

# SMITH RIVER WATERSHED LANDS



## The Heart of a National Recreation Area

### OPPORTUNITY

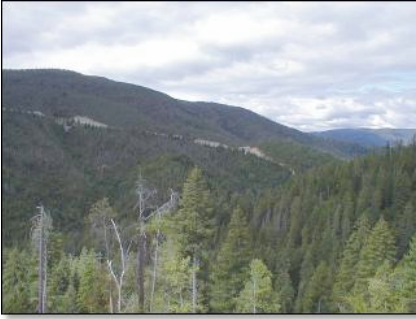
The Smith River Alliance (SRA) has an opportunity to purchase 5,360 acres of land—the largest remaining block of private ownership within the Smith River National Recreation Area (NRA) and convey it into public ownership. The property is comprised of three separate tracts and includes steep and rugged terrain with frontage along the Siskiyou Fork of the Smith River, Little Jones and Hurdygurdy Creeks.

The property is located eight miles east of the river front community of Gasquet along Highway 199, the Redwood Highway, in Del Norte County. The Smith River is one of the “crown jewels” of the national wild and scenic river system and the last wild river in California. It has a world class reputation for white water kayaking, rafting, and steelhead and salmon fishing. The Smith River National Recreation Area is 450± square miles and part of the Six Rivers National Forest. It was established in 1990 to help preserve its incredible scenic and wildlife resources.

### THREAT

*There are over 10,000 acres of private land scattered across the Smith River watershed located in the National Recreation Area. There are inholdings in Wilderness, Wild and Scenic River corridors and the headwaters of important salmon streams.*

*This private land has the potential, if developed or subdivided, to degrade protective designations and sensitive resources within the watershed.*



## Property Overview

These lands have been owned and managed by the Seller for commercial timber production for almost 50 years, however, the property has not been significantly harvested since the 1960s.

The property has a spectacular setting along steep and rugged terrain with frontage along the Siskiyou Fork of the Smith River, Little Jones and Hurdygurdy Creeks, providing opportunity for recreational uses and seasonal camping. One of the most well-known sections of white water kayaking on Hurdygurdy Creek is located three miles south of the property. The property also has excellent habitat for black tail deer and black bear.

## Biological and Salmonid Significance

The property includes the middle and upper reaches of Hurdy Gurdy Creek – which is one of the most significant salmonid spawning areas within the NRA. Approximately 17 miles of spawning and rearing habitat is accessible for chinook, coho, steelhead, and coastal cutthroat trout. Coho are listed as a threatened species through the Federal and California Endangered Species Acts. In some years, spawning coho are more numerous than chinook.

The property also includes streamside and watershed land for Kelly Creek, Little Jones Creek, and the Siskiyou Fork, which drain into the Middle Fork Smith River. Siskiyou Fork is the largest of these streams and it is major producer of anadromous fish.

### Hurdy Gurdy Tract

This is the largest block of land with an estimated 2± miles of Hurdygurdy Creek frontage along the southeast portion of the property. Elevations range from 1,600± to 3200± feet. The property is primarily ridgetops and north- and east-facing slopes of Kelly Peak, Upper Coon Mountain and Fox Ridge. The headwaters of Little Jones Creek are located on the property.

### Little Jones Creek Tract

This property is located along Little Jones Creek and is 1/8 mile southeast of the Middle Fork of the Smith River. The property is mostly west-facing, with moderate to steep slopes with elevations that range from 1,200± to 2,000± feet. The property includes 1000± feet of Little Jones Creek frontage.

### Siskiyou Fork Tract

This property is the smallest tract and has frontage along the Siskiyou Fork of Smith River in the southwest section of the property.

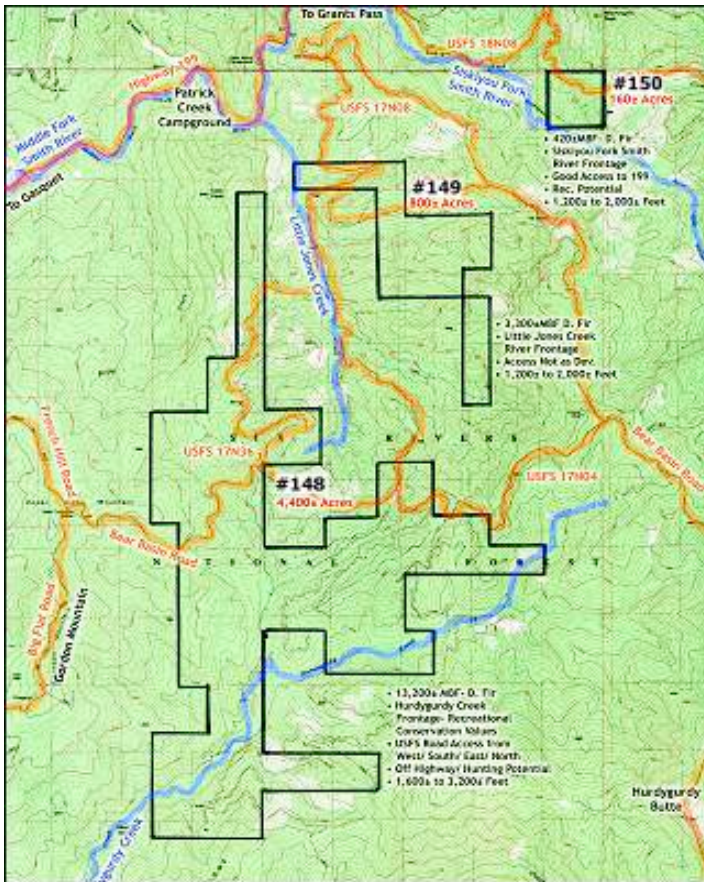
There is no developed access to the river. The topography is moderate to steep with southwest-facing slopes. The elevation ranges from 1,200± to 2,000± feet.

## SMITH RIVER NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

The "Smith River and all its tributaries, from the Oregon-California state boundary to the Pacific Ocean" were included in the California Wild and Scenic River Program in 1972. In 1981, the North, Middle, and South Forks and all the named tributaries of the Smith River (and some unnamed as well) were included in the Federal Wild and Scenic River system, such that the Smith has more miles "protected" through the Federal Wild and Scenic River Act than any other river in the United States.

The Smith River NRA Act was passed in 1990 for protection of wild and scenic rivers, ecological diversity and recreation opportunities while providing for sustained productivity of natural resources. The Act applies to more than 450 square miles of the watershed. Overall, the Act specifically prohibits new mining claims, greatly restricts timber harvest to a specific management zone and is prohibited in streamside protection zones/inner gorge areas --- generally one quarter mile on either side of listed rivers unless erosion hazard areas are present and then the protection zone is enlarged, and provides for improving salmon and steelhead fisheries.

## SMITH RIVER WATERSHED LANDS--AGNEW PROPERTY



### ESTIMATED PRICE:

\$3,945,000

### SIZE:

Tract #1: 4,400± Acres

Tract #2: 800± Acres

Tract #3: 160± Acres