

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: Redwood Creek, South Fork Eel Storage and Forbearance Program
2. Local Project Sponsor (if different than grantee): Salmonid Restoration Federation (SRF)
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: 40.105140°

Longitude: -123.902005°

4. Please briefly describe the proposed project.

SRF's proposed Storage and Forbearance Program will address drought impacts on the Briceland community as well as local fish and wildlife by designing and constructing water storage and water supply systems for residents that do not get their water from the Briceland Community Services District. Approximately five sites with ~250,000 gallons of total storage would be designed and permitted to ensure that flow augmentation remains instream to benefit salmonids. SRF will manage program implementation including: landowner coordination, permit compliance support, and ongoing community outreach. The program will identify and design strategic storage and forbearance opportunities along Redwood Creek within the vicinity of the town of Briceland and downstream. Redwood Creek suffers from impaired flows and lack of adequate water infrastructure given the level of human consumptive water use in the area.

Since 2013, SRF has been monitoring low flows in Redwood Creek and in 2021 flows were lower than during the extended drought years. Several of our monitoring sites on the mainstem were dry and disconnected by April. According to the California Water Action Plan, the South Fork Eel River is considered one of five priority watersheds for flow enhancement projects in California. Redwood Creek is a critical tributary to the South Fork Eel River because of its high potential for salmonid recovery. Lack of instream flows is a primary limiting factor for salmonids and contributes to lack of water reliability for rural landowners. Drought conditions in this water year impacted flows, fire protection resources, water availability and water quality. Please see the SRF Redwood Creek page to see the low flow trajectory for 2021 and previous years. <https://www.calsalmon.org/programs/redwood-creek-low-flow-monitoring>

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.

Redwood Creek is a critical tributary for Coho salmon since it retains high habitat potential legacy impacts and countless water diversions. Coho are listed as threatened species and the South Fork Eel River is key to recovery of the species in the SONCC Evolutionary Significant Unit (ESU). The SF Eel is also considered one of five priority watersheds in the state for flow enhancement projects according to the California Water Action Plan. The lack of adequate instream flows in Redwood Creek has become an emergency for fire safety, water supply reliability, and for salmonid species dependent on cool water for their survival.

This project would address these urgent issues by building capacity for residents to capture rainfall and runoff during the winter and store the water for summer use in key reaches of Redwood Creek where instream flows during the dry summer months would provide habitat connectivity for juvenile salmonids and other aquatic species. The project would also improve fire safety for participating landowners and the greater community.

The project provides direct water-related benefits to the residents located in and adjacent to the town of Briceland, California. The United States Census data for area code 95542, which is the zip code used for Briceland mail, states that the median income is \$30,505. The NCRP data map (located at <https://northcoastresourcepartnership.org/data/>) demonstrates that this area is an "economically distressed area" and surrounded by areas labeled as "severely economically disadvantage community", but it is not listed as an SDAC. Lastly, Briceland CSD conducted an informal survey of its customers in 2021 and concluded the average household income of its customers was \$36,726. The proposed SRF Storage and Forbearance Program would serve residents that do not get their water from the Briceland CSD and are therefore further disadvantaged as it relates to water supply and reliability. Based on all of the information outlined above, SRF considers the benefits to the project area to be entirely comprised of a severely disadvantaged community.

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.

GOAL 1: INTRAREGIONAL COOPERATION & ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

-Objective 2 – Provide an ongoing framework for inclusive, efficient intraregional cooperation and effective, accountable NCRP project implementation

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

GOAL 6: PUBLIC SAFETY

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

8. Describe the Primary Benefit of the project.

Quantified benefit: 250,000

Units (Drop down): If other please enter: gallons

Benefit Type: Other If other please enter: water storage to reduce summer diversion demand.

9. Describe the Secondary Benefit of the project:

Quantified benefit: 5

Units (Drop down): If other please enter: plumbing infrastructure and hydrants

Benefit Type: Other If other please enter: Fire suppression systems

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

SRF will identify, plan, permit, and implement water storage projects on five properties

totaling a minimum of 250,000 gallons of water storage in tanks and small ponds in order for participating landowners to forbear from diverting surface water during the dry summer months. Each system will be equipped with plumbing and hydrant hookups to be able to add a fire safety component to this multiple-benefit project.

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

Redwood Creek in the South Fork Eel River watershed is greatly impacted by the current drought. SRF has been monitoring low flows in this watershed since 2013 and the dry season of 2021 was the driest year on record with Redwood Creek becoming disconnected stranding juvenile salmonids. Redwood Creek is an underserved community with approximately 400 parcels but with only one water services district for residents within the watershed. This storage and forbearance effort would provide storage to residents not covered under Briceland Community Services District and who currently rely on Redwood Creek for their water source.

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

This project would alleviate the drought impacts by ensuring that landowners who divert directly from Redwood Creek would not be diverting during the summer months when flows and water quality are most impaired. By storing water during the winter months for use during the summer, participating landowners would have water supply reliability and the benefits of the Marshall Ranch Flow Enhancement Project would remain instream.

13. Please complete the following budget table for the project.

	BUDGET CATEGORY	Grant Amount	All Other Cost	Total Cost
(a)	Project Administration	50,000	50,000	100,000
(b)	Land Purchase / Easement	0	0	0
(c)	Planning / Design / Engineering / Environmental Documentation	150,000	100,000	250,000
(d)	Construction / Implementation	300,000	0	300,000
	TOTAL COSTS	500,000	150,000	650,000

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

State funding is needed for this project in order to identify and design projects at the most strategic locations to optimize instream flow benefits. Participating landowners are unlikely to have the means or incentive to site, design, permit, and build a 50,000-gallon tank without financial and technical assistance. If state funding is not secured, SRF will continue with targeted education and outreach, work with agencies to have a more complete

understanding of winter water availability, and continue to apply for funding for this important phase of the program.

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.

SRF is hopeful that cost share will be available through the North Coast Salmon Recovery PSN (full proposal to be submitted in December). If we are able to secure this cost-share, we would also be able to utilize the streamlined permitting associated with this solicitation that is part of the *Cutting the Green Tape initiative*. This would be a great opportunity to utilize programmatic permitting for multiple water tanks on different parcels.

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 permission and access will be required. If funded, SRF will secure landowner permission and access agreements for all project sites.

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

Preliminary planning for this project is underway through the Redwood Creek Feasibility Study that Stillwater Sciences is preparing for SRF that includes a hydrologic analysis, a water availability analysis, and prioritization of projects. Through the completed water availability analysis, a list of current riparian water rights holders have been identified and will be targeted for participation in this storage and forbearance program. The feasibility study has identified the highest priority reach for storage and forbearance which is adjacent to and just downstream from the town of Briceland and includes approximately 15 water users that divert from Redwood Creek during the dry season. Designs for specific properties have not yet been completed for this project.

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 isn't complete and the project will likely require CEQA. Additionally, the project will require a CDFW LSAA, water rights (likely a Small Domestic Use Registration), and potentially a Humboldt County Grading Permits. Costs for all CEQA and permitting activities are included in the budget.

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

Construction/implementation will include the following:
The storage and forbearance construction will require heavy equipment and labor for site preparation and installation of ponds/tank systems. Materials will include 50,000 gallons of tank storage capacity, pond liners, rock for the tank pads and pond spillways, and

plumbing/electrical materials needed for the water management system.

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	1/1/2022	3/1/2026
(b)	Land Purchase / Easement		
(c)	Planning/ Design / Engineering / Environmental Documentation	1/1/2022	7/1/2023
(d)	Construction/ Implementation	7/1/2023	2/1/2026