



Legislation Text

File #: 17-0477, **Version:** 1

Supervisor Ranalli requesting the Board:

1) Join the El Dorado County Fish and Game Commission in recognizing Mark Weinhardt, member of Boy Scout Troop 88 in Placerville, on the successful completion of his Eagle Scout Service Project, a Wood Duck Nesting Box Project; and

2) Authorize Supervisor Ranalli to sign a Letter of Commendation from the Board of Supervisors and the Fish and Game Commission to congratulate Mark Weinhardt for his efforts and dedication in support of the natural resources within the County of El Dorado. (Est. Time: 10 Min.)

Mark Weinhardt is a member of Boy Scout Troop 88 in Placerville who has successfully attained the rank of Life Scout. In order to earn the rank of Eagle Scout, the next and highest advancement rank in Scouting, a Boy Scout must fulfill requirements in the areas of leadership, service, and outdoor skills. These requirements include the successful completion of an Eagle Scout Service Project. The Eagle Scout Service Project, aka "Eagle Scout Project," is the opportunity for a Boy Scout to demonstrate leadership of others while performing a project for the benefit of his community. This is the culmination of the Scout's leadership training, and it requires a significant effort on his part.

For his Eagle Scout Project, Mark Weinhardt built twelve wood duck nesting boxes and placed the boxes on four different properties within the County of El Dorado. Eight of these boxes were used by ducks, providing nesting sites that resulted in the production of sixty-six eggs. Mark's Eagle Scout Project resulted in over one hundred volunteer hours performed by members of Troop 88 and friends under Mark's leadership.

Wood duck females typically build their nests in tree cavities near wetlands. When a prospective cavity is found, a hen wood duck will land in the tree and carefully inspect the site for a variety of characteristics, including size, shape and security from predators and the elements. In many areas, wood ducks have difficulty finding suitable natural nesting sites. Wood duck boxes provide a man-made alternative, where hens can nest in relative safety from predators. The deployment of large numbers of nesting boxes can be used to help increase local or regional populations of wood ducks in areas where natural cavities are limited.