California Department of Fish and Wildlife Fisheries Restoration Grant Program Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Bridge replacement on Mill Creek, a tributary to the Scott River

Photo Credit: Pusher Inc./California Trout

Watershed Restoration Grant Branch

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January 2026

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Executive Summary

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Fisheries Restoration Grant Program (FRGP) was established in 1981. The objective of FRGP is to restore anadromous salmonid habitat through restoration activities that reestablish natural ecosystem functions and processes with the goal of ensuring the recovery and conservation of salmon and steelhead. FRGP accomplishes this by funding:

- Restoration projects that address factors limiting the productivity of Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed salmonids, as specified in approved, interim, or proposed Recovery Plans.
- Projects and activities that provide demonstrable and measurable benefits to ESA-listed salmonids and their habitat(s).
- Effectiveness monitoring of habitat restoration actions at the watershed or larger scales for ESA-listed salmonids, or status monitoring projects that directly contribute to population viability assessments.
- Other projects consistent with but not included in the above, such as outreach, coordination, research, monitoring, and assessment projects that directly support the program objective.

FRGP welcomes feedback to help understand and evaluate the usefulness of this document for improving the program, particularly regarding fisheries restoration. Comments are encouraged and should be directed to:

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Part I: Introduction

This report highlights FRGP-funded projects completed during the State Fiscal Year (FY) 2024/2025. A project must have an actual end date between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025, to be considered complete in FY24/25. Detailed listings of restoration projects and project outcomes (performance measures), as well as a description of notable projects completed during FY24/25 are included.

A brief discussion of FRGP history, a description of the grant process, funding, a description of the state/federal permits secured by FRGP, legal authority and related statutes, and a description of FRGP project types can be found on FRGP's website https://wildlife.ca.gov/Grants/FRGP.

Volume of Proposals Received and Funded

Each year, FRGP solicits proposals for projects which address the goals of the program through its Proposal Solicitation Notice (PSN). For FRGP to accomplish its goals, applicants must submit proposals that address a task in one of the State or Federal Recovery Plans available to the public.

The annual competitive selection process has evolved over the past 40 years and FRGP receives more proposals than it can fund. Over the last five years (between FY20/21 and FY24/25), FRGP has received 274 proposals and has funded 148 projects (Table 1).

Table 1: FRGP Proposals and Funded Projects by FY (WebGrants data, 2025)

Fiscal Year	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	5 Yr Total
Proposals Received	80	61	50	35	48	274
Proposals Funded	42	23	34	26	23	148
% Funded	53%	38%	68%	74%	48%	54%

Part II: Summary of Fiscal Year 24/25

A total of 24 FRGP-funded projects were completed in FY24/25.

Geographic Coverage

There are five CDFW Geographic Regions eligible for FRGP funding. The 24 completed projects ranged geographically and were located in four of the five regions, in addition to statewide projects that spanned multiple regions (Table 3). A regional breakdown of completed projects can be found in Part III.

Table 2: FY24/25 Completed Projects by CDFW Region

CDFW Region	Projects Completed
Region 1 - Northern Region	10
Region 3 - Bay Delta Region	4
Region 4 - Central Region	4
Region 5 - South Central Region	2
Statewide	4

Project Types

The 24 completed projects fell under eight different FRGP Project Types (Table 2). Descriptions of each FRGP Project Type are in the FRGP Project Overview. Appendix C.

Table 3: FY24/25 Completed Projects by Project Type

Project Type	Projects Completed
FP - Fish Passage at Stream Crossing	3
HI - Instream Habitat Restoration	2
MO - Monitoring Watershed Restoration	1
PD - Project Design	10
PI - Public Involvement and Capacity Building	3
PL - Watershed Evaluation, Assessment, and Planning	1
TE - Private Sector Technical Training	2
WC - Water Conservation Measures	2

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Project Costs

FRGP costs for the 24 completed projects in FY24/25 totaled $9,136,267. Specific breakdowns of the costs between FRGP Project Type (Figure 1) and CDFW Region (Figure 2) show the spread of funds. Information on fund sources can be found in Appendix A.

