



Trinity River Restoration Program

P.O. Box 1300, 1313 South Main Street, Weaverville, California 96093
Telephone: 530-623-1800. Fax: 530-623-5944

NC-150

MEMORANDUM

TO: TMC Members and Alternates; TAMWG Members; Science Advisory Board

FROM: Doug Schleusner, Executive Director
Trinity River Restoration Program

CC: Staff

SUBJECT: Director's Report; December 12, 2005 – March 30, 2006

DATE: March 21, 2006

1. **Summary:** Primary areas of emphasis for the TRRP staff and partners during the past three months have included: 1) inventory, design and implementation of site-specific floodplain structure modifications in preparation for spring 2006 dam releases; 2) Review of version 0.5 of the Scientific Framework monitoring plan; 3) pre-design and NEPA/CEQA compliance activities for the Canyon Creek Suite and Indian Creek channel rehabilitation sites, and the Lewiston Hatchery Coarse Sediment Augmentation Project; 4) revegetation efforts at Hocker Flat; 5) continued work on FY2006 financial assistance agreements, and 6) refinement of study design and operations plan for fish habitat assessment activities and initial field work.
2. **General Program Administration:**
 - **TRRP Staff Changes:** Two new TMAG positions were filled in February 2006. David Gaeuman, Ph.D., formerly of the USGS Ecological Research Center, Columbia, MO, began work on February 6 as the Program's Fluvial Geomorphologist. John Klochak, Fishery Biologist and formerly of the National Park Service Everglades Restoration Program (and formerly involved in the Skagit River restoration efforts in Washington) began work February 20.
 - **Participation in the American Water Resources Association Summer Conference:** Conference organizers, including the International Joint Commission, requested that I present a paper and co-lead a session on Organizational Relationships that Contribute to Effective Adaptive Management. The conference is June 26-28, 2006 in Missoula, MT.

- Workgroup Meetings: All workgroups with the exception of Watershed have had at least one formal meeting, several informal meetings, conference calls, or emails. The first set of meetings focused on flow scheduling and planning for upcoming implementation efforts. The next set of workgroup meetings will focus on budget development and prioritization for FY2007. Initial reports have been generally positive, especially regarding advance notification using the master e-mail list.
- New Meeting Space: A reminder that the recently completed office expansion includes a larger conference room (seating capacity of 20-24) that is available for use by Program partners. Call 623-1800 to make a reservation.
- Public Education and Outreach: The TRRP website, operational since August 2, 2005, is being updated on a monthly basis. Use continues to increase with 1500 unique visits in January and 2500 in February. The link is www.trrp.net. Ideas for new content are appreciated. The latest update includes many useful links for flow schedules, reservoir levels, and an e-mail notification service.
- Proposed Change to the Trinity River Fishing Regulations: On February 17, 2006, California Trout requested that the Fish and Game Commission change opening day to April 1 from the last Saturday in April. This office wrote a letter of support, as did the Trinity County Board of Supervisors. The proposal was favorably received and should go into effect with the 2007 season.

3. Rehabilitation Implementation Branch:

- Poker Bar Roads: The Poker Bar Road System construction contract is nearing completion. Under the contract, over one-half mile of existing roadway, including Lower Poker Bar Road, River Road, and Reo Lane, are being raised and upgraded to withstand higher fishery releases. Higher than average precipitation during the winter slowed performance of the contract, but it will be completed prior to the high releases from Lewiston Dam in May.
- Floodplain Structures: Activities are on schedule to ensure that dam releases of at least 8500 cfs will be possible in 2006. The floodplain structure inventory has been completed. The TRRP is making cash offers to property owners with structures requiring modifications to perform the work themselves based on construction estimates obtained from local contractors. Sealed bids were opened on February 27 to allow the purchase and removal of the Tullis home (now owned by the U. S. Government). The contract was awarded to a local individual who is moving it to a property in Lewiston. A specification is being prepared to demolish the remaining structures. All work will be completed by May 15.
- Channel Restoration Sites: Construction of the Hocker Flat channel rehabilitation site was completed in October. Starting in mid-December, a series of winter storms hit the area. Flows at Hocker Flat peaked at about 24,000 cfs at midnight on New Years Eve, resulting in the creation of high flow channels, sediment deposition and scour, and large woody debris landing on floodplain surfaces: exactly what was hoped would occur. After the

storms, the Trinity County RCD planted the impacted floodplain surfaces and upland areas. Over 3,000 cottonwood and willow “pole” cuttings were placed at least 4 feet deep into the groundwater table with an excavator modified with a special “stinger” attachment. Overall about 3 acres of riparian vegetation was planted.

The Canyon Creek Suite of Rehabilitation Sites is on schedule for an award in the summer of 2006. A local small business minority contractor, Erick Ammon of Salyer, CA (the contractor who constructed Hocker Flat) has been chosen to perform the work.

A public scoping meeting for the Indian Creek channel rehabilitation site was conducted in Weaverville on February 8. About 25 local residents and landowners attended. A proposed action and alternatives are being developed and the draft EA/EIR is being prepared on a schedule to allow project construction in the fall of 2006. Designs are being prepared by the TRRP.

The Lewiston Hatchery Coarse Sediment Augmentation Project is on schedule for construction beginning in July. Approximately 6,000 cubic yards of coarse sediment will be placed along 1800 feet of river adjacent to the hatchery. The Forest Service is the project lead, performing NEPA compliance, permitting, and construction contract management. The TRRP is preparing construction drawings and specifications.

