

**From:** [Michael Stapleton](#)  
**To:** [WB-DWR-WREnforcementPolicy](#)  
**Subject:** Comment on Policy for WR Enforcement in the Scott River  
**Date:** Monday, March 4, 2019 8:31:23 PM

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In order to administer a balanced use of the water in the Scott River in Scott Valley, the entire watershed should be watermastered. Currently all of the surface water in the tributaries and the main stem of the Scott River in Scott Valley is adjudicated but without being watermastered, it is essentially a "free for all" for much of the water.

Most of the water is taken from the tributaries before it even reaches the main stem of the Scott River which is typically critically low in the summer and fall. After the irrigation season which ends on Sept. 30, many ranchers are still flood irrigating their fields (calling it "stock water") and essentially drying up tributaries to the point that endangered coho salmon do not have a chance to reach their historical spawning grounds during the critical months of October and November. This is not "beneficial use" of the water as required by law. A watermaster would stop this illegal use of the water. Minimum flow standards for the tributaries and main stem of the Scott River should be required. French Creek, an important spawning tributary to the Scott River, is watermastered and incidentally has the most coho salmon spawning and rearing habitat of any other tributary on the Scott River.

Thank you,  
Michael Stapleton