Figure 1: FY24/25 Completed Project Cost Breakdown by FRGP Project Type

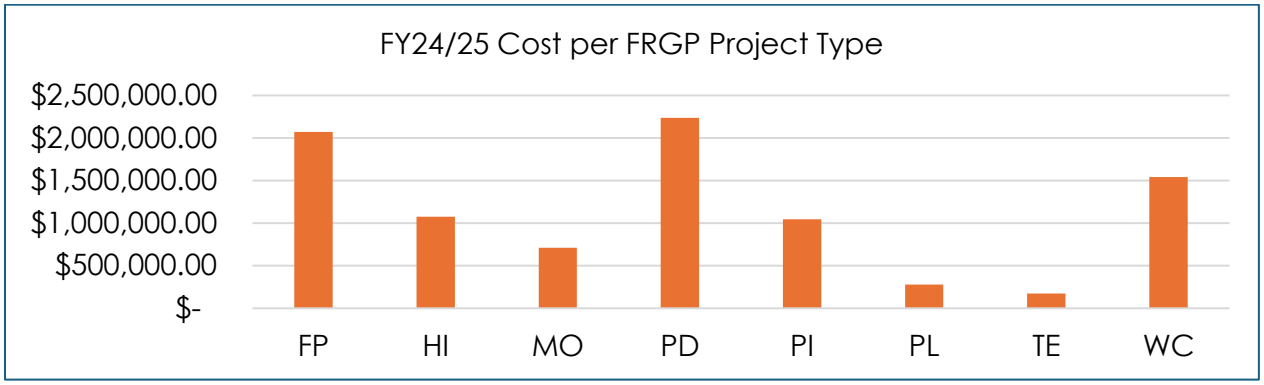
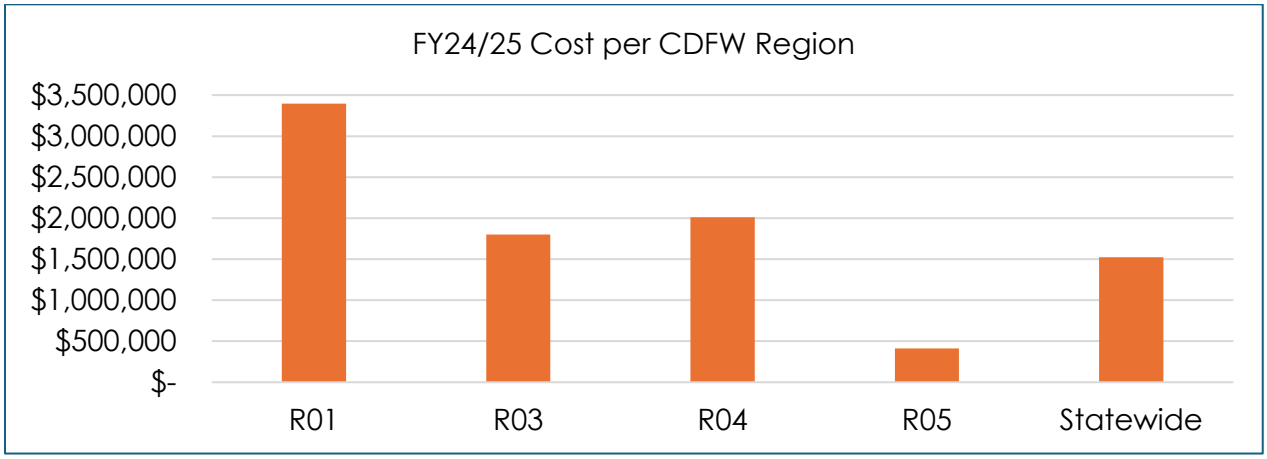


Figure 2: FY24/25 Completed Project Cost Breakdown by CDFW Region



Project with the Lowest Cost:

- 25th and 26th Annual Coho Confabs ($39,729)

Project with the Highest Cost:

- Mt. Gilead Water Conservation and Streamflow Improvement Project ($947,882)

Performance Measures

Each FRGP Project Type requires grantees to track a specific, extensive set of measurable restoration metrics associated with funded projects. Summary performance measures are provided for the 24 completed projects (Table 4).

