

Gail Goodyear
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Dear Trinity Adaptive Management Group (TAMWG) members,

At the March 28 2012 Trinity Management Council (TMC) meeting, one presenter stated that the government gathers copious data that is not shared in research reports. The presenter noted the importance of doing something with the data.

The presenter's PowerPoint slide supporting need for research reporting also showed the problem is much deeper. Data are gathered before the research design, including hypothesis and assumptions are written. Thus, the scientific method is not followed in collecting data.

After this problem was noted, D.J. Bandrowski of the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) stated that those writing the research reports scheduled for release in 2012 had requested hypotheses and assumptions for the data sets they were provided, and TRRP is writing those (Spring 2012). I shared that TRRP had been unable to provide the research designs for monitoring TRRP's Reading's Creek project prior to its 2010 implementation.

Writing of research designs, hypotheses and assumptions after data collection is not science. The research is not defensible. It is not research to select data to fit desired outcomes and then write the research design.

Given lack of written and approved research designs, including how the data and research will be used, it is appropriate for landowners to refuse land access to government workers who gather data. Prior to data collection, TRRP and the coordinating agencies must provide to landowners the research designs along with parameters regarding how the data and research reports will be used.

Reports written to fit data puts all river research in question. This is unfortunate for those who follow the scientific method. It is possible to improve the quality of river research. This letter asks the Trinity River Adaptive Management Group (TAMWG) to request that (1) research designs are written prior to TRRP project implementation, (2) the research design(s) is(are) shared with landowners when access is requested, (3) the data collection is limited to that which is described in the research design(s), and (4) the scope for use of the data and research is defined for each proposed study.

Sincerely,

Gail Goodyear, Ph.D.
Letter submitted for the June 11 2012 TAMWG meeting