



Trinity River Restoration Program

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March 24, 2014

Brian Person, Chair
Trinity Management Council
c/o Trinity River Restoration Program
P.O. Box 1300
Weaverville, CA 96093

Dear Mr. Person,

The Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group (TAMWG) met on March 17-18, 2014. This letter serves to provide you with a summary of that meeting and our resulting policy management recommendations, as required by TAMWG's bylaws.

We began the meeting with an election of TAMWG officers for the upcoming year. I was reelected as Chair, and Tom Stokely was reelected as Vice Chair; we look forward to working with you in this capacity for the upcoming year.

We appreciated your TMC update on the unfortunate state of the drought, the Bureau's rationale for delaying the release of the fall flows draft plan, and appreciate the work you are doing to resolve Mr. Wellock's property issues.

We received a presentation from Charlie Wright, Supervisory Realty Specialist with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), regarding land acquisition along the Trinity River. Based on this presentation:

The TAMWG recommends that the TMC write a letter of support to the BLM for land acquisition along the Trinity River, subject to maintaining or improving public access, and that the BLM continue the payment of in-lieu taxes to Trinity County.

We received a presentation from the Gravel Workgroup which identified the workgroup's proposed recommendation for gravel injection in 2014. The TAMWG agrees with the workgroup's recommendation that no gravel should be injected if 2014 is a critically dry year, however we disagree with the workgroup's recommendation and recommend no gravel injection for a dry year designation because we do not believe that the tributaries will produce enough flow to move the gravel. Our formal recommendation is as follows:

The TAMWG recommends to TMC that the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) not inject gravel if the water year is Critically Dry or Dry.

The TRRP Executive Director and staff provided us with a program status and update on the various working groups. We also received an update from the Fish and Wildlife Service on the current status of the Trinity River Hatchery report and Memorandum of Agreement.

We thoroughly appreciated the DSS demonstration from the US Geological Survey, and would like to thank Chris Holmquist-Johnson, Leanne Hanson, and Colin Talbert for taking the time to walk us through their experiences.

We received a report from the flow workgroup on the dismal 2014 water year outlook and their proposal to use the Record of Decision (ROD) hydrograph in the event of a critically dry year, and the JRPI Alternative 2 hydrograph in the event of a dry year.

The TAMWG recommends that the TMC adopt the flow workgroup's recommendations.

Finally, we spent some considerable time during the end of our meeting discussing various TAMWG members' concerns with the current state of the program, some strategies for potential outreach, as well as other avenues that could assist in helping the TRRP move forward in a productive manner. Based on this discussion, we have the following requests:

The TAMWG requests to hold a joint meeting with the TAMWG, TMC, and TRRP management staff to address the TAMWG's list of issues (see Attachment A).

The TAMWG recommends that the TMC defer outreach until a joint meeting so that we can agree on a consensus approach to the outreach.

The TAMWG asks that the TMC request the Science Advisory Board (SAB) determine if tributary restoration throughout the basin could help meet the TRRP goals for all species.

We believe this last recommendation can be an extension of our December 10, 2013, recommendation.

I look forward to discussing this with you further at your meeting this week. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Hadley, Chair
Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group

ATTACHMENT A

March 18, 2014, 1:30 PM

DRAFT TAMWG topics for a potential joint meeting with TMC:

1. Channel rehabilitation projects generally (scope, cost)
 - a. Bucktail channel rehabilitation project specifically
2. Forced meander at upper Douglas City channel rehabilitation project
3. Gravel augmentation generally
 - a. Gravel at Lower Junction City channel rehabilitation project specifically
4. Tributary restoration – SAB input on role of tributaries in fishery restoration before Solicitor's opinion
 - a. Access for migrating fish
5. Program authority
 - a. TRRP Watershed restoration authority
 - b. Agency Watershed restoration authorities beyond TRRP
 - c. Inflexibility
 - d. Diversions
6. Outreach program (plan, outcomes)
7. Hydrograph design (benches)
8. Public access to river
9. Restoration goal
10. Commitment to other salmonids
11. Agricultural water diversions
12. Issues in coalition letter