Table 4: Cumulative Performance Measures for all FY24/25 Completed Projects

Performance Measure	Value
Overall stream length treated (miles)	7.58
Stream length made accessible by removing blockages (miles)	3.00
Stream length made available by bridge/culvert installation/repair (miles)	8.55
Number of blockages/impediments/barriers removed or altered	5
Stream length monitored (miles)	24.92
Amount of riparian area treated (acres)	5.40
Number of designs, watershed plans, and assessments completed	13
Number of workshops, training, and outreach events held	607

Part III: Completed Project Listing for Fiscal Year 24/25

The following tables contain a comprehensive listing of FRGP-funded projects completed during FY24/25. The tables are sorted by CDFW region and project type to facilitate comparisons of projects across the state.

Region 1 Project Listing

10 projects in the Northern Region were completed during FY24/25.

Table 5: FY24/25 Completed Project Listing in CDFW Region 1 by Project Type

FRGP Grant Number	Project Name	Project Type	FY Approved	Actual End Date	Stream(s)	County(ies)	Total Project Cost
Q2110505	Scott Bar Mill Creek Fish Passage Improvement Project	FP	FY21/22	10/28/2024	Mill Creek	Siskiyou	$748,739
Q2010502	North Fork Noyo River Tributary Complex - Large Wood Habitat Enhancement Project	HI	FY20/21	02/24/2025	Dewarren Creek, Middle Fork of North Fork Noyo River, Unnamed Tributary	Mendocino	$604,602
Q2010510	Bull Creek Hamilton Reach Instream and Floodplain Habitat Restoration Project	HI	FY20/21	04/14/2025	Bull Creek	Humboldt	$471,394
Q1910510	Scott River, Siskiyou County, Tailings Restoration Design, River Mile 52.8-53.7	PD	FY19/20	09/05/2024	Scott River	Siskiyou	$332,647
Q2010512	Mattole Watershed Mid-River Large Wood	PD	FY20/21	01/02/2025	Mattole River	Humboldt	$181,404

FRGP Grant Number	Project Name	Project Type	FY Approved	Actual End Date	Stream(s)	County(ies)	Total Project Cost
	Augmentation Planning Project						
Q2110510	Soda Creek Fish Passage and Winter Habitat Refugia Design Project	PD	FY21/22	02/28/2025	Soda Creek	Mendocino	$260,499
Q2210500	Jacoby Creek Off-Channel Refuge and Rearing Habitat Planning Project	PD	FY21/22	07/03/2024	Jacoby Creek	Humboldt	$143,246
Q2210501	Lower Ryan Creek Off-Channel Habitat and Floodplain Enhancement Planning Project	PD	FY21/22	12/03/2024	Ryan Creek	Humboldt	$313,273
Q2210522	Lower SF Cottaneva Watershed Habitat Enhancement Design Project	PD	FY22/23	01/10/2025	South Fork Cottaneva Creek	Mendocino	$59,483
Q2010529	Salmonid Habitat Modeling for Restoration Prioritization of Pudding Creek and the Noyo River: Using LiDAR to Describe Watershed-Scale Channel Conditions	PL	FY20/21	03/18/2025	Noyo River, Pudding Creek	Mendocino	$279,780

Region 2 Project Listing

No projects in the North Central Region were completed during FY24/25.

Region 3 Project Listing

4 projects in the Bay Delta Region were completed during FY24/25.

