



Trinity River Restoration Program

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NC-150

FEB 27 2006

Mr. John Carlson
Executive Director
California Fish and Game Commission
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Proposed Trinity River Fishing Season Date Change

Dear Mr. Carlson:

I am writing in support of California Trout's recent request that the Commission adopt a rule change that would open the "fly water" reach of the Trinity River below Lewiston Dam on April 1 rather than the last Saturday in April as currently established. This approach of coordinating fishing regulations with the Trinity River Restoration Program's flow scheduling efforts was discussed and endorsed by the Trinity Management Council at their April 2005 meeting.

One of the key elements of the December 2000 Record of Decision that established this program is the release of substantially more water and higher peak releases, depending on water year type, than occurred historically since construction of Trinity and Lewiston dams in 1964. These flow schedules, which are intended to emulate a natural snowmelt hydrograph, will have significant geomorphic and biological benefits to the Trinity River and its fisheries. In almost any water year type it is very possible that flow schedules could conflict with the current opening date of trout season in this reach. Rather than attempting to justify annual shifts in the hydrograph based on fishing regulations, as has happened in recent years, we support California Trout's proposal to modify those regulations. Their proposal, which has been coordinated with biologists in both the California Department of Fish and Game and the National Marine Fisheries Service, will work in complementary fashion with this program's restoration efforts.

Thank you for your willingness to consider this proposal.

Sincerely,

Douglas P. Schleusner
Executive Director