

From: "Reg Gooden" <rgooden@calpoly.edu>
To: AB2121Policy@waterboards.ca.gov
Date: Wed, Apr 30, 2008 2:03 PM
Subject: Comments on the Draft North Coast Instream Flow Policy

April 29, 2008
Chair & Members Tam Doduc
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Tam Doduc,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft North Coast Instream Flow Policy. As all Californians know, the state's salmon and steelhead fisheries are in trouble. One of the biggest problems is clear: too many of our rivers and streams simply lack the water to support fish. I urge you to take decisive action with the Instream Flow Policy to conserve stream flows and to help put salmon and steelhead back on the road to recovery.

The final Policy must include a few basic things: scientifically-based criteria to limit diversions when stream flows drop below a certain level, measures to guard against the cumulative effects of multiple diversions, restrictions on new on-stream reservoirs, mandates for universal monitoring and reporting of both water diversions and stream flows, and provisions to periodically review the effectiveness of the Policy.

The Policy should take a broad, watershed-scale approach to the problem. It should provide incentives for landowners to go above and beyond the minimum required by the Policy, including measures to improve stream flows during the critical dry season. The State Water Board also needs to establish strong programs to ensure compliance with the law. Finally, the Board should conduct an honest assessment of the funding and staffing needed to implement the Policy and request adequate resources to get the job done.

With those steps, the Instream Flow Policy can be a crucial step forward for conservation in California. After more than 15 years of hard work by Trout Unlimited and others, it is time to finalize the Policy and get about the business of bringing back the fish.

Hello

I am not a biologist-just an avid catch-and-release trout fisherman. I am aware of the current effort to address the decline in the salmon population and the fact that an effective resolution of the issue will take more that addressing instream flow policy. It has already called for economic sacrifice on the part of commercial fishermen and will have to deal in a comprehensive way with issues far away from the stream such as agricultural uses and urban development. Ultimately, we will have to educate ourselves on how to live in a manner that will sustain our environment and commit ourselves to conform our policies so as to be consistent with the best information our science and technology can provide. The immediate issue, however, seems to deal with regulating stream flow so as insure that we will have the salmon and steelhead to care for in the future. It is with this in mind that I urge you to think of the fish and their immediate need for survival and propagation.

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CONTROL BOARD

Reg Gooden
3875 See Canyon Rd
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405-8016