Table 6: FY24/25 Completed Project Listing in CDFW Region 3 by Project Type

FRGP Grant Number	Project Name	Project Type	FY Approved	Actual End Date	Stream(s)	County(ies)	Total Project Cost
Q1930400	Sulphur Creek Fish Passage Restoration Project Design	PD	FY19/20	10/22/2024	Sulphur Creek	Napa	$155,166
Q2230404	Last Dam: Restoring steelhead rearing habitat through barrier removal on Upper Stuart Creek, Sonoma County.	PD	FY22/23	09/20/2024	Stuart Creek	Sonoma	$103,111
Q2030400	Alliance Redwoods Water Conservation Implementation Project	WC	FY20/21	05/08/2025	Dutch Bill Creek	Sonoma	$539,048
Q2230400	Mt. Gilead Water Conservation and Streamflow Improvement Project	WC	FY22/23	03/17/2025	Green Valley Creek	Sonoma	$947,882

Region 4 Project Listing

4 projects in the Central Region were completed during FY24/25.

Table 7: FY24/25 Completed Project Listing in CDFW Region 4 by Project Type

FRGP Grant Number	Project Name	Project Type	FY Approved	Actual End Date	Stream(s)	County(ies)	Total Project Cost
Q2140408	Potrero Creek Fish Passage Project	FP	FY21/22	11/12/2024	Carmel River	Monterey	$618,830
Q2140409	Weston-Champagne Cachagua Creek Fish Passage Project	FP	FY21/22	01/13/2025	Cachagua Creek	Monterey	$704,346
Q2140407	Zanker Farm Salmonid Habitat Restoration Project Phase II	PD	FY21/22	03/14/2025	Tuolumne River	Stanislaus	$641,242
Q2240403	Santa Rosa Creek Restoration and Improved Land Management Design Project	PD	FY22/23	02/10/2025	Santa Rosa Creek	San Luis Obispo	$44,962

Region 5 Project Listing

2 projects in the South Coast Region were completed during FY24/25.

Table 8: FY24/25 Completed Project Listing in CDFW Region 5 by Project Type

FRGP Grant Number	Project Name	Project Type	FY Approved	Actual End Date	Stream(s)	County(ies)	Total Project Cost
Q2250902	Southern Steelhead Coalition	PI	FY22/23	07/28/2025	Alisal, Cachuma, El Jaro, Mono, Piru, Pole, Quiota, Salsipuedes, San Lucas, Santa Paula, Sespe, and West Fork Santa Cruz Creeks; Santa Clara and Santa Ynez Rivers	Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, Ventura	$216,908
Q2050907	CCC Camarillo Steelhead Restoration Support Team - Fish Habitat Assistant	PI	FY20/21	12/12/2024	Arroyo Burro, Arroyo Sequit, Arroyo Trabuco; Atascadero, Bear, Carpinteria, Gobernador, Malibu, Matilija, Mission, Montecito, North Fork Matilija, Rincon, San Antonio, San Jose, San Pedro, Santa Paula, Sespe, Sisar, Tajiguas, and Upper North Fork Matilija Creeks; Santa Clara and Ventura Rivers	Los Angeles, Orange, Santa Barbara, Ventura	$193,871

Statewide Project Listing

4 projects that occurred in multiple areas in California were completed during FY24/25.

Table 9: FY24/25 Completed Project Listing for Statewide Projects by Project Type

FRGP Grant Number	Project Name	Project Type	FY Approved	Actual End Date	Stream(s)	County(ies)	Total Project Cost
P2196001	Effectiveness Monitoring of FRGP Projects 2022-2024	MO	FY21/22	07/19/2024	Statewide	Statewide	$711,491
Q2310500	California Conservation Corps Watershed Stewards Program in Partnership with AmeriCorps - Year 30	PI	FY22/23	10/30/2024	Statewide	Statewide	$635,022
Q2130400	25th and 26th Annual Coho Confabs	TE	FY20/21	13/20/2024	Statewide	Statewide	$39,729
Q2230403	40th and 41st SRF Annual Salmonid Restoration Conferences	TE	FY22/23	10/31/2024	Statewide	Statewide	$135,591

Part IV: Highlighted Projects Completed During Fiscal Year 2024/25

Q2010510: Bull Creek Hamilton Reach Instream and Floodplain Habitat Restoration Project

Project Objective(s): The project provides multiple benefits to all life stages of Bull Creek salmonids. The project resulted in improved floodplain connectivity, instream channel complexity and pool frequency, create off-channel winter rearing habitat, reduce summer stream temperature, and promote sediment sorting and spawning riffle development. All results of the project as addressed limiting factors for steelhead trout in the Bull Creek watershed.

