



## Request for Proposal for Redwoods Rising

### Socioeconomic Impact Study for the Restoration Economy within Redwoods National State Parks

#### INTRODUCTION

In collaboration with the National Park Service (NPS), the California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR), the Redwood Parks Conservancy (RPC), and Save the Redwoods League (the League) is seeking proposals for services to conduct a socioeconomic impact study within Redwood National and State Parks (RNSP) and Humboldt Redwoods State Park (HRSP) in the surrounding areas of Humboldt and Del Norte counties. Our objective is to develop a socioeconomic analysis document which addresses critical questions associated with the RNSP and HRSP restoration economy. The focus of this contract is for **one year of socioeconomic consulting services**. The contract can be extended only if necessary and deemed appropriate to complete the scope of work. Competitive, cost-effective proposals will assure high quality and timely work, be transparent in practices and accounting, employ local labor where possible, and demonstrate similar work done in the past.

#### SECTION 1. PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

##### Overview

The geography for this socioeconomic analysis will be within the National Park Service and California State Park boundaries in Humboldt and Del Norte counties. Parks included within this analysis include Redwood National Park, Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, Prairie Creek Redwoods State Parks, and Humboldt Redwoods State Park. These parks are home to 45 percent of the world's remaining protected old-growth redwoods. Alongside these remaining redwood stands are areas of forest that bear the scars of logging, including eroding roads, degraded streams, and unnaturally dense forest stands. These forests support a wide variety of habitats and ecosystems (e.g., coastal dune/scrub, forests, woodlands, grasslands) and essential habitat for threatened, endangered, and special status species such as marbled murrelet, northern spotted owl, and salmonids such as coho salmon, chinook salmon, and steelhead trout. The region also has a rich history of land use and active stewardship by local Native American tribes, including the Tolowa, Yurok, and Chilula.

Restoration project efforts within Humboldt and Del Norte Counties build upon decades of efforts to protect and improve the health of these redwood ecosystems. The collaboration is currently focused on restoring redwood forest ecosystems via forest stand management, road system management, and aquatic habitat restoration.

##### Greater Prairie Creek Project Area

The Greater Prairie Creek (GPC) watershed includes land within Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park and Redwood National Park (map referenced in Figure 1). The lower Prairie Creek watershed was extensively logged from the 1930s until the expansion of Redwood National Park in the late-1970s. These stands have been unmanaged since the 1970s and consist of unnaturally dense forests where growth is hindered, species composition has been shifted, and habitat quality is low especially for threatened fish and wildlife species. Restoration efforts in this area include forest thinning, road removal, and aquatics habitat improvement. The work is completed via contractual agreement and internal staff time.

#### Greater Mill Creek Project Area

The Greater Mill Creek (GMC) watershed restoration project will include land within Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park and Redwood National Park (map referenced Figure 1). The project area is located approximately 6 miles to the southeast of Crescent City, California, and links Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park to the north, the original portion of Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park to the west, and smaller parcels managed by the National Park Service. The current forest conditions across the project area are the result of decades of timber harvest. Most of the stands are evenly aged and have either regenerated or were planted at high densities. Furthermore, the species composition has shifted, resulting in an underrepresentation of coast redwoods or hardwoods in many areas. Restoration efforts in this area include forest thinning, road removal, and aquatics habitat improvement. The work is complete via contractual agreement and internal staff time.

#### Humboldt Redwoods State Park Project Area

The Humboldt Redwoods State Park Watershed Restoration Program began in 2022 (map referenced in Figure 2). The purpose of the program is to remediate and restore the park's watersheds impacted by illegal cannabis operations, legacy logging roads and operations, debris/stream cleaning, and other anthropogenic impacts. Activities under the program include cannabis grow remediation, landform recovery, vegetation management (including restoration thinning), and aquatic restoration.

## **SECTION 2. SCOPE OF WORK**

While the primary driver for the RNSP landscape scale restoration is ecological, we also desire the project to be a model for a healthy restoration-centered economy. Our intent for this current scope of work is to define and measure the socioeconomic impact of the RNSP and HRSP Restoration Economy within Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. While there is some previously developed language about the RNSP restoration economy, the partnership seeks new tools for communicating this message and elaborating on socioeconomic impact of RR to external audiences. The following pages of this document outline key considerations and requirements for RFP development.

