



Trinity River Restoration Program

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NC-150

MEMORANDUM

TO: TAMWG Chair and Members
FROM: Mike A. Hamman, Executive Director
Trinity River Restoration Program
SUBJECT: Director's Report
DATE: September 10, 2009

This report is an update as to the activities and progress made during the last quarter. The issues and items that were discussed at the last TAMWG meeting were also presented at the June TMC meeting that generated much interest and discussion. Following is my report.

Organizational Realignment

- The ED and the senior staff of the Arcata FWS office continue to meet to refine the office integration process and organizational development based upon the effective and efficient use of our respective expertise while trying to meet the challenging workload facing each office.
- The Yurok Tribe opted out of the G2G process and stated that the agencies should proceed with the realignment actions. The Hoopa Valley Tribe has requested a G2G discussion on this issue which has yet to be fully addressed as it is in context with other issues raised.
- The Science Program Coordinator position has closed and the selection process is underway. The selection committee and schedule will be discussed at the TMC meeting on the 15th.
- Office re-model and/or expansion: Work spaces are being added within existing space to accommodate new hires and provide some work space for Program Partner use. The longer-term goal is to provide a larger conference room, and up to five additional work stations to accommodate Program partner staff that are working in Weaverville. (Oct-Mar 2010)

Program Operating Agreement or Plan

- Requested TMC support and approval at the June meeting to set aside a portion of the IAP process temporarily and utilize both existing financial and human capital to develop a TRRP

operating agreement or a plan to improve working relationships, the science program as a whole and become more efficient. The TMC advised the ED to continue working on refining the process but was reluctant to curb the IAP effort until the next steps are complete. The ED will be discussing in more detail how we shall tackle this issue this quarter at the TMC meeting next week.

- Schedule a working session of the senior technical staff within the Program to focus on how we shall proceed with developing the Program Operating Agreement that is approach, scope, schedule and outcomes. (Early Oct)
- In support of this process, will schedule workshop(s) with Flow Study Authors and other restoration programs to spur discussion and focus on how to improve the Program's approach toward accomplishing the mission. (Oct, Nov)
- Schedule facilitated sessions to lay out needs from all Program areas to determine areas of agreement and to negotiate areas of disagreement and determine if specific relationships between offices or individuals need attention and schedule facilitated discussions to help resolve. (Oct, Nov)
- Set up committee led by ED to draft operating agreement based on the findings of the work sessions and receive TAMWG and TMC feedback and finalize a formal or informal agreement or plan. Conduct a review with all Program participants, get final TMC approval (Dec. 31)

Budget Update and Process

- The approved FY 2010 Budget is now being implemented as we close out FY 2009 and begin to procurement processes in place for FY 2010. Program staff is working with our tribal partners and the many players in Region, Denver and W. DC in finalizing the 2010 AFAs.
- The plan for establishing a multi-year budgeting process (2011-2015) is to utilize the IAP process to prioritize the science activities through a cross-disciplinary approach to assist the B Team with scheduling activities to fund in a five year matrix. This process is designed to recognize science program assessment priorities in a logical step up and step down system that can adapt to changes in funding levels and also be flexible in addressing adaptive management objectives. The Program Office has developed the first cut at the budget matrix that identifies known on-going work items, indexes the costs of administrative and other known activities into the future and identifies available funding for prioritized assessments. The next steps are to hold a B Team meeting after the TMC meeting next week next round of IAP SC sessions in July to complete a draft matrix on the basis of full Program funding levels beginning in 2012. The target is to finalize a recommended budget process for TAMWG/TMC consideration in December.

