



# SIERRA CLUB

## REDWOOD CHAPTER

REDWOOD CHAPTER  
P.O. Box 466  
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

[sierraclub.org/redwood/sonoma](https://sierraclub.org/redwood/sonoma)

March 2, 2026

Dear Timber Harvest Review Team:

Sierra Club seeks your response to our concerns over the logging (1-25NTMP-00001-SON) proposed in the biologically sensitive Sheephouse Creek watershed, which is an important tributary of the Russian River in Sonoma County.

Sierra Club opposes approval of this logging plan as proposed for the reasons below.

Sierra Club Redwood Chapter works to conserve and protect our outdoor spaces as well as foster a meaningful connection to the environment for the community to value and enjoy. The Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club is a geographically vast region composed of six local groups and encompassing all or part of nine counties in Northwest California: Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Solano, Sonoma, Del Norte, Humboldt, Trinity and Western Siskiyou Counties. <https://www.sierraclub.org/redwood>

### **Sierra Club's key concerns include the following:**

1. The logging proposed seeks to remove 70 percent of the board feet (a logging calculation) per acre in the first entry;
2. The logging proposed will take at a minimum 88 years to recoup the carbon stocks lost from this first entry;
3. The watershed has been the focus of many years of vital fisheries restoration efforts by Sea Grant, National Marine Fisheries Service, Army Corps of Engineers and others;
4. The watershed has been the recipient of hundreds of thousands of public dollars in the form of sediment remediation work needed as a result of primarily past private logging activities; and
5. The watershed is adjacent to the Jenner Headlands Preserve, and the headwaters of Sheephouse Creek originate on that preserved property.

Sierra Club is aware that the watershed has been logged for many decades and as a result the tributaries and Sheephouse Creek itself have been severely degraded by erosion and sedimentation of the watercourses. Largely due to the significant adverse cumulative impacts visited on this watershed by using heavy equipment like bulldozers to dig out logging roads, skid trails, log decks/landings, tractoring on hillsides, across streams, and hauling activities, aquatic species once abundant in the watershed are struggling to survive.

### **Climate Change Impacts**

Logging vast acreages as proposed here would cause significant individual and cumulative adverse impacts on the climate and environment in the short and long term.

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As described in the logging plan, it will take 88 years (8 times longer than we have) to recoup the lost sequestration represented by this selection logging planned during the first logging entry. (Page 532).

Immediate loss of 88 years of sequestration is a significant individual and adverse cumulative impact. This impact cannot be mitigated in a time frame that is meaningful to avoiding the climate crisis and therefore must be considered a potentially unmitigable significant adverse impact.

The scientific community of climate scientists (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change-United Nations) finds that preserving the Earth's forests and trees is essential to sequestering (drawing down) harmful greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide (CO2) at scale. They find that more than ever CO2 needs to be moderated by the Earth's forests. Despite this and despite the increasing levels of CO2 emitted into the Earth's atmosphere, some continue to seek to aggressively log the mature forests that could otherwise significantly help mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change.

### **Russian River and Sheephouse Creek Watershed Impaired by Sediment**

The Russian River and this biologically important watershed are impaired by sediment. Nevertheless, the proposed logging plan describes many additional potential sediment inputs from the logging, skidding, winter operations, hauling, and tracting of large trees across steep hillsides that potentially could occur here. These threatened impacts can apparently only be avoided by not logging.

Many hundreds of thousands of dollars of public money \$713,900 +, have been invested in this watershed to remediate the impacts of logging, impacts from private logging roads, and impacts to instream functions caused by logging. The watershed should support an important fishery. Again in a race against time, many public agencies have worked in this watershed for approximately two decades to prevent extinction of the anadromous fishery which translates into many hours of time and expenditure of public monies. The severe impacts to the fishery here from logging will, however, take many more years to reverse. And it would take even longer if logging as proposed here is approved. As a result of the large public investments put forth thus far, this important watershed must be allowed time to hopefully rebound before any new adverse impacts are approved here. Approval of this logging plan and the adverse impacts associated with it at this delicate time will slow down and may very likely set back recovery efforts.

Approval of this long-term plan "as is" would reflect an abuse of discretion and failure to proceed in a manner required by law. The fact that the public has spent many hundreds of thousands of dollars on protecting and restoring this watershed, we oppose approval of this logging plan as proposed. The area is valuable as habitat and sequestration and a mutually beneficial acquisition seems more than appropriate here.

Respectfully,



Helen-Teri Shore, Chair  
Conservation Committee  
Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club

cc: Senator Mike McGuire  
Assemblyman Chris Rogers  
Assemblyman Damon Connolly  
Frasier Haney, Executive Director Wildlands Conservancy

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Coast Area Office  
Resource Management

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**From:** Helen-Teri Shore <terishore@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2026 9:56 AM  
**To:** Santa Rosa Public Comment@CALFIRE  
**Subject:** Berry's Knotfarm NTMP Number 1-25NTMP-00001-SON Sierra Club Comments  
**Attachments:** SierraClubSheephouseCrkTHPReviewLetter3.2.26.pdf

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Helen-Teri Shore, environmentalist