Project Location(s): Bull Creek is tributary to the South Fork Eel River, tributary to the Eel River, located in Humboldt County, California. Bull Creek is a fourth order stream. The entire watershed is owned by the State of California and is managed as a State Park.

Project Description: The project removed a sediment detention structure; installed four engineered wood jams, each with a minimum of eight conifer logs with rootwads;

removed approximately 47,000 cubic yards of material across the 18 acre floodplain to restore hydraulic connectivity and juvenile salmonid access to high quality off-channel rearing habitat; installed additional large wood material in scour channels and off-channel ponds across the floodplain; protected existing high quality riparian vegetation; and replanted ~24 different riparian vegetation species in seed mix, individual bare root and container stock plants, and willow and cottonwood pole cuttings.

Project Performance Measures:

• Total length of stream treated by project	0.76 miles
• Total area of riparian habitat treated by project	5.4 acres
• Length of off-channel stream created	0.25 miles
• Number of structures placed in channel	4
• Number of pools created	4

Project Funding:

• CDFW FRGP	$471,393.71
• CDFW Prop 1	$3,487,424.12
• California State Parks	$885,023.00
• California Trout, Inc.	$7,065.14
Total Project Cost	$4,849,905.97

Q2140408: Potrero Creek Fish Passage Project

Project Objective(s): The project goal was to remove a high priority steelhead migration barrier in the Carmel River watershed. The specific objective of the project was to remove an existing undersized smooth steel culvert and concrete aprons, which were full barriers to fish passage on Potrero Creek, and replace them with a multi-plate arched culvert to provide full steelhead fish passage during migration flows, improve flood conveyance and allow landowner access across Potrero Creek to existing commercial facilities at the Carmel Valley Athletic Club.

Project Location(s): The project located on Potrero Creek, tributary to the Carmel River in Monterey County, in unincorporated Carmel Valley. Potrero Creek is the first tributary available to Carmel River steelhead when migrating upstream from the ocean. The culvert/road crossing serves as parking, pedestrian, and automobile, access across the creek to offices and athletic club facilities.

Project Description: The project successfully remedied an existing barrier to steelhead migration on a tributary to the Carmel River by replacing an undersized, corroded 100-foot long, 4½ foot diameter steel pipe road culvert in Potrero Creek and replace it with a 12'10" spanning arched culvert designed to improve fish passage conditions, improve flood conveyance, and provide safe vehicle access across Potrero Creek.

Project Performance Measures:

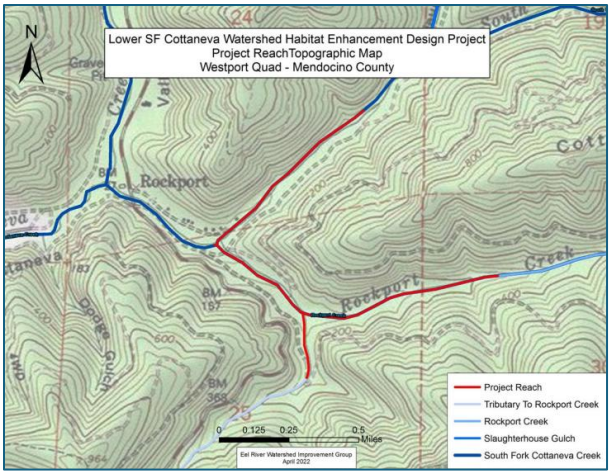
- Total stream length treated by project 0.04 miles
- Number of culverts installed, improved, or replaced 1
- Length of stream made accessible by culvert modification 0.25 miles

