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THE HART RANCH: A MODEL FOR VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION EFFORTS

KELLEY TABER

HART RANCH MISSION

- Build sustainable, holistic property stewardship program allowing equal economically viable ranching operations and wildlife habitat enrichment
- Based on scientifically proven, environmentally sound management practices
- For betterment of entire Little Shasta Basin

Instream Flow Enhancement Project

Objectives:

- Long-term regulatory assurances with respect to take of listed coho salmon
- Model for additional private conservation efforts in Shasta watershed

Key Components

- In-stream water dedication
- Fish passage barrier removal
- Riparian habitat enhancement
- Agricultural water conveyance efficiency improvements
- Wet meadow, soil and forage enhancement

Timeline

2013 & 2015: MOUs with NMFS, CDFW & others

2016: §1602 notifications; completed Ranch Management Plan

2017: CDFW Letter of Concurrence on Ranch Management Plan

2018: NMFS approval of SHA/ESP

January 2019: File water right change petitions (Water Code §1707)

Summer 2019: CDFW CESA Consistency Determination, LSAAs for Little Shasta River Diversion, Fish Passage, Streambed Restoration Activities

January 2022: SWRCB order approving 1707 petitions

March 2022: Supplemental Shasta Decree entered

Challenges

- Local resistance
  - 7 protests to 1707 petitions
  - Watermaster concerns
- Agency staff turnover
- Expense

Questions?

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