



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Board of Supervisors

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June 23, 2026

US Department of the Interior - Bureau of Land Management

Subject: Support for BLM's Acquisition of the Hearst Bridge Parce l- Expanding Public Access and Conservation along the Eel River

Dear BLM:

On behalf of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, we are writing to express our strong support for the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) proposed acquisition of the Hearst Bridge Parcel, a 14.7-acre property along the Eel River corridor in Mendocino County. These parcels (037-330-63-00, 037-330-65-00) are a critical link between the county-maintained Hearst-Willits Road and the Eel River, providing a gently sloping gravel bar for safe, sustainable public access to one of California's premier Wild and Scenic Rivers.

The Hearst Bridge Parcel acquisition will:

- Dramatically improve legal public access for rafting, kayaking, fishing, and float-in hunting, addressing a longstanding scarcity of entry points along the Eel River.
- Support rural economic development through eco-tourism, outfitter services, and guided recreation, benefiting local communities and businesses.
- Expand recreational opportunities for the local community.

This project aligns with national priorities for public land stewardship, outdoor recreation, and rural economic opportunity. It also supports the goals of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act, and advances Secretarial Order 3442.

We urge your favorable consideration of this acquisition, which will secure permanent public access, protect vital resources, and deliver lasting benefits for Mendocino County and the broader region. Please feel free to contact us for further information or discussion.

Sincerely,

Bernie Norvell
Chair, Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

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