



Trinity River Restoration Program

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NC-150

MEMORANDUM

TO: TMC and TAMWG Members

FROM: Robin Schrock, Executive Director
 Trinity River Restoration Program

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report

DATE: September 15, 2015

Trinity River Restoration Program summer 2015 activities were focused on outreach, biological and physical monitoring, and rehabilitation project implementation at Upper Douglas City and Limekiln Gulch. Bedrock was encountered at both projects sites, and revegetation plans needed significant changes to adapt to the site conditions.

Budget Update

The TRRP FY2016 proposed budget has been revised several times based on TMC input and awaits approval by the TMC on September 17, 2015. The recommendations reflect the decrease noted in the President's budget and the Program awaits congressional budget deliberations, therefore amounts for all discretionary work may be adjusted when the Program receives the official OMB information that is funded for 2016.

Fish Production Model

I recommend the TMC approve funding of the Fish Production Model in FY2016 to provide additional sampling and data to extend the model to the confluence with the Klamath River. This will enable linking to the Klamath Fish Production Model. This will better enable the program and partners throughout the Klamath-Trinity Basin to determine the efficacy of all restoration efforts that benefit the basin's anadromous fisheries. Based on funding and effort the TRRP partners have already invested in both efforts, and active participation in Lower Klamath River monitoring, this additional tool will be a great asset for the Klamath-Trinity Fisheries.

Environmental Services

The environmental services contract solicitation reflects the program's increased needs for environmental compliance support due to increased public oversight, and the increased complexity of the proposed rehabilitation projects. It also maintains the flexibility to meet last minute revegetation needs, e.g. in the event of a flood or fire decimating a revegetation site.

Revegetation Designs

Plants were purchased for the Upper Douglas City project two years in a row, and then not used, in 2014, because UDC was not built. The plants were planted at Hocker Flat, incurring unanticipated addition site specific costs associated with irrigation and maintenance of the irrigation system. This year, at UDC the existing revegetation design, funded in FY2013 was discarded due to site conditions revealed during construction. The disposition of the plants is still being considered and the additional, unexpected costs of the new plan discussed. The new revegetation plan for UDC, developed onsite in August, will be implemented in FY2016. At Limekiln Gulch, the revegetation plan will also be replaced by a new plan, also developed onsite based on current conditions. Based on this recurring replacement of revegetation plans developed during site design with onsite planning and design, the TRRP management team recommends that revegetation designs be developed during the actual site construction period. This will be a savings of an estimated \$100,000 annually for the program. James Lee has been asked to provide an estimate of the cost of the two week onsite design period, based on this years' experience. The program will also need to determine an estimate for annual plant procurement that brings these costs and the cost of irrigation and maintenance into containment.

Geo-physical Support Services

The current Geophysical Support Services combine two previous contracts for remote sensing and geophysical monitoring to allow flexibility based on projected water year. The FY2015 option was executed for \$1.4M on August 27, 2015, in anticipation of a projected Extremely Wet WY. The program is currently rescoping the FY2016 option year that will fund geo-physical sampling in a Normal WY. Although a Time and Materials contract the contracting policy is to fully commit the funding to anticipate all possible WY types and avoid late year cost overrun requests.

Inspection Services

Inspections services under an existing contract through Denver are funded in FY2015 with the contract expiring in 2016. The estimated cost for the Reclamation inspector is based on the FY2015 cost.

Coarse Sediment Supply

A question was raised about why that appears only in FY2015. Additional sized gravel was need at UDC for a total of \$250,000 that includes transport. Part of the cost was defrayed by using some FY2014 large wood supply funding that was still available. Included in this total was processing of additional sized materials for FY2016 project use, while the equipment was still onsite at Sawmill.

Large Wood

The program is not funding large wood supply this year because there exists \$200,000 in an FY2015 allocation for further procurement, and we are also currently paying a local landowner to store a stockpile that is still available.

Watershed Funding

The process for all funding of technical work group recommended activities is peer review of the WG recommendation, submission to the TMC for approval, and management team consultation with partners to see which partner has the expertise and staff available. The USFS, as a TRRP land management partner, has the demonstrated expertise, capabilities, and administers the lands where the projects would take place. To ensure the FY2016 agreement with the USFS makes it through the entire procurement review process and is approved for implementation in FY2016, I

~~recommend funding this effort for the \$250,000 the USFS has assured us can be implemented in FY2016. There is a misconception that the USFS FY2013 watershed work was funded through a grant, it was funded through the existing USFS agreement. The procurement office has asked us to separate the partner's watershed activity from the FOA solicitation that is covered by the CDFA~~
<https://www.cfda.gov/>

Programs selected for inclusion in the Federal assistance data base are defined as any function of a Federal agency that provides assistance or benefits for a State or States, territorial possession, county, city, other political subdivision, grouping, or instrumentality thereof; any domestic profit or nonprofit corporation, institution, or individual, other than an agency of the Federal government.

