



Trinity River Restoration Program

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NC-150

MEMORANDUM

TO: TAMWG Chair and Members

FROM: Robin Schrock, Executive Director
 Trinity River Restoration Program

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report

DATE: December 9, 2011

This report discusses the major activities that have occurred in the Program since the September 2011 meeting. The Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) partnership has been actively integrating the implementation and science programs. The single restoration project, Wheel Gulch, was completed and re-vegetation is occurring this winter. Issues raised by California Water Impact Network (C-WIN) and Trinity River Guide Association (TRGA) were elevated to the congressional level this week. TRRP staff provided documentation of all outreach activities with the TRGA regarding site designs, summaries of specific changes made to site designs, and proposed activities related to mobile and fixed gravel, to Brian Person of the Trinity Management Council (TMC).

Organizational Issues

- The Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) was asked to look at all work group activities and propose potential merging of work groups and their priorities to facilitate more comprehensive monitoring and evaluation. The purpose is to provide the syntheses necessary to quantify the success of the Program at both habitat and fisheries levels. The Interdisciplinary Team is focused on making adaptive management central to future work planning efforts.
- Standardized procedures for all work groups and teams are being developed for consideration by the TMC. All committees will now use standard agenda and summary templates, maintain a consistent action tracker, and distribute agendas and summaries on the same schedule. Policy and budget questions raised during technical work group meetings will be provided in writing to the Executive Director to forward to the appropriate decision making entity.

Budget Update and Process

- The 2012 budget remains unchanged from that presented to and voted on at the September 2011 TMC meeting. Considerations related to 2012 Program activities include: 1) the government is still under a continuing resolution; 2) there is a possibility of a full-year continuing resolution; 3) the outcome of C-WIN and TRGA call to cut funding to the TRRP if specific conditions are not met; and 4) need to redirect program funding if cuts occur or compliance activities increase.

- TRRP Weaverville office staff is required to try to submit all requisitions, agreements, and contracts by December 15, 2011.

Implementation Update

- The Phase 1 review is currently underway by the Scientific Advisory Board and their support contractor Anchor QEA/Stillwater Sciences Team (see updated Scope of Work).
- Design Team completed Design Summary Fact Sheets for Phase I project sites (see handout).
- Construction is complete at Wheel Gulch and re-vegetation will take place between January and February 2012.
- TRRP Design Team is supportive of moving forward on two channel rehabilitation project sites incorporating design modifications at October 2011 Design Team meeting.
- Planned 2012 Channel Rehabilitation Project Sites include: Upper Junction City and Lower Steiner Flat.
- Changes in 2012 designs include removal of features and reduction in mobile gravel that is projected in the event of a wet water year.
- High Flow Gravel Augmentation planned for Diversion Pool and Lowden Ranch.
- Environmental compliance documents planned for release in January 2012. Public meeting scheduled for Douglas City Fire Hall on January 12th.
- Well Grant Program planned to start in January 2012 (see handout).
- Watershed activities - Four projects were selected for funding. The scope of the proposed watershed assessment was discussed by the IDT. It was asked that the revised scope go back to the Watershed WG.

Science and Monitoring Update

- **Adult monitoring review** – An independent evaluation of the existing adult salmonid assessments is underway. The lead reviewer is Mike Bradford, (Fisheries and Oceans Canada) with support from Dave Hankin (Humboldt State University). The draft review report will be delivered on January 31, 2012 and presented in February 2012.
- **Sampling design workshop** – Darcy Pickard (Senior Statistician, ESSA Technologies) conducted a workshop on November 15 – 16, 2011 that focused on: 1) the current sampling design for system scale assessments, and 2) development of a multi-disciplinary sampling design for channel rehabilitation sites. The report will be provided in February 2012.
- **Big questions** – ESSA Technologies drafted a short list of Big Questions for the Trinity River Restoration Program to improve focus and guide integration of the Program (see handout). The questions are a reminder of the big picture, often forgotten when dealing with technical details, and provide a useful framework for Program reports. The Interdisciplinary Team is providing input on the Big Questions document for Trinity Management Council consideration.
- **Performance measures** – Draft documentation sheets have been developed for thirteen performance measures that are undergoing a final round of workgroup review and will be presented on the Program's website in January (see handouts). The Interdisciplinary Team is developing a plan to advance the performance measures exercise in the next year.
- **Fiscal year 2013 science work plan** – A draft work plan has been developed. Investigation plans will be solicited next week and need to be submitted in February 2012. An investigation plan review strategy is under development.
- **Peer review** – Two recently review reports are in revision (*Distribution of Chinook Salmon Redds in the Mainstem Trinity River 2002 to 2010* and *Integrated Habitat Assessment of the Upper Trinity River, 2009*). One report is now undergoing review (*Mechanical Extraction and Augmentation of Coarse and Fine Sediment on the Trinity River, California, 1950-2011*). One report will be sent to reviewers next week (*Juvenile salmonid monitoring on the mainstem Trinity River, California, 2009*).