

Kilarc-Cow Creek Project FERC Project No. P-606. Agency Scoping Meeting - Comments

Honorable Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE, Docket Room
Washington, DC 20426-001

Subject: Kilarc-Old Cow Creek hydro project

Dear Secretary Bose;

Eliminating all hydroelectric production at Kilarc would restore the entire flow to the 4-mile partial bypass section of Old Cow Creek. This would promote more invertebrates and aquatic plant material to that section of the creek. But would that solve the problem of Salmon/Steelhead restoration in the creek? Of course not! It might, if we could go back 105 years, blow up the two barrier waterfalls and lock people out of Old Cow Creek. ¹

With my interest in recreational fishing, I have seen projects and work of fishery biologists (CDF&G and USFWS). If these working biologists could operate without political constraints, our fisheries would be in better condition today. Their dedicated work is appreciated by many of the fishing public.

Our request is that the *Federal Energy Regulatory Commission* allow the hydro projects to remain with new supervision and control. To this end we request that federal / state fish and water agencies meet with those proposing a viable project on Old Cow and South Cow creeks. Surely, a water flow compromise can be reached to serve the fishes and the communities interests.

Would it not be better to involve the community in protecting our resources? The combination of professional biologists, private local companies and the public working together is what this country is supposed to be about.

Sincerely;
Robert J Roth
PO BOX 116
Whitmore CA 96096

PS: Having a local company provide “green” electric power and also restoring fish habitat and maintaining recreation will be a great benefit to our area. Having private interests construct spawning habitat areas should be encouraged even if other attempts have failed. New “thinking outside of the box” is often successful. ²

¹ Note: No study or anecdotal history finds any Salmon or Steelhead in Old Cow above Whitmore Falls. Steelhead are seen in South Cow Creek as high as the Ponderosa campground and Redds were found in Atkins Creek. Salmon were reported in the South Cow diversion area.

² Note: There is a huge very expensive taxpayer/government built spawning channel now **abandoned** at the Red Bluff, USFWS office / facility.

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