders, including Siskiyou County, are engaged in a coalition to address water quality and habitat for coho salmon, which will have benefits for UKTR Chinook. Additionally, over the years there have been several programs and projects completed by local groups and water users to address the needs of fisheries, including the currently listed coho salmon. However, listing of coho salmon as endangered has done little to significantly help the species over the years, yet has had detrimental impacts on the drivers of Siskiyou County's economy and culture, including agriculture and our local fishing guides. Siskiyou County is proactive in addressing the needs of all fisheries and those who depend on fish, but we do not believe that an additional endangered species listing in the Klamath Watershed will result in quantifiable solutions.

There are several fishing guide services throughout Siskiyou County who conduct business on the Klamath River and other local rivers. Recreational and commercial fishing is economically important for many members of our communities throughout northern California, where the per capita median income is well below state average; \$40,884 in Siskiyou County. A listing of the UKTR Chinook could result in losses at local hospitality, restaurant, and service sector industry, which benefit from people who visit the area as part of their fishing excursions; in addition to the economic impacts to the fishing

Brandon Criss
District 1

Ed Valenzuela
District 2

Michael N. Kobseff
District 3

Lisa Nixon
District 4

Ray Haupt
District 5

guides as a result of restrictions on fishing activities. The potential job and economic losses are another burden placed upon our counties by regulators who are disconnected from the engines of our local economies.

We ask that you consider our concerns, the livelihoods and businesses affected, when considering this petition. We stand ready to engage on proper management, enforcement, and other additional measures including hatchery management, season restrictions, and more. Listing is not, and should not be, the only solution to these problems.

We look forward to the opportunity to work with you on this important issue and hope to hear from you soon. If interested please contact Elizabeth Nielsen, Project Coordinator, at enielsen@co.siskiyou.ca.us or (530) 842-8012.

This letter was approved by the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors on January 22, 2019, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Haupt, Kobseff, Valenzuela, Nixon and Criss
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

Sincerely,



Brandon A. Criss, Chair
Board of Supervisors

cc: Director Chuck Bonham, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Undersecretary Tom Gibson, California Department of Natural Resources
Alan Mikkelsen, Department of the Interior
Assemblyman Brian Dahle
Congressman Doug LaMalfa
Congressman Jared Huffman