4. Modeling and Analysis Branch:

- Scientific Framework: Version 0.5 of the Integrated Monitoring & Evaluation Plan (IMEP) was sent to the partners for review on January 24, with comments due February 3.

Several partners requested additional time to prepare their review of the IMEP. These requests for additional review time have required an adjustment to the schedule presented at the December TMC meeting. The TMAG developed and presented an alternative schedule to the TMC and TAMWG Technical Representatives at the Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) meeting on February 27. Upon approval by the TMC, the revised schedule will be followed.

- Habitat Assessment: Planning continues. The vegetation cover mapping (McBain & Trush 2001) has been validated. Initial substrate mapping has been completed. Hydraulic data (WSEL, rating curves) is almost complete. Habitat Suitability Criteria for modeling (Numerical Habitat Mapping – NHM) is complete. Most data (low & medium flows) for model calibration has been collected. Model validation is underway. Planning for Empirical Habitat Mapping is underway for field work this summer.
- Gravel Augmentation Design: The draft Coarse Sediment Management Plan is under development. Gaeuman, Krause, Wittler, Riess, and McBain continue to work out analytical tools for designing the size fractions for the upcoming gravel augmentation at the Hatchery, as well as the integrated augmentations at the upcoming Lewiston channel rehabilitation project sites.
- Channel Rehabilitation Project Planning & Design. The TMAG provided input to the RIG on the conceptual designs at the Indian Creek channel rehabilitation site. At the IDT

meeting TMAG & RIG discussed coordination of conceptual development of the next set of channel rehabilitation and gravel augmentation at Lewiston and Deep Gulch sites. This provided the basis for the TRRP office to complete its annual notification of projects to the National Marine Fisheries Service.

- Flow Scheduling Analysis: TMAG and partners undertook analyses associated with the management targets identified in Chapter 8 of the Flow Study. The focus of the analyses is on last year's targets (WY05), and proposals for testing hypotheses this year (WY06). The TMAG will present the results of these studies at upcoming TAMWG and TMC meetings.
 - Science Advisory Board: The board has been contacted on an individual basis at various times. The current version of the Habitat Assessment Study Design will be submitted to the SAB for review in the near future in an attempt to clarify and/or resolve different points of view among the Program's technical representatives. The meeting originally scheduled for mid-March as part of the Science Framework review has been postponed until September.
 - IIMS: The Reclamation Science & Technology (Research) program awarded and funded the TRRP IIMS research proposal for 100% of the requested amount. This three year project will create an Integrated Information Management System for the Trinity River Restoration Program. The Reclamation Klamath Basin and South Central California Area Offices are full partners in this joint research endeavor. The TRRP, KBAO, and SCCAO are each contributing \$50,000 per year, matched by the S&T program, for three years, totaling more than \$900,000 in development funds for this program.
 - Klamath/Trinity Coordination: The Northern California Area Office and Klamath Basin Area Office began quarterly coordination conference calls on March 9, 2006. The coordination follows direction from Reclamation's Regional Director at the Principals Conference (July, 2005). Members of the TMAG are participating in those calls.
 - RAS Model: California Department of Water Resources recently completed development and peer review of the new HEC-RAS model for the upper 20 miles of the Trinity River. The 1-D HEC-RAS model calculates hydraulic properties of riverine flows. The final 20-mile segment is due for completion later this year.
 - Coho Monitoring Research: The Reclamation Science & Technology (Research) program awarded and funded the Reclamation Technical Service Center and MP Region Coho Monitoring research proposal for 100% of the requested amount. This four year project is intended to develop techniques for monitoring Coho response in the mainstem Trinity and tributaries to TRRP implementation projects including channel rehabilitation, gravel augmentation, and temperature regime. This is a cooperative project with the California Department of Fish & Game and the Yurok Tribe. The TRRP contribution to this research project is limited to in kind services on the part of the TMAG staff. Opportunities exist for further participation by TMC members.
5. Recent Events and Meetings (Refer to website calendar for a more complete list):
- January 19 – Fish Work Group Meeting, Weaverville
 - January 20 – Indian Creek Project Notice of Preparation Posted

- January 24 – Flow Schedule Work Group Conference Call
- January 25 – Age Composition/Scale Analysis Meeting, Arcata
- February 2-3 – Fish Health Meeting, Arcata
- February 8 – Indian Creek Public Scoping Meeting, Weaverville
- February 10 – Physical Work Group Meeting, Weaverville
- February 10 – Rotary Trapping Database Workshop, Arcata
- February 15 – Flow Schedule Work Group Meeting, Weaverville
- February 15 – Canyon Creek Rehab Site EA/EIR Released for Public Comment
- February 27 - TRRP IDT Meeting, Weaverville
- March 17 – Flow Schedule Work Group Meeting, Weaverville
- March 22-23 – TAMWG meeting, Weaverville
- March 29-30 – TMC meeting, Weaverville

6. Upcoming Events (Refer to website calendar for a more complete list):

- April 10 – Final Water Year Determination
- April 17 – Physical, Fish, Riparian, Wildlife Work Group Meetings, Weaverville
- April 18 (If needed) - Flow Schedule Work Group, Weaverville
- April 19 (If needed) – TMC Conference Call
- May 3 – Watershed Work Group, Weaverville
- May 9 (tentative) – Budget Work Group Meeting (2007 Budget Planning), Weaverville
- May 15-19 (tentative) – TRRP IDT Meeting, Weaverville

