



2015-11-24

**To Whom It May Concern**

It is a great pleasure to add my support to the Tullstorp Stream project, Sweden, and their application for VCA designation.

Some years ago I got in contact with a constellation of farmers along the Tullstorp River in the most southern part of Sweden. The farmers were discussing the possibilities to restore the Tullstorp River. The river had been dramatically changed during the last 200 years. Nearly all wetlands were drained and the river has been totally converted to a fairly deep and boring "ditch". The reason behind was agricultural development, but now the farmers really felt that they wanted back a more "living" river.

I was invited to give a talk to the farmers as I had been working for 40 years with research and policies to revive rivers and wetlands.

A lot of efforts have been taken to get back the "living" river and today the Tullstorp Stream restoration project is a promising initiative to improve the living conditions for fauna and flora in intensively cultivated farmland at the same time as reducing the eutrophication of the Baltic Sea. Also culture and recreational aspects are included in the project.

I have had the privilege to observe how a truly holistic project has developed. The farmers, researchers, local people and administrators have already invested significant efforts in creating a project that already is something of a model for other areas wishing to restore a river.

I have read the Tullstorp River proposal. The research and conservation plans they describe are imaginative but realistic, well-grounded both in good science and in appreciation of the needs and concerns of the local population.

I cannot imagine a project more deserving and appropriate for VCA designation, and give it my unreserved recommendation and full support.

Yours truly,

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Professor

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