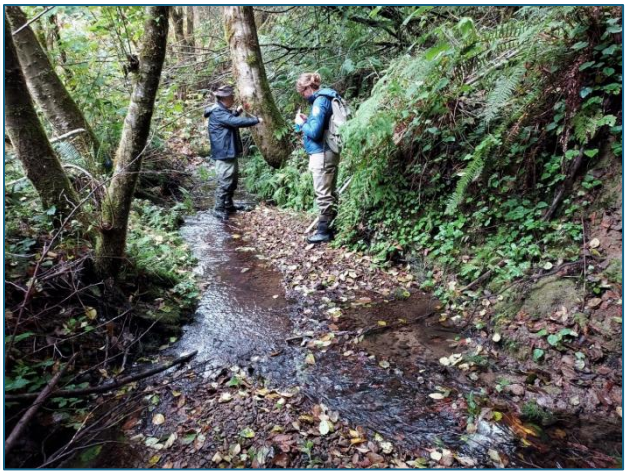
Project Funding:

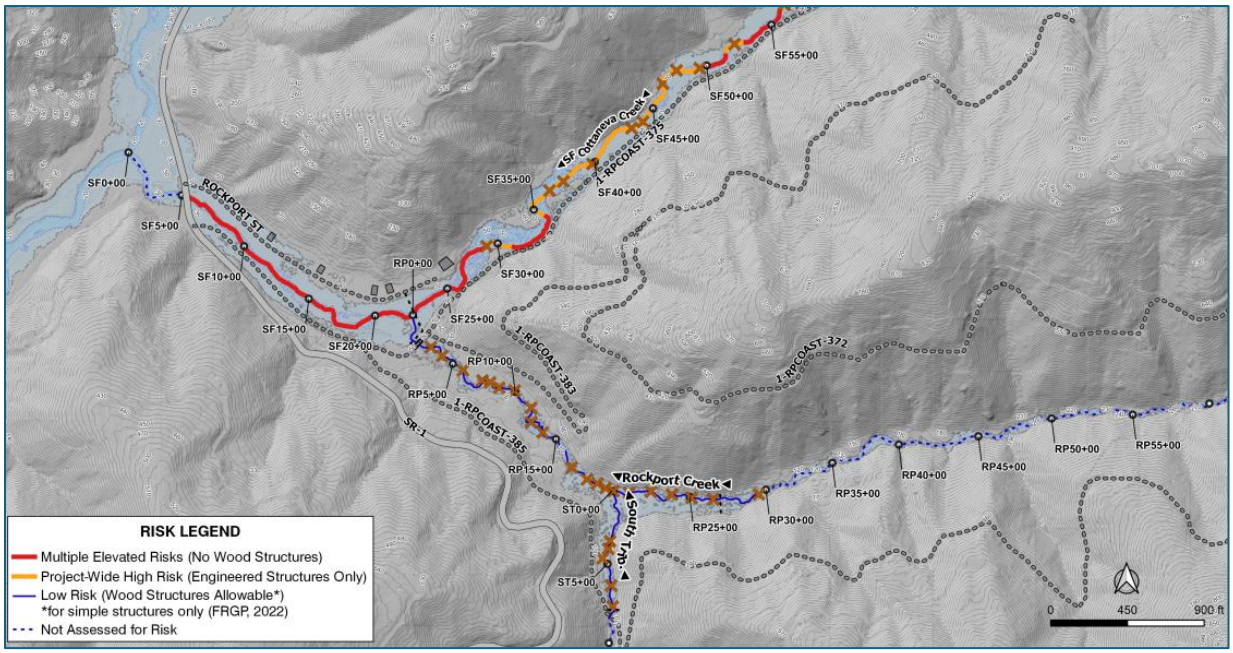
- CDFW FRGP $618,830.33
- California Coastal Conservancy $433,022.64

  Total Project Cost $1,051,852.97

Q2210522: Lower SF Cottaneva Watershed Habitat Enhancement Design Project







Project Objective(s): The legacy impacts of historical forest management practices have resulted in SF Cottaneva Creek lacking large wood, shelter and quality pools. This project is the planning and design of large wood structures along SF Cottaneva Creek and Rockport Creek. Structures will be designed in appropriate locations and will provide summer and winter habitat for Coho salmon.

Project Location(s): This project is located on South Fork Cottaneva Creek, tributary to Cottaneva Creek. The project reach is located in Rockport, Mendocino County, CA.

Project Description: This Project developed 100% Design Plans for 38 engineered and non-engineered large wood features along three separate reaches, totaling 1.3 miles of stream channel. The features will be made up of 14 whole trees and 103 cut logs for a total of 117 pieces of wood. The features will increase flood plain inundation frequency, scour and deepen pools, sort and capture spawning substrate and increase habitat complexity. The Final Designs, Basis of Design Report (BOD), and the hydraulic modeling & stability analysis were completed to 100 percent.

Project Performance Measures:

- Total habitat area affected by project planning 1.00 acres

Project Funding:

- CDFW FRGP $59,482.66

  Total Project Cost $59,482.66

Q2230400: Mt. Gilead Water Conservation and Streamflow Improvement Project

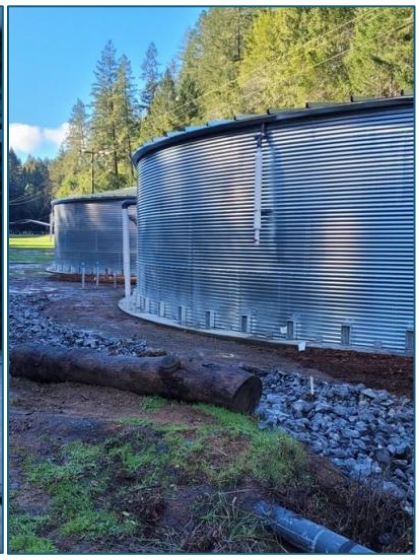
Project Objective(s): The project implemented a suite of water conservation measures and constructed a large-scale rainwater catchment system as an alternative water supply for field irrigation at the Mt. Gilead Camp and Conference Center, located in the headwaters of Green Valley Creek, a critical coho/trout spawning/rearing tributary of the lower Russian. Project implementation reduced dry season water extraction from a series of shallow alluvial wells adjacent to the creek from approximately 3.5 million gallons to only 350,000-400,000 gallons each dry season, an approximately 90% reduction, and extraction will cease altogether from August through October, when streamflow is at its lowest.

Project Location(s): The project is located at the Mt. Gilead Camp and Conference Center in the headwaters of Upper Green Valley Creek, in western Sonoma County, CA. Green Valley Creek is a tributary to the Russian River. The project includes rainwater catchment from the roofs of catchment tanks, a warehouse/shop and a pavilion/shade structure and reducing irrigation demand on large athletic fields directly adjacent to the north bank of Upper Green Valley Creek.

Project Description: The project implemented a series of water conservation measures to improve streamflow in upper Green Valley Creek. The water conservation measures

included shrinking the irrigated area, replacement of the existing irrigation system with a more efficient system, aerating and composting the soil to improve rooting depth and water holding capacity, installation of drought-tolerant turf, and development of a new rainwater catchment system to provide a portion of the remaining irrigation water demand. Furthermore, the camp signed a 25-year forbearance agreement to not extract water from their alluvial wells during August-October.





Project Performance Measures:

- Total stream length treated by project — 4.5 miles
- Estimated increase in water flow — 0.5 feet³/second
- Volume of water conserved per year — 9.5 acre feet

Project Funding:

- CDFW FRGP — $947,882.33
- CDFW Prop 1 — $1,389,053.00
- Wildlife Conservation Board — $531.50
- Landowner (Mt. Gilead Bible Conference, Inc.) — $106,461.00

  Total Project Cost — $2,443,927.83

Q2250902: Southern Steelhead Coalition

Project Objective(s): The Coalition provided a forum for conservation groups working in the watershed to coordinate efforts to implement multi-benefit, process-based ecosystem restoration projects as informed by the southern steelhead recovery and management plans. The Coalitions worked to expand Tribal participation and support tribes in proposing priority restoration projects to the opportunities presented by the federal infrastructure bill. The mission and objectives of the coalition focus on cooperative ways to pool and leverage the expertise and skills of member organizations to expand capacity and develop efficiencies that will help achieve the necessary critical milestones for species recovery. Providing readily available forums for open discussion among practitioners and the public is pivotal to this mission.

