

DRAFT for possible discussion
A. Whitridge, proponent

Mike Ryan, Chairman
Trinity Management Council
c/o Trinity River Restoration Program
P. O. Box 1300
Weaverville, CA 96093

September, 2004

Dear Mr. Ryan,

The Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group recommends that the Trinity Management Council actively pursue improvements in Klamath River management that will provide satisfactory conditions for Trinity River fish in the lower Klamath without the use of Trinity River flows beyond those recommended by the Trinity River Flow Evaluation Study and adopted in the December 2000 Record of Decision for Trinity River Mainstem Fishery Restoration.

Under present management, life-threatening conditions for Trinity fish have become common in the lower Klamath; the TAMWG acknowledges that supplemental Trinity releases can offer expensive temporary relief for this recurring problem, but feels that what's needed most is a cure.

Please consider that the water necessary for supplemental releases may not always be available when needed, as there is no dedicated source, and that in some years Trinity reservoir may not hold sufficient cool water to make effective supplemental releases and still provide suitable Trinity River temperatures afterwards. It seems imprudent to rely on relief that may not always be available when needed, or that might help Trinity fish through the lower Klamath but then kill their incubating eggs.

Please also consider that the routine use of August-September flows of historically uncommon magnitude and unprecedented duration and frequency is inconsistent with the Trinity River Restoration Program's guiding principles. TMC biologists have noted the potential for unintended consequences...

Please also consider that the supplemental releases involve substantial costs- to Trinity stakeholders, notably for hydropower generation forgone, and to the Trinity River Restoration Program, including for this year's releases the costs of extra monitoring, bridge contract amendments, and apparently the price of the purchased water.

We hope the TMC is not satisfied with repeated palliative treatments that burden Trinity interests almost exclusively, and we hope the TMC is not content to leave development of a satisfactory solution to others. The TAMWG urges the TMC to seek protection for Trinity's fish and Restoration Program through a Klamath-based solution for a Klamath-based problem.

Sincerely,