

Trinity River Basin Watershed Assessment – Draft Scope and Discussion

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this solicitation is to procure a multi-scale watershed assessment to help guide ecosystem restoration in the Trinity and Lower Klamath River Basins. This assessment is intended to identify and prioritize the types and locations of restoration activities that will most effectively contribute to recovery of the region’s anadromous fisheries. Attributes of special interest include sediment production and delivery potential, fish passage, and the quality of aquatic habitat in tributaries used by, or potentially used by, anadromous fishes contributing to the Trinity River fisheries. The assessment must address rehabilitation needs at both regional and local spatial scales. A broad assessment is required to identify landscape disturbances and recovery potential at the scale of sub-watersheds tributary to the Trinity River, whereas a more focused assessment is needed to identify and prioritize individual restoration actions within priority sub-watersheds. Collecting, organizing, and synthesizing all existing information relevant to ecosystem health in the study area, identifying information gaps, and development of a hierarchical spatial database of landscape attributes are envisioned to be key components of these assessments.

DEFINITIONS

All lands upstream from and tributary to Lewiston Reservoir comprise the Upper Trinity Basin. The Middle Trinity River Basin is herein defined as those lands tributary to the Trinity River between Lewiston Dam and the confluence of the Trinity River and the South Fork Trinity River. The Lower Trinity River Basin is defined as lands tributary to the Trinity River downstream from the confluence of the Trinity River and the South Fork Trinity River. The South Fork Trinity River Basin is considered a separate basin from either the Upper, Middle or Lower Trinity River Basins. The Lower Klamath Basin is defined as lands tributary to the Klamath River downstream from its confluence with the Salmon River. The Upper, Middle, and Lower Trinity, South Fork Trinity, and Lower Klamath Basin together comprise the Full Study Area to be considered under this agreement.

STATEMENT OF WORK

1. Reconnaissance of Existing Data and Analyses Pertaining to Watershed Restoration in the Trinity-Klamath Region (Full Study Area)
2. Prepare and Present Detailed Work Plan
3. Project Development Meeting
4. Quarterly Coordination Meetings
5. Develop Hierarchical Spatial Database Covering the Middle Trinity River Basin
6. Watershed and Ecosystem Assessment Report for the Middle Trinity River Basin
 - A. Review and synthesize existing watershed restoration strategies and related information for the Middle Trinity River Basin. Identify information gaps and propose steps to obtain the necessary data.
 - B. Identify information gaps and additional data collection and/or analyses needed to address

- information gaps.
- C. Propose a basin-scale strategy for reducing sediment production and delivery and for restoring aquatic habitat throughout the Middle Trinity Basin. Identify priority sub-basins where restoration efforts will be most effective.
 - D. Develop criteria for evaluating and comparing watershed restoration actions, and document a protocol for identifying and prioritizing specific restoration projects within high-priority sub-basins.
 - E. Apply the criteria and selection protocol described in D to develop a prioritized list of potential projects targeting one or more of the following objectives:
 - i. Reduce fine sediment production and delivery to the stream network.
 - ii. Removal of barriers to anadromous fish migration.
 - iii. Improve aquatic habitat and ecosystem function.
 - F. Document database content and structure. Propose a plan for long-term database management that incorporates network access and linkages to other national databases that target ecosystem function and that is ready for expansion to the Full Study Area as funding becomes available.

7. Develop Proposal for Extending the Analysis to the Full Study Area

Prepare a proposal summarizing a study plan to:

- A. Review and synthesize existing watershed restoration strategies that have been implemented within the Trinity-Klamath region.
- B. Identify information gaps and identify additional data collection and/or analyses needed to address information gaps.
- B. Extend the spatial database developed for the Middle Trinity River Basin to cover the Upper Trinity, Lower Trinity, South Fork Trinity, and Lower Klamath River basins.
- B. Propose a regional database for restoring ecosystem function throughout the Full Study Area.
- D. Revise database documentation and recommendations for database management plan as needed.

IDT DISCUSSION

- Support for concept, many projects have been performed almost as a “hodge-podge” and an over-all assessment is valuable
- Liked the criteria for evaluation and that this project would identify the data gaps.
- Support the concept of a watershed assessment and like the spatial database portion.
- Like the scope of work and liked the idea that the spatial database would be a desktop version and not an unusable model.
- ROD and preferred alternative is to reduce fine sediment and tie it into the flow study.
- Assessment may be “mission creep.”
- Budget is not known and that this will need to be addressed.
- Analysis is necessary to give ecosystem context to TRRP activities.
- The barrier assessment is very important.
- Plan will be reedited and presented to TMC.