

March 20, 2008

To: Douglas Schleusner, Executive Director  
Trinity River Restoration Program  
Trinity Management Council  
Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group

From: Trinity River Ad Hoc Watershed Implementation Committee

Re: 2007 and 2008 Watershed Implementation Expenditures

The Ad Hoc Watershed Implementation Subcommittee met on March 7, 2007 with the following attendance: Tom Stokely and Mark Lancaster, Trinity Co. Planning/Natural Resources; Patrick Frost, Dan Westermeyer and John Condon, Trinity Co. RCD; Bill Brock, Shasta-Trinity National Forest; Eric Antrim, Bureau of Land Management, Redding; Tiffany Riess and John Tiedeman, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The purpose of the meeting was to help coordinate and recommend appropriate funding from the Trinity River Restoration Program for fiscal years 2007 and 2008. The purpose of this memorandum is to identify recommended funding for the \$415,000 for watersheds/fine sediment reduction for FY 2007 identified in the Trinity Management Council's adopted budget.

**A separate memo will shortly be prepared (prior to the TAMWG meeting) regarding the TRRP watershed implementation funding for FY 2008 using the Prioritization criteria listed below.**

The Ad Hoc Watershed Implementation Subcommittee met in response to several factors as follows:

- It appears that the \$415,000 for watershed implementation allocated in the TMC's 2007 budget may not be fully obligated again, as occurred in 2006 and 2004, leading to a continued "watershed restoration deficit" and severely limited implementation of the Watershed Protection Component of the ROD
- Funding through TRRP for the coordination of the Trinity River Watershed Council has been fully expended, and no additional funding will be made available for several months; therefore, the Watershed Council is unable to operate at a critical time to provide recommendations for TRRP funding in addition to other issues on the table such as an MOU, goal statement, etc.
- The abbreviated time frame for adoption of the FY 2008 budget by the TMC requires prompt action on a watershed implementation recommendation prior to the March TAMWG and TMC meetings
- There is a sense of urgency regarding 2007 and 2008 implementation of watershed/fine sediment reduction projects in previously burned areas upstream

of the North Fork Trinity River, THE key habitat area for Trinity River Restoration Program efforts

- The entities involved in the Ad Hoc Watershed Implementation Committee are all actively engaged in watershed restoration activities throughout the Trinity River basin, and have obtained millions of dollars in funding to implement fine sediment reduction and fish passage activities in the crucial habitat areas tributary to the Trinity River upstream of the North Fork Trinity River
- The entities involved in the Ad Hoc Watershed Implementation Committee are all in the process of developing new watershed implementation grants, those efforts would be greatly enhanced by identification of matching funds through the TRRP budget for FY 2008, which is expected to be adopted in late March.

The criteria we used for our 2007 recommendations are as follows:

- ✓ Establish priority watersheds using the Trinity River Sediment TMDL and the CA Coho Recovery Strategy (which reflects the Shasta-Trinity National Forest watershed prioritization work). Based on these plans the following are the priority watersheds:
  - Watersheds upstream of the North Fork Trinity River and downstream of Lewiston Dam
  - Granitic Watersheds (Grass Valley to Hoadley Gulch)
  - Indian Creek Watershed
  - Weaver and Rush Creek Watersheds, which was also consistent with the Forest Service's watershed prioritization.
- ✓ Target projects that are ready to proceed and matching funds have been obtained
- ✓ Projects are considered urgent and timely
- ✓ Projects improve municipal/domestic drinking water quality
- ✓ A consensus on projects was reached.

Therefore, in consideration of the above, the Ad Hoc Watershed Implementation Committee recommends funding the following watershed projects with FY 2007 funding:

**Trinity River Watershed Coordination (TCRCD) for \$50,000:** This funding is vital for the Watershed Council to continue its work and provide timely recommendations to the TRRP for funding of watershed projects and is critical for obtaining matching grants from various resource agencies.

**Indian Cr. Road Project (Trinity Co) for \$65,000:** This project already has matching funds from DFG and those funds will be returned if this project cannot be implemented in summer of 2007. Expected matching funds from TRRP's 2006 budget were never made available. Time is of the essence for this project.

