

and be easier to install than one 10,000 gallon steel tank, and will last longer than a bladder tank (making it a better investment for your money).

Before You Purchase Water Storage Tanks, We Recommend That You:

Receive a technical consultation. It is important to speak with a professional before purchasing water tanks, to make sure that your water storage will be sited and installed properly based on the unique geological properties of your land.

Find out about permitting. Permitting needs vary depending on the tank style, capacity, and the county that you live in. We recommend that you contact your county building department to determine permit requirements for your location, and there may be organizations in your area who can assist you with the permitting process.

Calculate your water storage needs. It is recommended that every household store enough water to last for a dry season lasting 3 ½ months, or 105 days. The State Water Resources Control Board suggests calculating your water storage needs based on the following:

- Household water use: 55 gallons per day (gpd) per person
- Garden water use: 18.5 gpd per 100 square feet of garden
- Fire protection water reserve: 2,500 gallons



Local Resources

Consult Sanctuary Forest's Water Storage Guide for additional information on fish-friendly water pumping, calculating your storage capacity needs, and permitting. If you need a copy of the guide, contact Sanctuary Forest at (707) 986-1087 or sanctuary@sanctuaryforest.org

If you live in Humboldt County and need a contractor or technical consultation, contact:

RainCatcher Installers, Rod Silva & Mark Hilosvsky, (707) 986-7241

We Dig It, Shanon Taliaferro, (707) 223-0494

Plants for the People, Mikal Jakubal, (707) 923-5063

Whitethorn Construction, (707) 986-7416

To speak with a water tank supplier, local contractors recommend:

Scott's Tanks
376 N Main St
Willits, CA 95490
(707) 459-6677

Dazey's Supply
3082 Redwood Drive,
Redway, CA
(707) 923-3002

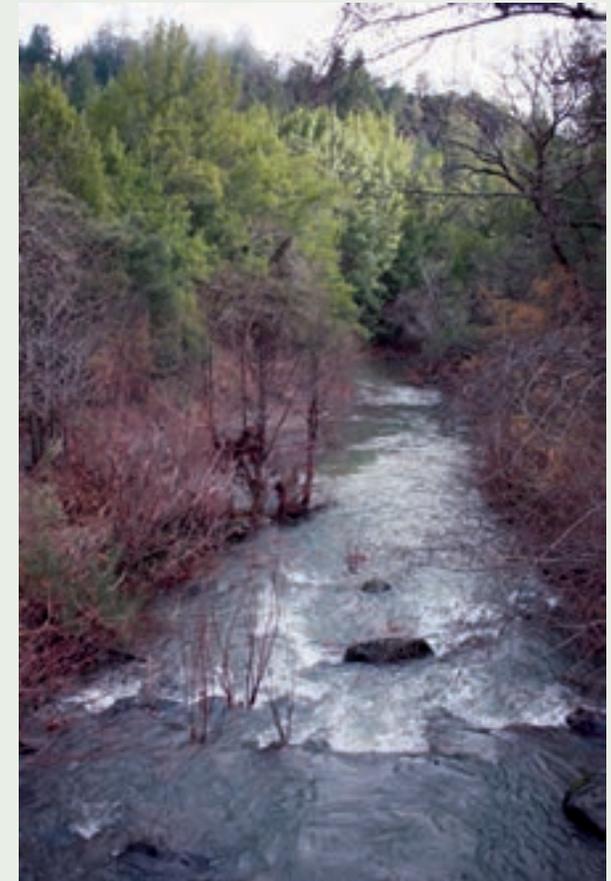
For more information about the Redwood Creek

Water Conservation project:

www.calsalmon.org
water@calsalmon.org
(707) 923-7501



Redwood Creek Water Conservation Project



Thank you for your interest in fish-friendly winter water storage. If you are a rural landowner who relies on a spring, tributary or creek for your household or irrigation water supply, you have an exciting opportunity to participate in a collective solution to the problem of low instream flows—an issue that is affecting watersheds throughout California, to the detriment of both people and fish.

Redwood Creek and its tributaries provide important habitat for coho, Chinook, and steelhead in the South Fork Eel River watershed. For decades, residents had ample water, but in recent years many long-term residents have witnessed decreases in water during the dry months when salmon are most vulnerable to low flows and high water temperatures.

The purpose of this brochure is to outline basic information for rural landowners who are interested in purchasing additional tanks for winter water storage. Adding winter water storage capacity to your property for use during the low flow season (also known as water storage and forbearance) is one water conservation method that research has shown to be both cost effective and beneficial in restoring healthy flows for vulnerable salmon species.

Different Storage Options

The three types of storage tanks outlined below are commonly purchased in Humboldt County, but some are more appropriate and cost effective for fish-friendly winter water storage than others:

Bladder Tanks can be easily transported to very remote areas and can offer large storage capacity at a low upfront cost, but they are susceptible to damage from outside elements such as rodents, bears, and falling tree branches, which means that they may only last for one or two seasons before needing to be replaced. Bladder tanks



are not typically recommended for winter water storage, simply because they are not a cost-effective or long-term investment for your property.

Polyethylene Tanks are very popular, and with good reason. They are light and easy to move, fairly inexpensive and very durable. They range in size from 100 gallons to 15,000 gallons and can be used for potable water. Because poly tanks are relatively inexpensive, durable (lasting 20+ years) and can be easily installed (depending on the size), poly tanks may be the best option for rural landowners looking to make an investment in winter water storage capacity. Local contractors recommend purchasing



Rainwater catchment is a great way to collect water especially if you live at the top of a ridge and don't have gravity flow.

multiple tanks at 2,500 gallons each. This option will enable you to install tanks easily and incrementally for a lower upfront cost. Tanks that are 5,000 gallons or more become difficult to install without additional equipment.

Steel Tanks tend to be the largest tanks available and can range in size from 2,500 gallons to millions of gallons. They are extremely durable and are considered to be an excellent investment for your property, but are more



RainCatcher tanks harvest both rain and snow and can last for 25 years.

expensive per gallon than poly tanks. There are many types of steel tanks, and a popular choice for many rural landowners is the RainCatcher. RainCatcher tanks can harvest both rainwater and snow, and can last between 20-25 years. While these tanks are generally used for large-scale agriculture and for fire protection, they can also provide potable drinking water. The high upfront cost and the more difficult installation requirements mean that steel tanks may not be a convenient or suitable option for some landowners.

Economic Incentives for Winter Water Storage

Many local residents and contractors have indicated that their investment in water storage typically pays itself off within five years when compared to the cost of getting 1,000-2,500 gallons of water trucked in per week. While the upfront cost of purchasing water storage for your property may seem daunting at first, the economic investment is worthwhile and will likely end up saving you money in the long run.

If you are interested in installing additional water storage incrementally and for a relatively low cost, local contractors recommend 2,500 gallon polyethylene tanks. For example, purchasing and installing five poly tanks (for a total of 10,000 gallons of storage) will cost less per gallon