

Trinity River Restoration Program
Budget Summary for the Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group
Monday, August 25, 2008

1. Fiscal Year 2008: We are five weeks from the end of the fiscal year (9/30/08) and entering the “year-end close out” mode of operations. All planned requisitions have been submitted to MP-3800 (Acquisition Services), and we should end the fiscal year within a few thousand dollars of our spending plan. However, because of Acquisitions staff vacancies, reassignments, mandatory training, new procedures, and the typically heavy work load, some of our grants and cooperative agreements are at risk of not being obligated by year end.

This fiscal year has been unusually challenging, with the TMC unable to approve a budget thus elevating the decision to Interior representatives Person and Long in July 2007. That DOI approved budget was further adjusted by the availability of year-end funding in September 2007 and then complicated by a Congressional add-on of \$3 million from the Restoration Fund in late December. Agreement on the final disposition of these funds was reached by the Interior representatives in March 2008.

Of the combined \$4 million in Restoration Funds (\$1 million initial plus \$3 million add-on), we were able to obligate \$1.7 million this year and have received approval to carry over the remaining \$2.3 million for the Remaining 8 construction contract that will be awarded next year. Because of reduced payments from water customers into the Restoration Fund during this drought year (a \$12-15 million shortfall Region wide), we will receive \$1.55 million of the planned carryover in FY2009 with the remaining \$750,000 in FY2010. These amounts are in addition to the \$1 million programmed for the TRRP in the FY2009 President’s Budget (and projected for FY2010). This funding stream coincides with other design related issues that strongly suggest the Remaining 8 channel rehab projects would be best implemented over two construction seasons.

2. Fiscal Year 2009: As of this date, neither the Interior and Related (FWS) or Energy and Water (Reclamation) appropriations have made it out of committee for floor vote in either house. Statements made by majority leaders suggest that no action will be taken before the election, and it is likely that we will be operating under a Continuing Resolution well into the fiscal year. The President’s Budget for FY2009 submitted in February 2008 would allow for TRRP funding levels similar to past years, i.e., about \$7 million in Water and Related and \$1 million from the Restoration Fund. The Service is expecting funding similar to what they have received in past years.

For reasons similar to those in FY2008, it appeared unlikely that the TMC would be able to quickly approve a FY2009 budget. Because of the FWS decision to allocate and administer their funds for specific fisheries projects without transferring those funds to the Program Office, and the need for greater coordination between the Service and Reclamation on related budget tasks, Brian Person and Mike Long decided to reach these DOI decisions before sending a recommended budget to the TAMWG and TMC for review and possible action.

The DOI recommendation was distributed in late July, and discussed/approved during a TMC conference call on July 30. The resulting motion and final spreadsheet were distributed on August 1, and additional copies provided at today's TAMWG meeting. The relationship between FY2008 and FY2009, the use of the planned carryover, and funding commitments made by each Interior agency are displayed in that handout.

3. Fiscal Year 2010: The initial budget development strategy for fiscal years 2009 and 2010 was to do a simple "roll over" of FY2008 into 2009 in order to allow for more thoughtful development of an RFP-based process in 2010. For a variety of reasons very little progress has been made on FY2010. Some of the more significant issues include the division of labor now adopted by Interior, where the Service intends to fund as much of the fisheries related work, concentrating their available appropriations on what they consider to be the highest priority tasks. Reclamation will continue to focus on Program Administration and Implementation activities, and back fill to the extent possible the fisheries tasks that the Service is unable to cover. This approach will require even greater effort to coordinate effectively, and until there is greater resolution of "roles/responsibilities" it is unclear what type of budget development process should be used.