Annual Report

- Develop the outline for the first annual report jointly with Program partners and other participants that illustrate the activities and findings for 2008/2009. Circulate for comment (Sept-Oct.)
- Develop schedule and assignments for drafting report sections (October – spring 2010)
- Review and finalize report for publication in spring of 2010

- Incorporate outcome of the Science Symposium held in January

Trinity Reservoir Ops and River Temperatures

- A letter was signed by the TMC Chair requesting a formalized process and expressing the concerns of the TAMWG/TMC was finalized and sent to Mr. Ron Milligan, Director of CVO on June 9. To date, no formal response has been made but discussions have occurred to determine how best to address the needs identified.
- An ad-hoc group consisting of the ED, TRRP staff, CVO staff, FWS staff, NMFS staff and HVT staff has participated at various levels to address changing temperature conditions and reservoir operations. These discussions also occurred in concert with the Sacramento River Temperature Task Force conference calls that evaluated conditions on both sides of the divide and the reservoir balancing process. Given that Trinity Reservoir has stayed above 1 M acre-feet all summer, constant temperatures around 51.5 F have been maintained out of Lewiston. In-river temps exceeded 60 F at Douglas City by as much as 1.5 F on a number of days in late July and few days in early August. Since then in-river conditions improved and temps from Lewiston to the estuary have been holding at or below targets.
- The need to use the auxiliary by-pass valve for temperature control was ruled out for this year because of the improving conditions and the fact that operators are not yet certain of its capabilities to function under the proposed operating scenarios. The valve was inspected on August 26 and only minor cavitation damage was noted. That repair will be performed next week.
- In an effort to internally prepared for dealing with operational and temperature management issues, I will propose the following to the TMC next week. A subcommittee of the Flow Scheduling work group will be named led by the Regional Science Liaison, Rod Wittler, and will consist of members from CVO, FWS, NMFS, HVT, and YT that will develop a decision tree based Trinity River temperature management plan. This will be prepared in order to be useful for the February 1 forecast flow scheduling meeting to provide sufficient operational and temperature control measures as we look to the 2010 flow schedule.

Summary of Program Activities This Quarter

The primary areas of activities for the TRRP staff and partners during the past quarter have included:

- 1) The required environmental documentation (Master EA/EIR) for the remaining Phase 1 and all Phase 2 channel rehab sites was completed and the public comment period ended on July 28. The document was signed by the North Coast Water Quality Control Board and all permits were acquired for the Sawmill restoration site.
- 2) The Sawmill site work began the week of August 14 with the contactor mobilizing and processing rock for placement in-channel. Banks are being excavated for lowered flood plains and high flow channels. Point bars are being excavated and gravel is being placed in the mainstem. All in-river work must be completed by September 15; all other work will be completed by ;
- 3) FY2009 AFA's, grants, agreements and contracts and related actions have been obligated. Preliminary indications are that carryover and de-obligations will go far in assisting with the FY 2010 deficit,
- 4) FY2010 program of work and related contracts are being prepared for the start of next fiscal year.

- 5) FWS and Program partners are performing out-migrant monitoring for 2009, weir counts, and have performed IHAP monitoring work at the flow benches of 2,000 cfs, 1,200 cfs, 700 cfs and 450 cfs that will be used to develop a current baseline assessment of available habitat.
- 6) The IDT group has met on two occasions to complete design work for 2010/2011 projects.

Recent Events and Meetings

- April 1, 2 – TMC Meeting, Yurok Office, Weitchpec
- April 6, 7 – San Joaquin River Restoration Team tours TRRP
- April 27, 28 - IDT meeting, Weaverville
- May 14 – Physical/fishery workgroup coordination meeting
- June 17, 18 – TMC meeting, Weaverville
- August 12 - TRH Ad hoc committee meeting, Weaverville
- August 19 – TMC Conference call
- August 25 – Hoopa Valley Tribe Boat Dance Ceremony
- August 26 – Inspection of Trinity Dam Auxiliary Bypass Valve
- August 27 – TMC Trinity River Field Visit

Upcoming Events

- September 15 -16 – TMC Meeting, Arcata
- October/Nov. 2009 – Adaptive Management workshops
- December 9,10 – TAMWG Meeting, Weaverville
- December 16-17 – TMC Meeting, Redding
- January 12-14 - TRRP Science Symposium, Weaverville