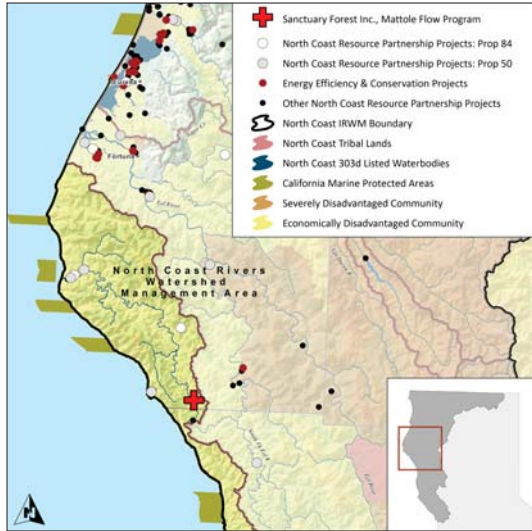


# Mattole Flow Program: Storage and Forbearance

SANCTUARY FOREST INC.



## COMPLETION DATE

March 31, 2019

## STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The Mattole River headwaters supplies water for residents and businesses in Whitethorn and also provides habitat for endangered salmonids and other wildlife. In low flow years, such as during drought, there is not enough water for basic human needs and diversions have resulted in drying of pools and the loss of juvenile salmonid populations.

## PROJECT GOALS

- Increase local water supply reliability
- Improve summer stream-flow and habitat for native salmonids and other wildlife
- Provide a model for water security and stream habitat protection for the community and the region

## THE SOLUTION

The proposed project improves summer streamflows in the Mattole River headwaters by seasonally limiting diversions through storage and forbearance, increasing water quantity, improving instream water quality, enhancing rearing habitat, and facilitating fish passage.

## PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Much of the water right modifications and water storage systems have been completed.

## PROJECT BUDGET

IRWM funds:	\$ 255,200
Leveraged funds:	\$ 219,253
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 474,453</b>

## BENEFITS

### Economic benefits

- An estimated \$80,000 per year in increased instream flow for environmental purposes (local rate of 0.30/gallon in 2014)
- Approximately \$80,000 in avoided water supply purchases per year through 2021, when it is likely an alternative project would be completed. (local rate of 0.30/gallon in 2014)

### Water Quality

- Improved instream water quality due to increased summer flow

### Water Supply

- Increased water supply reliability for property owners who receive water storage tanks

## Habitat and Ecosystem function benefits

- Increased flows enhance water quality through oxygenation and help maintain viable pool habitat and pool connectivity for rearing and emigration

## Cultural benefits

- Increased understanding of Whitethorn citizens of impacts of water withdrawals and opportunities to protect endangered salmonids
- Avoided water resources conflicts between water rights holders, regulators, and conservationists

## Jobs and Local Economic Benefits

- Nearly one-half million dollars spent locally using local supplies and labor when possible
- Approximately 8 jobs created/ maintained

## NEXT STEPS

Sanctuary Forest will continue to seek to improve salmonid habitat conditions in the Mattole River watershed by expanding its storage and forbearance program and riparian and stream restoration projects.

### CONTACT

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### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sanctuary Forest acknowledges the many partners and funders who are instrumental for development and implementation of the Mattole Flow program — a voluntary community based program to increase drought resilience and water supplies for human and wildlife communities. In 2005 when the storage and forbearance program was initiated, nothing like it existed in California. Sanctuary Forest worked closely with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the California State Water Resources Control Board to develop fisheries protections (forbearance thresholds) and permitting pathways. These agencies understood the importance of storing water from the wet season for the dry season and worked to develop permitting solutions and helped fund the program. Other key partners include Trout Unlimited, Salmonid Restoration Federation, Mattole Restoration Council and Mattole Salmon Group. Funders include:

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- California State Water Resources Control Board
- California Department of Water Resources
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Bella Vista Foundation
- California State Coastal Conservancy
- Bureau of Land Management
- US Fish and Wildlife
- Humboldt Area Foundation
- Kenny Brothers Foundation
- Fish America Foundation
- Firedoll Foundation
- McLean Foundation
- Patagonia Foundation
- Weeden Foundation
- Cereus Fund
- Anadromous Fund
- Pacific Coast Joint Venture
- Grace Us Foundation
- Sanctuary Forest Donors
- Participating Landowners



NORTH COAST RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP