

PROJECT INFORMATION FORM

Please complete a unique Project Information Form for each project in the application. There are no character limits on specific questions but the Project Information Form as a whole may not exceed 10 pages.

1. Project Name: Browns and Tule Creeks Drought Resiliency Storage and Forbearance Project
2. Local Project Sponsor (if different than grantee): The Watershed Research and Training Center
3. Please provide the latitude and longitude of the project site. For linear projects or those covering a large area, report the coordinates for a central point. If this information is confidential, it must be clearly labeled "confidential." You can find the latitude and longitude easily using google maps. You can find instructions at the following link:
<https://support.google.com/maps/answer/18539?hl=en&co=GENIE.Platform%3DDesktop>.

Latitude: 40.612650

Longitude: -122.937938

4. Please briefly describe the proposed project.

Over the past decade, recurring drought conditions have drastically depleted instream flows in much of the North Coast Region, including streams within Trinity County. Residents in the Browns and Tule Creek watersheds of Trinity County rely on the creeks for all of their domestic water needs. Anadromous fish, including the Federally Listed Endangered Southern Oregon Northern California Coast Coho Salmon, also rely on these same streams for spawning and/or rearing habitat. Browns Creek has maintained habitat connectivity at a flow of 1 cfs, however if multiple diversions pump from the creek simultaneously, the cumulative impact can quickly dewater the stream resulting in stranding of fish and other aquatic organisms.

In 2014, lower Browns Creek went dry for the first time in documented history. Many residents along this lower reaches of Browns Creek were without water for their domestic needs. Fish that did not migrate out of the system, congregated in shrinking pools and were picked off by local wildlife. Another severely dry year in 2021 also dried up Browns Creek but this time it was a full month earlier, lasted for 3 months, and two large wildfires in the vicinity burned throughout the summer. Tule Creek is a smaller watershed with fewer residential parcels, but many of these residents have experienced a loss of domestic water during dry years and also been impacted by wildfires.

This drought resiliency project was initiated in 2014 by the North Coast Resource Conservation and Development Council- 5 Counties Salmon Conservation Program (5Cs) with support by the Watershed Research and Training Center (WRTC). The initial funding came from the NCRP IRWM 2015 grant awarded to the 5Cs to be used to outreach to Browns Creek residents and implement Storage and Forbearance (S&F) projects. However, the amount of outreach required was underestimated and the cost of implementation has increased substantially over the years. Each S&F project provides 35,000 gallons of domestic water storage per parcel and secures forbearance from diversion during the low-flow summer season. The WRTC has built

off of the earlier outreach to private landowners to further participation in S&F projects thus improving domestic water resiliency during drought, while also conserving instream flow in these priority watersheds for anadromous fisheries. In 2018, the WRTC received a grant from Bureau of Reclamation to implement S&F projects in Browns and Tule Creeks. In 2021, the WRTC in partnership with The Nature Conservancy received a grant from the California Wildlife Conservation Board to develop a Community Water Management Plan for Browns and Tule Creek watersheds.

Currently, the WRTC and 5Cs have completed construction on three storage and forbearance projects and have two additional sites in various stages of construction. However, the cost of tanks alone has increased substantially and previous implementation funds have been exhausted while the interest in participation by landowners has increased demand. This proposal to request funds from NCRP is to directly support implementation and construction of Storage and Forbearance projects within the Browns Creek and Tule Creek watersheds thus providing resiliency to drought for residents and reducing anthropogenic impacts to instream flows for aquatic life.

5. Does this project respond to an existing emergency to humans and/or wildlife? If so, please describe the emergency and how this project is addressing it.
This project does respond to the seasonal existing emergency to humans and wildlife. During the hottest temperatures and lowest instream flows of the summer, this project provides access to stored water for domestic needs (Storage) while reducing negative impacts to instream flows from anthropogenic diversions (Forbearance).
6. Each project must meet one of the following purposes as it relates to drought. Please select the appropriate purpose for your project.
- a. Address immediate impacts on human health and safety, including providing or improving availability of food, water, or shelter.
 - b. Address immediate impacts on fish and wildlife resources.
 - c. Provide water to persons or communities that lose or are threatened with the loss or contamination of water supplies.
7. Each project must enhance regional drought resilience and align with the goals and objectives of the relevant approved Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. You can find the relevant IRWM Region by using the map at the following link:
<https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/>

The IRWM Plans can be found at the following link: <https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/IRWM-Grant-Programs/Plan-Review-Process>. If you have any questions about the IRWM region the contact list can be found at the following link: <https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/IRWM-Grant-Programs>. Applicants are encouraged to contact and coordinate with the applicable RWMG for the IRWM region in which the project is located

Please identify the IRWM objective your project addresses.

NCIRWMP Goal 2 Objective 4: Conserve and improve the economic benefits of the North Coast Region working landscapes and natural areas;

NCIRWMO Goal 3 Objective 5: Conserve, enhance, and restore watersheds and aquatic ecosystems, including function, habitats, and elements that support biological diversity;

NCIRWMP Goal 4 Objective 7: Ensure water supply reliability and quality for municipal, domestic, agricultural, and recreational uses while minimizing impacts to sensitive resources;

NCIRWMP Goal 4 Objective 8: Improve drinking water quality and water related infrastructure to protect public health, with a focus on economically disadvantaged communities; and

NCIRWMP Goal 5 Objective 11: Promote local energy independence, water/energy use efficiency, GHG emission reduction, and job creation.

8. Describe the Primary Benefit of the project.

Quantified benefit: 140000

Units (Drop down):Other If other please enter:gallons/year

Benefit Type: Water Supply Reliability If other please enter:

9. Describe the Secondary Benefit of the project:

Quantified benefit: 0

Units (Drop down):Cubic feet per second If other please enter:

Benefit Type: Ecosystem/Freshwater habitat If other please enter:

10. Please briefly describe how the project will achieve the claimed benefits.

This project will achieve the claimed benefits through the use of water storage tanks and binding forbearance agreements in which the landowner agrees to not divert water from the stream or other surface water during the predetermined forbearance period. This project proposes 4 storage and forbearance projects that will result in the storage of 140,000 gallons of water for domestic use thus improving the water reliability for 4 families. This is in addition to 5 other projects in the watersheds. The typical household pump diverts around 8 gallons per minute either on-demand or into temporary storage. while this is only 0.018 cubic feet per second, multiple household pumps running at the same time can cumulatively result in disconnected habitats for aquatic species during low flow periods. The implementation of these 4 projects can reduce the cumulative impacts of water diversions by 0.07 cubic feet per second, which combined with the 5 other projects currently in progress is nearly 0.16 cubic feet per second, exemplifying the need to continue implementing these types of projects for instream habitat.

Other such projects are being implemented in the Mattole Watershed, Humboldt County (<https://sanctuaryforest.org/programs/water-stewardship/tanks-forbearance-program/>), Navarro River, Mendocino County, and Redwood Creek-Eel River, Humboldt County, all of which have quantified the water savings from their projects. With the use of the Wildlife Conservation Board funding, the WRTC will establish targets and appropriate water savings estimates for our projects.

11. Briefly describe how the community/area benefiting from this project is being impacted by the current drought.

Within the Browns Creek watershed, the drought of 2021 resulted in a greater number of residents not having normal access to water for their domestic needs than the drought of 2014. The Browns Creek watershed has over 150 private residential parcels, majority of which have riparian rights to Browns Creek or its tributaries, and many obtain their domestic water from seep wells or shallow springs. Some of these residents are on limited income thus struggle to pay for water deliveries. Tule Creek is a smaller watershed with

less residential parcels, but the people living there have also suffered greatly during drought and are on limited income. Both Browns and Tule Creek Watersheds have been identified through multiple planning efforts as being the most appropriate for Storage and Forbearance projects to benefit community and fisheries/aquatic resources.

In addition to lack of domestic water, these communities have also suffered from wildfires that are increasing in intensity during drought. A portion of the Tule Creek watershed was severely burned by the Monument Fire in 2021 and residents were evacuated from their homes. While these wildfires may not have burned their homes, the damaged forest can negatively impact the water source for many of the residents.

12. How will this project alleviate the impacts described in your answer to Question 11?

Participating landowners will have 35,000 gallons of water stored on-site for domestic needs during the hot, low-instream flow months of summer. This storage will provide 300 gallons or more per day for all domestic needs if managed appropriately throughout the forbearance period. Each participating resident will also be provided a CALFIRE approved stand pipe (basically a fire hydrant without pressure) that will help provide firefighters with great emergency water access.

The benefit to aquatic organisms within the watersheds will increase as participation by landowners increase due to the reduction of direct withdrawal of water from the low instream flowing creeks, allowing water to pass the points of diversion will cummulatively provide for connected habitats.

13. Please complete the following budget table for the project. (Identify funding sources in Question 15)

	BUDGET CATEGORY	Grant Amount	All Other Cost	Total Cost
(a)	Project Administration	29,042	0	29,042
(b)	Land Purchase / Easement	0	0	0
(c)	Planning / Design / Engineering / Environmental Documentation	39,137	13,000	9,784
(d)	Construction / Implementation	215,084	32,263	247,347
	TOTAL COSTS	283,264	45,263	328,527

14. Please describe why state funding is needed for this project. If state funding is not secured, what will happen to the project?

The economically disadvantaged communities in the Browns and Tule Creek watersheds built their homes around the reliable supply of water from the streams, however drought has increasingly made water supply unreliable. Meanwhile aquatic ecosystems are being decimated by the reduced streamflows. This project can alleviate social water reliability while increasing instream ecosystem function. If this project is not funded, we will continue

planning for future projects, but people will continue to be without reasonable domestic water and aquatic organisms will continue to be decimated by human impacts on top of drought.

15. Will the applicant provide cost share (encouraged but not required) and/or will this project require any additional funding from sources other than this solicitation? If so, please describe the funding source and indicate if the funding has been secured. If the funding has not been secured, please describe the plan to secure the necessary funding.

The original grant the 5Cs and WRTC acquired required 15% matching funding from landowners for each implementation project, therefore in the attempt of complete fairness we have continued this request of landowners. We believe that we can ask landowners to contribute 10-15% of implementation costs in the future. We also currently have a planning grant with the CA Wildlife Conservation Board which we have matching funding for design and environmental compliance for approximately \$13,000.

16. Is land acquisition or landowner permission required for this project? If so, please briefly describe the status of the acquisition or agreement with the landowner. If the acquisition is not complete or permission not secured at the time of application, please describe the plan to complete it.

Landowner permissions are required to implement this project. We do not obtain landowner permission to construct until the landowner signs the Forbearance Agreement. We have multiple landowners interested in Storage and Forbearance projects, are holding discussions with these landowners, and are very confident that when the funds become available that they will sign forbearance agreements with us.

17. Has planning and design for this project been completed? If not, please describe the status of planning and design.

A generic design for construction has been completed, however each project gets tailored to the individual water system and topography within reasonable adjustment to the general design. We've designed 4 unique designs so far, but all have the same 35,000 gallons of water storage. Our design considers Trinity County and California building code and grading code.

18. Are the CEQA (and NEPA if applicable) and permitting processes for this project complete? If not, please briefly describe the permits and CEQA (or NEPA) documents to be completed and projected schedule for completion.

CEQA is not required for this project since this project is an improvement on existing infrastructure. California Department of Fish and Wildlife 1600 permits may be required if there is alteration to the existing diversion. The project does require a Department of Water Resources Small Domestic Use permit and the WRTC will work with the landowner to submit the initial application and assist with their first year of submitting their Statement of Use. Other potential permits may be needed such as floodplain development permits, grading permits and such (though to date we have designed projects to avoid such needs).

19. Please briefly describe the necessary construction/implementation for this project.

Construction implementation costs include construction oversight, engineering oversight, technician labor, heavy equipment construction (tank pad and trenching), plumbing and electrical construction (piping, pumps, electrical, etc.), plumbing parts (pipe, fittings, pumps, valves, floats, flow meters, etc), water tanks and delivery, aggregate (sand for under tanks and around pipes) and delivery. We recently implemented 3 of these projects and

have 2 more under construction (all of our implementation funds will be spent by December).

20. Please complete the schedule below for the project. Projects must be complete by March 31, 2026, to allow time for final invoice processing and retention payment before the State funds expire on June 30, 2026. Project administration should end at least three months after construction.

	Categories	Start Date	End Date
(a)	Project Administration	2/1/2022	3/31/2026
(b)	Land Purchase / Easement		
(c)	Planning/ Design / Engineering / Environmental Documentation	2/1/2022	12/31/2025
(d)	Construction/ Implementation	2/1/2022	2/15/2026



NORTH COAST RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP

Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant, 2021

Eligibility and General Project Information Application

The Eligibility and General Project Information Application will be accepted until 5:00 pm, November 17, 2021

It is important to save the Eligibility and General Project Information Application file with a distinct file name that references the project name. Please fill out grey text boxes and select all the check boxes that apply to the project. Application responses should be clear, brief and succinct. When the application is complete, please email to Katherine Gledhill at kgledhill@westcoastwatershed.com

If you have questions or need additional information please contact:

- General Information: Katherine Gledhill at kgledhill@westcoastwatershed.com or 707.795.1235
- Technical Assistance/Support: Colette Metz Santsche, colettem@planwestpartners.com or 707.825.8260
- Tribal Projects: Sherri Norris, NCRP Director of Tribal Engagement at sherri@cieaweb.org or 510.848.2043

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Project Name:

Browns and Tule Creeks Drought Resiliency Storage and Forbearance Project

2. Project Abstract [500 characters]

Residents in the Browns and Tule Creek watersheds rely on the creeks for all of their water needs. The WRTC will build off of earlier outreach to private landowners to implement storage and forbearance projects improving domestic water resiliency during drought, while also conserving instream flow in these priority watersheds for anadromous fisheries. Each project will provide 30,000 gallons of domestic water storage per parcel and secure forbearance from diversion during the low-flow season.

3. Local Project Sponsor Name:

The Watershed Research and Training Center

4. Contact Name/Title

Name: Joshua Smith

Title: Watershed Stewardship Program Director

Email: josh@thewatershedcenter.com

Phone Number (include area code): 530-628-4206

5. Does your Organization need technical assistance and/or proposal development support for the NCRP Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant proposal?

yes no

Please briefly describe the technical/proposal support needed.

6. Organization Type

Public agency

Non-profit organization

Public utility

Special District

Mutual Water Company

Federally recognized Indian Tribe

Non-federally recognized Native American Tribes on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission for the purposes of Chapter 905 of the Statutes of 2004

Other:

7. If the Local Project Sponsor is a mutual water company or public utility, does the proposed project have a clear and definite public purpose that benefits the customers of the water system or other public utility and not the investors? yes no

8. If yes, please state the public purpose and explain how it benefits the customers:

9. Has the organization implemented similar projects in the past? yes no

10. Describe the drought conditions in the area where your project is located.

Note: This question is important and must be answered.

In August 2014, Browns Creek (tributary to the Trinity River) dried up from the mouth upstream for 8 miles, resulting in over 60 households either losing or experiencing significant reductions of their prime source of domestic water. A few moderate to wet years following 2014 were not enough to replenish the watershed. Two years of drought (2020-2021) resulted in Browns Creek drying up again, this time by July 6. Over 50% of the residential parcels experienced a loss or significant reduction in domestic water availability, even springs that produced in 2014 dried up in 2021. Historically, snowpack in the headwaters supplied Browns Creek into the summer, but warming temperatures during the winter has resulted in less snowpack, flashier winter flows, and less storage of water for summer release. Tule Creek has experienced drying during the drought periods, leaving majority of the residents without their prime water source.

B. PROJECT BENEFITS TO DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES AND/OR TRIBES

1. Does the project provide direct benefits to a project area comprised of Disadvantaged Communities? If partially, please estimate percentage of project that benefits disadvantaged communities and list the communities.

• Entirely

• Partially

• No

List the Disadvantaged Community(s) (DAC)

Douglas City, CA 75% of the project will benefit this Disadvantaged Community.

2. Does the project provide direct benefits to a project area comprised of Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDAC)? If partially, please estimate percentage of the project that benefits the severely disadvantaged community(s) and list the SDACs.

- Entirely
- Partially
- No

List the Severely Disadvantaged Community(s)

Hayfork, CA. 25% of the project will benefit this Severely Disadvantaged Community.

3. Does the project provide direct benefits to a Tribe or Tribes? If partially, please estimate percentage of project that benefits Tribes and list the Tribes.

- Entirely
- Partially
- No

List the Tribal Community(s)

If yes, please provide evidence of support from each Tribe listed as receiving these benefits.

a) Is a Tribal letter of support included in the application?

- yes no

C. NCRP GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Please check the NCRP goals/objectives below that align with your project goals/objectives. Note: you may skip Question 7 on the PROJECT INFORMATION FORM.

GOAL 1: INTRAREGIONAL COOPERATION & ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

- Objective 1 - Respect local autonomy and local knowledge in Plan and project development and implementation
- Objective 2 - Provide an ongoing framework for inclusive, efficient intraregional cooperation and effective, accountable NCRP project implementation
- Objective 3 - Integrate Traditional Ecological Knowledge in collaboration with Tribes to incorporate these practices into North Coast Projects and Plans

GOAL 2: ECONOMIC VITALITY

- Objective 4 - Ensure that economically disadvantaged communities are supported and that project implementation enhances the economic vitality of disadvantaged communities by improving built and natural infrastructure systems and promoting adequate housing
- Objective 5 - Conserve and improve the economic benefits of North Coast Region working landscapes and natural areas

GOAL 3: ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT

- Objective 6 – Conserve, enhance, and restore watersheds and aquatic ecosystems, including functions, habitats, and elements that support biological diversity

Objective 7 - Enhance salmonid populations by conserving, enhancing, and restoring required habitats and watershed processes

GOAL 4: BENEFICIAL USES OF WATER

Objective 8 - Ensure water supply reliability and quality for municipal, domestic, agricultural, Tribal, and recreational uses while minimizing impacts to sensitive resources

Objective 9 - Improve drinking water quality and water related infrastructure to protect public health, with a focus on economically disadvantaged communities

Objective 10 - Protect groundwater resources from over-drafting and contamination

GOAL 5: CLIMATE ADAPTATION & ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

Objective 11 - Address climate change effects, impacts, vulnerabilities, including droughts, fires, floods, and sea level rise. Develop adaptation strategies for local and regional sectors to improve air and water quality and promote public health

Objective 12 - Promote local energy independence, water/ energy use efficiency, GHG emission reduction, and jobs creation

GOAL 6: PUBLIC SAFETY

Objective 13 - Improve flood protection, forest and community resiliency to reduce the public safety impacts associated with floods and wildfires

D. DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES ELIGIBILITY

1. URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

a) Is the organization required to file an Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP)?

yes no

b) If Yes, list the date the UWMP was approved by DWR:

c) Does the urban water supplier have a complete and validated water loss audit report verified by DWR in accordance with Senate Bill No. 555 (Stats. 2015, ch. 679).

yes no

d) Does the urban water supplier meet the water meter requirements of CWC 525?

yes no

e) Is the urban water supplier compliant with requirements to submit to the State Water Resources Control Board their monthly water use reports in compliance with requirements outlined in the California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 991?

yes no

f) If facing water supply shortages, the urban water supplier must have activated a Water Shortage Contingency Plan to a stage commensurate with their current water supply conditions. Has the applicant reported activation of the plan to the State Water Board?

yes no

2. AGRICULTURAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

a) Is the organization – or any organization that will receive funding from the project – required to file an Agricultural Water Management Plan (AWMP)?

yes no

b) If Yes, list date the AWMP was approved by DWR:

- c) Does the agricultural water supplier(s) meet the requirements the Water Code and Executive Order (EO) B-29-15?
 yes no

3. SURFACE WATER DIVERSION REPORTS

- a) Is the organization a Surface Water Diverter?
 yes no
- b) If Yes, has the organization filed annual and monthly surface water diversion reports to the SWRCB per the requirements in Water Code section 5100 et seq., and California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 907-930?
 yes no

4. CALIFORNIA GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT COMPLIANCE

- b) Does the project that directly affect groundwater levels or quality?
 yes no
- c) If Yes, is the Project located in a CASGEM High or Medium priority groundwater basin?
- d) Please list the groundwater basin:
- e) Does the above CASGEM High or Medium priority groundwater basin(s) have an adopted GWMP in compliance of Water Code section 10753 before January 1, 2015?
 yes no
- f) If yes, is a GSA letter of support included in the application?**
 yes no

For groundwater projects or other projects that directly affect groundwater levels or quality in a high or medium priority basin, documentation that the project has support from the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) of the impacted groundwater basin(s), or the agency responsible for implementing an alternative plan is required to be included with the application.

5. CASGEM COMPLIANCE

- a) Does the project overlie a medium or high groundwater basin as prioritized by DWR?
 yes no
- b) If Yes, list the groundwater basin:
- c) If Yes, please specify the name of the organization that is the designated monitoring entity:
- d) If there is no monitoring entity, please indicate whether the project is wholly located in an economically disadvantaged community.
 yes no
- e) **If yes, is a map that shows the Project's implementing agency's service area boundary and DAC overlay included in the application?**
 yes no

Note: Consistent with Water Code section 10933.7(b), if the entire service area of the individual Local Project Sponsor's service area is demonstrated to be a disadvantaged community, the project will be considered eligible for grant funding notwithstanding CASGEM compliance. If the Local Project Sponsor is exempt, a map must be included with the application that shows the Project's implementing agency's service area boundary. The map should include a DAC overlay to demonstrate the project is exempt. Please contact NCRP staff for assistance.

6. STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

- a) Is the project a stormwater and/or dry weather runoff capture project?
 yes no
- b) If yes, please provide the name of the Stormwater Resource Plan (or Functionally Equivalent Stormwater Resource Plan) that the project is listed in.
- c) If the project is a stormwater project but is not listed in a Stormwater Resource Plan, does the project benefit a Disadvantaged Community with a population of 20,000 or less?
 yes no