

Draft Letter of Mutual Interest: Smith River NRA Collaborative

The purpose of this Letter of Mutual Interest (LMI) is to document mutual support for a collaborative process between diverse stakeholders that will promote forest and aquatic restoration and management on the Smith River National Recreation Area (SRNRA).

It is our intention that this collaborative process will provide 1) a venue for stakeholders to voice their opinions in an open and supportive environment to advance restoration and project opportunities and 2) that the proposals resulting from this collaborative process will become definitive projects presented to the Six Rivers National Forest.

On February 3, 2016 stakeholders convened around a shared interest in planning and advancing “projects” within the SRNRA that could potentially include the following components: 1) habitat restoration; 2) commercial by-product as a result of restoration; 3) timber stand improvement; 4) fuels reduction; and 5) recreation-related improvements. Stakeholders expressed an interest in working together in cooperation with U.S. Forest Service staff to identify a “**pilot project**” that could include some of these components. Stakeholders also expressed an interest in using some of the excellent materials generated through the *Western Klamath Restoration Partnership* ---- including the following conservation targets, values and critical threats to our conservation values which have been slightly adapted for our use:

Conservation Targets and Values

- Fire Adapted Communities
- Restored Fire Regimes
- A healthy Smith River watershed
- Resilient Bio-diverse Forests/Plants and Animals
- Sustainable Local Economies
- Cultural and Community Vitality

Critical Threats to Conservation Values

- Insufficient funding for planning + implementation of community-supported projects on the Smith River NRA
- Lack of stable jobs + job training related to diverse resources on these public lands
- Lack of beneficial fire
- Altered forest structure and composition (overly dense “plantation” forests)
- High fuel loading
- Lack of defensible space, aging equipment available through the Del Norte Fire Safe Council, and a dated *Community Wildfire Protection Plan*
- Habitat degradation (terrestrial and aquatic)
- Impaired fishery

The undersigned parties agree that the SRNRA Collaborative as described above is a critically important purpose. We are committed to providing time, effort, and to securing the necessary resources to further planning for collaborative projects including the development of a “**pilot project**” which reflects our conservation targets and values.

Signatories and Date Signed

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American Forest Resource Council

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County of Del Norte

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