Our intended outcome for this study is to take a holistic look at the socioeconomic impact of the region's restoration project. The study would look at the impacts of the project from both a social (i.e., largely qualitative) and economic (i.e., largely quantitative) perspective. The scope of the study would be focused primarily on RR but would include other RNSP and HRSP restoration efforts including the Save the Redwoods League-owned Orick Mill Site and California State

Park restoration projects within HRSP. The scope of the socioeconomic impacts described in the study would be primarily (but not solely) focused on the project's gateway communities surrounding RNSP and HRSP. The study would also include some background on current socioeconomic conditions in these gateway and surrounding communities. The length of this report is expected to be within 6-10 pages.

Some key questions for consideration in the study:

*Direct and indirect economic impact*

1. What is the annual, cumulative, and foreseeable cost of contractual obligations for RNSP and HRSP restoration activities, consultants, and other service providers? What is the indirect economic impact of these contractual payments? For example, how do these contractual payments transfer down to the local economy?
2. What is the total cost of materials purchased to do the work? This can include marketing/communications purchasing, field supplies, equipment, and rock/gravel. How do payments for these materials transfer down to the local economy?
3. What is the accumulative salary cost of full-time staff and part-time staff? How do these payments transfer down to the local economy?
4. What is spent on hosting and coordinating field tours for out-of-area visitors to the project?
5. What are the direct and indirect economic impact of biomass sales from RR?

*Social and ecosystem services*

1. Are RNSP and HRSP restoration projects contributing to a shift in the local economy from a focus around extractive uses to a more sustainable and diversified system?
2. Are RNSP and HRSP restoration projects contributing to a shift in the relationship between their gateway communities?
3. How might RNSP and HRSP restoration projects be best structured to create a model for restoring other rural, economically depressed areas?
4. What is the potential financial and social impact of RR and other restoration projects for watershed services, habitat, and recreational benefits based on regional demand for these services?
5. Does funding received for the project have any impact on the local communities that surround the project areas?

### **SECTION 3. GENERAL RFP INFORMATION**

Data needed for this economic impact analysis, including financial and other needed documents would be made available to the awarded contractor only if it is required to complete the outlined scope of work. These documents will be provided upon request by the contractor.

Background and reference material about the project can be found on League, NPS, and CDPR websites.

### **SECTION 4. OVERVIEW OF THE CONTRACT STRUCTURE**

The contract structure will take the form of a one-year not to exceed (NTE) agreement between the awarded contractor and Save the Redwoods League that integrates impacts of RNSP and

HRSP Humboldt and Del Norte restoration projects from both a social and economic perspective. The contract's scope of work will be clearly defined in the final contract but will be focused on answering and analyzing questions documented in Section 2 of this RFP. The final deliverable will be a 6–10-page report which addresses key questions. All available data needed to answer the questions will be provided to the contractor. It is expected that some verified third party data will need to be integrated into the report as well. Work will be invoiced monthly or bi-monthly and be paid upon satisfactory completion of the work.

## **SECTION 5. CONTRACT AND PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS**

1. Statement of socioeconomic approach, proposed work plan and schedule, description of ability to meet all schedule deadlines and deliverables and deliverables
2. List of qualifications & capacity to complete the scope of work
3. Ability to provide certificate of insurance, W-9 tax documentation, and ACH banking information if awarded the contract
4. Relevant project examples and references
5. Proposed subcontractors (if any) and additional expertise
6. A rate sheet describing all costs associated with the contract

There is no fixed page limit for proposals or technical attachments, but respondents are encouraged to be concise.

## **SECTION 6. CONTRACTOR SELECTION**

The proposals meeting the minimum qualifications set forth above will be evaluated. All relevant criteria including the following will be used to make the final selection:

- Demonstrated experience in delivering high-quality work that answers all documented question in Section 2
- Demonstrated experience meeting project timeline and schedule of completion
- Demonstrated experience providing socioeconomic consulting services in an efficient and cost-effective way
- Demonstrated experience employing a local labor force
- Favorable reference checks

The contractor selected will be provided with a draft contract for review and negotiation prior to finalization by December 11,2023.