Project Location(s): The project is focused on building regional capacity for watershed scale restoration projects within the Santa Clara and Santa Ynez watersheds. In NMFS 2012 Recovery plan, both systems have the highest priority for restoration actions.

Project Description: This project provided a forum for conservation groups working to coordinate efforts to implement multi-benefit, process-based ecosystem projects as informed by the southern steelhead recovery and management plans in the Santa Clara watershed and to expand these efforts to the Santa Ynez watershed. The Project expanded Tribal participation in the coalition and supported tribes in proposing priority projects that could be awarded through opportunities within the federal infrastructure bill. The Project leveraged the expertise of its member organizations to expand capacity and achieve milestones for steelhead recovery. The Project performed public outreach that engaged greater regional community in southern steelhead recovery efforts.

Project Performance Measures:

- Estimated habitat area protected by project 1,040,000 acres

- Estimated stream length protected by project 265 miles
- Number of restoration projects proposed by project 11
- Number of outreach events conducted 24
- Number of workshop/training events conducted 2
- Number of presentations at education institutions 3
- Number of participants at events/presentations 5058
- Number of landowners contacted for restoration purposes 1

Project Funding:

- CDFW FRGP $216,907.74
- California Trout, Inc. $25,469.00
- Friends of Santa Clara River $1,600.00
- Keep Sespe Wild $1,600.00
- The Nature Conservancy $1,600.00
- Wishtoyo Chusmash Foundation $1,600.00

  Total Project Cost $248,776.74

Q2310500: California Conservation Corps Watershed Stewards Program in partnership with AmeriCorps, Year 30

Project Objective(s): The continuation of Watershed Stewards Program (WSP) is vital to the recovery of California's watersheds; it addresses the many issues plaguing salmonids in a multi-faceted approach and provides a platform for restoration agencies to share resources and ultimately inspire and train the next generation of environmental professionals. WSP's conducted key assessments to understand the current conditions and limitations for California's salmonids.

Project Location(s): WSP Corpsmembers worked in creeks and rivers in Coastal California anadromous watersheds between California's Northern and Southern borders.

Project Description: The WSP is a comprehensive, community-based, watershed protection, restoration, and education program. With the help of the FRGP grant, WSP has grown into a dynamic statewide program that develops the next generation of environmental professionals while assisting a diverse group of partners in meeting the needs of California's watersheds. WSP's diverse Year 30 Placement Sites included federal, state, county, tribal and non-profit organizations. Each Placement Site engaged one to

four Corpsmembers in all the service activity areas, while each site's overall strategy, emphasis, effort, and timing of service activities varied.

Project Performance Measures:

• Estimated habitat area protected by project	81 acres
• Estimated stream length protected by project	396 miles
• Number of restoration projects proposed by project	41
• Number of outreach events conducted	1
• Number of workshop/training events conducted	483
• Number of presentations at education institutions	28
• Number of participants at events/presentations	1223

Project Funding:

• CDFW FRGP	$635,021.50
• California Conservation Corps	$987,966.56
• State Water Resources Control Board	$96,000.00
• CalTrans	$7,200.00
• Bureau of Land Management	$44,000.00
• NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center	$51,002.00
• US Fish and Wildlife Service	$48,000.00
• US National Park Service	$49,402.56
• Central Coast Salmond Enhancement	$23,800.00
• Coast Watershed Council	$5,450.00
• Community Businesses	$9,972.00
• Eel River Watershed Improvement Group	$15,500.00
• Grassroots Ecology	$70,925.00
• Marin Municipal Water District	$44,000.00
• Resource Conservation District Santa Monica Mountains	$15,500.00
• San Jose State University Research Foundation	$15,500.00
• Trinity County Resource Conservation District	$20,300.00
• Watsonville Wetlands Watch	$15,500.00
• Yurok Tribe Environmental Department	$33,000.00
Total Project Cost	$2,188,039.62