



## Trinity River Restoration Program

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DEC - 7 2011

Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group  
 c/o Chairman Arnold Whitridge  
 P.O. Box 128  
 Douglas City, CA 96024-0128

Subject: Response to Your Letter of September 20, 2011

Dear Chairman Whitridge:

In your September 20, 2011, letter to the Trinity Management Council (TMC) you made several recommendations and observations on a variety of actions and interests. Our response to each general comment is as follows:

### Budget Allocation

We acknowledge that while there were views to the contrary expressed during your September 12, 2011, meeting, the Trinity Adaptive Management Work Group (TAMWG) generally supports the 20:30:50 ratio (administrative:science:rehabilitation implementation, respectively) as a budget allocation guideline and recommends that any significant departure should require an explicit justification. Positions vary among TMC members as well, but during virtually every budget development discussion that ratio is referenced. I have enclosed a summary of the Trinity River Restoration Program (Program) budgets (and in some cases actual expenditures, as annotated) for fiscal years 2002 through 2012. You will note that the ratio has varied significantly over the years, and that in only two years has the rehabilitation implementation function been allocated at least 50% of Program funding. That occurred in fiscal years 2004 and 2010, when the allocation percentage was significantly influenced by large expenditures for bridge construction and American Reinvestment and Recovery Act funding, respectively.

As you observed, during deliberations at the September 21, 2011 TMC meeting there was a protracted discussion about the allocation of \$1.0 M for watershed restoration, including concerns over the proposed comprehensive watershed analysis between Lewiston and the Lower Klamath River. Some TMC members voiced strong opposition and questioned the utility of the proposed project, chiefly because of the possible redundancy with other ongoing efforts. Also mentioned was the usage of Program funds based upon a causal linkage to impacts caused by operation of the Trinity River Division. Some members emphasized possible efficiencies and long-term benefits to the Program by implementing a basin-wide approach to prioritization. Finally, there was discussion of the need for the Program's Watershed Work Group to adhere to the operating procedures adopted by the TMC.

Trinity Management Council

Brian Person, Chair, Bureau of Reclamation - John Engbring, Vice Chair, US Fish and Wildlife Service  
 Irma Lagomarsino, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration-Fisheries - Sharon Heywood, USDA Forest Service  
 Mike Orcutt, Hoopa Valley Tribe - Dave Hildemeier, Yurok Tribe - Gary Stacey, California Department of Fish and Game -  
 Roger Jaegel, Trinity County - Mike Hamman, Executive Director (ex officio)

The TMC adopted a budget recommendation with a vote of 7 ayes to one nay, which was recorded as follows:

*"Dave Hillemeier made a motion to approve the work plan with the caveat that the \$500k earmarked for watershed planning be contingent upon a plan being developed and presented to the TMC for approval. The motion was seconded by Bill Brock."*

#### Public Outreach and Interdisciplinary Coordination

Thank you for acknowledging efforts by Program staff to increase public outreach and attentiveness to public concerns. The TMC is generally encouraged by the work group interactions thus far, and though we have been informed of periodic disconnects, we have been assured that each is being addressed.

Executive Director Robin Schrock and Science Advisor Ernie Clarke have been making a concerted effort to integrate Program staff functions as well, an objective that we wholeheartedly support. We similarly support the Phase I review of the mainstem construction projects, though some TMC members are concerned about the projected cost. We will continue to emphasize the development of objective, meaningful measures of Program success.

#### Hatchery Fish Marking

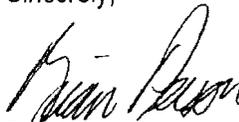
The TMC looks forward to assessing the results of the Trinity River Hatchery Review, led by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, particularly any recommended changes in hatchery operations. As the TMC has discussed at length, based on a review of the Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision (EIS/ROD) for the Program, the Office of the Solicitor has affirmed that influencing hatchery management is beyond the scope of the EIS/ROD. However, the linkage between hatchery management and efforts to restore naturally spawning salmonids is widely acknowledged, and we account for hatchery production as part of our evaluation of natural stocks. In addition, the Department of the Interior will be reviewing the recommendations of the California Hatchery Scientific Review final report and working with Trinity Basin comanagers to determine how the recommendations will be implemented, including any recommendations on marking hatchery fish.

#### Correspondence

As was discussed at the recent TMC meeting, a written reply to the Trinity River Guide Association has been drafted and is under review. The Program office has interacted frequently with the guides since receiving their letter, so the points to be addressed in the letter have evolved.

Thank you for your letter and for your continued guidance of and support for the Program.

Sincerely,



Brian Person  
TMC Chairman

Enclosure

cc: Continued on next page.

cc Continued from previous page.

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Mr. Mike Orcutt  
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**Summary of Program Budgets/Spending 2002 through 2012**

Fiscal Year	Admin	Percent of Total	RIG	Percent of Total	Science	Percent of Total	Total	Comments
2002	\$ 4,062,399	40%	\$2,841,000	28%	\$3,309,821	32%	\$10,213,220	Office opens
2003	\$2,666,338	26%	\$3,815,000	38%	\$3,677,603	36%	\$10,158,941	Cableway gravel augmentation
2004	\$2,935,000	20%	\$8,083,750	56%	\$3,312,070	23%	\$14,330,820	Bridges (Salt Flat, Bucktail, Poker Bar, Biggers)
2005	\$1,957,554	30%	\$2,629,176	40%	\$2,015,334	31%	\$6,602,064	Poker Bar road, Chancellor road, house relocation & Hocker Flat
2006 *	\$1,829,765	17%	\$4,415,324	40%	\$4,731,858	43%	\$10,976,947	Canyon Creek
2007	\$1,729,000	19%	\$4,214,000	45%	\$3,353,000	36%	\$9,296,000	Indian Creek
2008 *	\$1,874,000	18%	\$4,726,000	45%	\$3,869,700	37%	\$10,469,700	Lewiston-Dark Gulch
2009 *	\$2,750,425	20%	\$5,459,011	40%	\$5,597,444	41%	\$13,806,880	Sawmill
2010 *	\$2,662,807	16%	\$9,625,613	57%	\$4,727,934	28%	\$17,016,354	ARRA \$'s
2011	\$2,562,705	21%	\$5,121,087	42%	\$4,573,360	37%	\$12,257,152	Lowden, THG & Reading
2012	\$2,900,000	18.6%	\$7,400,000	47.4%	\$5,321,000	34.1%	\$15,621,000	
Totals	\$27,929,993		\$58,329,961		\$44,489,124			
Averages	\$2,539,090	21.4%	\$5,302,724	44.6%	\$4,044,466	34.0%	\$11,886,280	

\* Based on actuals at varying times in the fiscal year. Years without asterisk are budgeted amounts, not actuals.