

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 29, 2022

Dereck Wilson  
District Manager  
Northern California District  
Bureau of Land Management  
6640 Lockheed Drive  
Redding, CA 96002

Subject: Northern California Integrated Plan

Dear Mr. Wilson:

Thank you for considering our input on the development of the Northern California Integrated Plan (NCIP), a once-in-a-generation opportunity to deliberate the long-term planning strategy for this roughly 625 square mile area that includes federal lands in Mendocino, Humboldt, Del Norte, Trinity, Siskiyou, Shasta, Butte, and Tehama counties. This NCIP must meet the moment of 21<sup>st</sup> Century land management needs, as the climate crisis and other pressures demand.

Since the 1990s, the Redding and Arcata Field Offices have practiced innovative forestry methods designed to improve habitat for sensitive wildlife while promoting fire resilience. We hope the NCIP process will enable the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to continue and expand its restoration forestry and fire resilience efforts. In the spirit of President Biden's Executive Order 14072: Protecting Mature and Old-Growth Forests, both Foreign and Domestic, we request that you use the NCIP process to not only protect remaining old-growth, but to plan for restoration of mature and old-growth forest over time as well.

Please note that the NCIP planning area includes several areas and streams included in the language of our respective bills, H.R. 878, the Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act, and S. 1459, the PUBLIC Lands Act. H.R. 878 has passed the House of Representatives twice this Congress and is currently under consideration by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee as part of S. 1459. The lands and waters contained in this language and under consideration in the NCIP include:

- Proposed additions to the Elkhorn Ridge, South Fork Eel River, Trinity Alps, Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel, and Yuki wilderness areas;
- The proposed English Ridge Wilderness;
- The existing Middle Fork Eel, South Fork Eel, and North Fork Eel Wild and Scenic Rivers that would be legislatively designated after being administratively designated in 1981); and

- Several new wild and scenic river candidates, including Red Mountain Creek, Lacks Creek, Elder Creek, Cedar Creek, East Branch South Fork Eel River, Elk Creek, Eden Creek, Deep Hole Creek, Indian Creek, and Fish Creek.

We ask that you protect these areas as part of the NCIP process and manage them in a manner that is consistent with the Wilderness Act and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, as applicable. Additionally, as part of this process, we urge you to protect other areas that are identified as having wilderness characteristics or as being eligible for wild and scenic river status. As part of the NCIP process, the BLM can protect wilderness-quality lands by designating them as wilderness study areas (WSA). While portions of the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness additions and Yuki Wilderness additions are already designated as WSAs, the English Ridge Proposed Wilderness and the Elkhorn Ridge, South Fork Eel River, and Trinity Alps Proposed Wilderness Additions are not.

Finally, we ask that you to establish new Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) through the NCIP process, including those ACECs nominated by the public. One such proposed ACEC is Eden Valley, an addition to the Yuki Wilderness in S. 1459.

Thank you for your consideration of our views as you develop the NCIP, which will impact our constituents and our environment for years to come.

Sincerely,



Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



Alex Padilla  
United States Senator