## SECTION 7. TIMING OF SELECTION PROCESS

(Dates subject to change)

September 30, 2023	RFP advertised publicly
October 20, 2023	Questions about RFP must be submitted to Mitchell Hayes at <a href="mailto:mhayes@savetheredwoods.org">mhayes@savetheredwoods.org</a>
October 25, 2023	A consolidated response to all questions will be emailed to interested firms
October 31, 2023	Proposals submitted to Mitchell Hayes; <a href="mailto:mhayes@savetheredwoods.org">mhayes@savetheredwoods.org</a>
November 8, 2023	Contractor selected and notified
December 11, 2023	Contract finalized and notice to proceed issued

## Figure 1

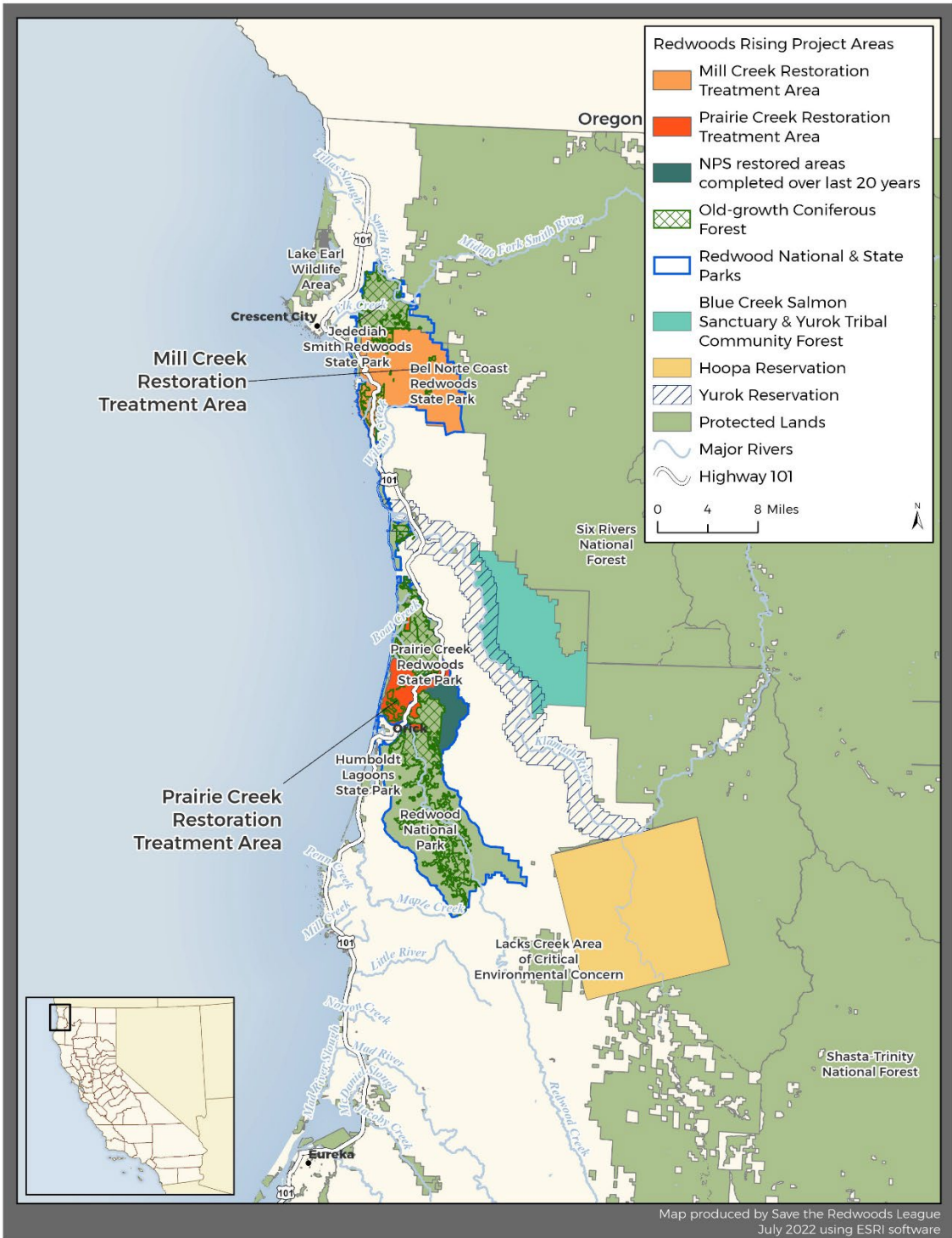


Figure 2