**Dark Gulch Sediment Basin Enlargement (TCRCD) for \$50,000:** Due to sediment transport during the winter, this basin located in Lewiston within the Lowden Fire area has refilled and it is in need of excavation due to the excessive amount of sediment still

projected to move downslope. This project would clean out and expand the existing sediment basin, and directly trap and prevent decomposed granite from entering the Trinity River just above the Dark Gulch channel rehabilitation site.

**Lowden Fire Landowner Outreach/Inventory (TCRCD) for \$30,000:** In lieu of additional studies of the Lowden Fire's landslides and sediment output, we recommend that funding be made available to contact landowners, inventory and identify new potential sediment sources, and remediate problems found. This funding could be extended and expanded into FY 2008 for the implementation phase. Matching in-kind services for planning will be provided, and additional funding for project implementation may be available on private lands only, through the Natural Resource Conservation Service. This project will also receive matching funding from the Trinity County RCD through the 319H consolidate grants program.

**Oregon/Junction Fire Riparian Treatment (USFS/STNF) for \$30,000:** The Shasta-Trinity National Forest has received fire treatment funding (\$67,000) for erosional problems as a result of the 2006 Junction Fire and the 2003 Oregon Fire. However, an additional amount of \$30,000 will allow critical riparian treatments that are otherwise unfunded. Matching funds to provide additional work may be available from the Trinity County RCD through the 319H consolidate grants program. This project will complement current fire rehabilitation and restoration work on private lands by the Natural Resource Conservation Service as well.

**Browns Mountain Road, Phase 2 (Trinity County) for \$47,000:** This project was prematurely halted in 2006 because some of the funding for this project was redirected to repair the blowout at the culvert at the Bucktail Bridge. Work was never completed on this project, and it is a vital linkage to the outside for Bucktail residents in the event that the Bucktail Bridge continues to have problems.

**Upper Union Hill Road Storm Proofing (TCRCD) for \$28,000:** This is a highly traveled, year round recreational access road on BLM and SPI land along the mainstem Trinity opposite Steel Bridge Campground. This road experiences severe annual and chronic erosion that is delivered directly to the river that can be eliminated by using current road upgrade techniques. The RCD has completed an inventory and workplan on this road with funding from BLM and is waiting a funding source to implement the project.

**Grub Gulch Erosion Control (TCRCD/NRCS/USFS/BLM) for \$15,000:** Grub Gulch has been identified by numerous agencies as the single largest source of fine sediment in the Weaverville basin. NRCS has at least one landowner who is eligible for funding under the EQIP program, and additional work can easily be identified and implemented.

**Union Gulch Fish Passage (TCRCD) for \$15,000:** This project would replace an undersized, fish barrier culvert with a bridge donated by Sierra Pacific Industries in the Little Browns Creek watershed. This project has been on the books for several years, but

the landowner has been unable to complete the project due to the time frame (late summer) and his work schedule (fire support services). The project would instead be completed by TCRCD crews and/or contractor.

**Little Browns Creek Sediment Reduction and Migration Barrier Removal Project for \$85,000**

This project, located on Roundy Road approximately six miles north of Weaverville, would remove the potential for ~2,000 cubic yards of sediment to deliver to the downstream reaches of Little Browns and Weaver Creeks and the Trinity River. It would also remove the highest priority salmonid migration barrier within Trinity County, and the 5C Program area. The barrier was also identified as the highest priority treatment in the watershed inventory completed as part of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest's "Browns Project" environmental conditions analysis (Browns Project EIS, 2005).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any or all of the following persons:

Trinity County- Mark Lancaster, Sandra Perez or Tom Stokely at 623-1351

Trinity Co. RCD- Pat Frost or Dan Westermeyer at 623-6004

US Forest Service/STNF- Bill Brock at 226-2430

Natural Resources Conservation Service- Tiffany Riess or John Tiedeman at 623-3991

Bureau of Land Management- Eric Antrim at 224-2100