Current estimated funding available for construction

The \$3.1M proposed amount for construction in FY2016 is in keeping with past TMC recommendations that ranged from \$704,000 in 2005 to the highest of \$3.2M in FY2011, which interestingly enough had a similar President's budget of \$15.0M.

Joint Meeting Actions Items

Outreach – established standard announcement size for TRRP ads in the Trinity Journal. 3 col width: 5.42 inches x 5 inches high = 15 column inches x \$9.40= \$141. (current pricing). Public notices are included at the editor's discretion.

Formatted Goals and Objectives brief – planned for December meeting.

Website summary of annual goals – need clarification if TMC means DOI, Bureau, CVPIA, major program efforts or completion of work group action items.

Organizational Updates

Under the Pathways Program opportunity to convert eligible students to employees once they graduate, Jeanne McSloy joined the TRRP Weaverville staff, September 6, as an entry-level, career-path Natural Resource Specialist who will be trained in federal and state compliance procedures to meet the increasing demands of proposed larger rehabilitation projects and increasing public input to the Program's environmental documents.

Science Updates - see quarterly work group summary

Implementation/Compliance Update – see handout

Public Outreach

- **Public Outreach June 26, 2015** - Public Float of Lower Valley Sites (Trinity Journal/TMC-TAMWG notice/special invitation)
- **July 7, 2015** - Upper Douglas City Neighborhood Meet-and-Greet (Trinity Journal/List Serve/websites)
- **July 8, 2015** - Limekiln Gulch Neighborhood Meet-and-Greet (Trinity Journal/List Serve/websites)
- **July 13-31, 2015** - Summer Day Camp (Public through TCRCD)
- **July 15, 2015** - Start Up Notice for 2015 Channel Rehabilitation Projects (Trinity Journal/List Serve/websites)
- ~~**August 2015** - Conservation Almanac Summer Edition- Restoration Flows (Public through TCRCD)~~
- **August 12, 2015** - Public Notice – Supp. Flow for Tribal Ceremony (40-mile sites/List Serve/websites)

- **August 20, 2015** - Public Notice – Supp. Flow for Lower Klamath Disease Prevention (40-mile sites/List Serve/websites)
- **September 8, 2015** - Public Notice – Add 'l Flow for Lower Klamath Disease Prevention (40-mile sites/List Serve/websites)
- **September 16, 2015** - Programmatic Workshop – Evolution of Sediment Management (Trinity Journal/List Serve/websites).

Publications and Reports

New TRRP products and associated Trinity River data packages and related publications are posted on <http://odp.trrp.net/>

Alvarez, J., D. H. Goodman, A. Martin, N. A. Som, K. A. Wright, and T. B. Hardy. 2015. Development and validation of two-dimensional hydrodynamic models on the Trinity River, California. Report to the Trinity River Restoration Program, Arcata Fisheries Technical Series Report TR 2015-24. Hoopa Valley Tribe Fisheries Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Yurok Tribe Trinity River Division, and Texas State University.

Martin, A. 2015. Age 0 chinook and coho salmon rearing habitat observations, Lorenz Gulch rehabilitation site, 2012-2014, upper Trinity River, CA. Data Summary for the Trinity River Restoration Program by the Yurok Tribal Fisheries Program, Weitchpec, CA.

Matthews, G. 2015. 2014 substrate investigation of the Trinity River, Lewiston Dam to Junction City. Report to the Trinity River Restoration Program under U.S. Bureau of Reclamation contract R10PX20131 from GMA Hydrology, Arcata, CA.

Pryor, C. 2015. 2015 Trinity River tributary deltas survey report. Report to the Trinity River Restoration Program under U.S. Bureau of Reclamation contract R10PX20131 by GMA Hydrology, Arcata, CA.

Pryor, C. 2015. Velocity profiles of wood structures at Upper Junction City, Lorenz Gulch, Lowden. Report to the Trinity River Restoration Program under U.S. Bureau of Reclamation contract R10PX20131 from GMA Hydrology, Arcata, California.

Save the Date –

- **March 31 – April 1, 2016:** Trinity River Restoration Program Science Symposium