



## Trinity River Restoration Program

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NC-150

### MEMORANDUM

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

**FROM:** Doug Schleusner, Executive Director  
 Trinity River Restoration Program

**CC:** Staff

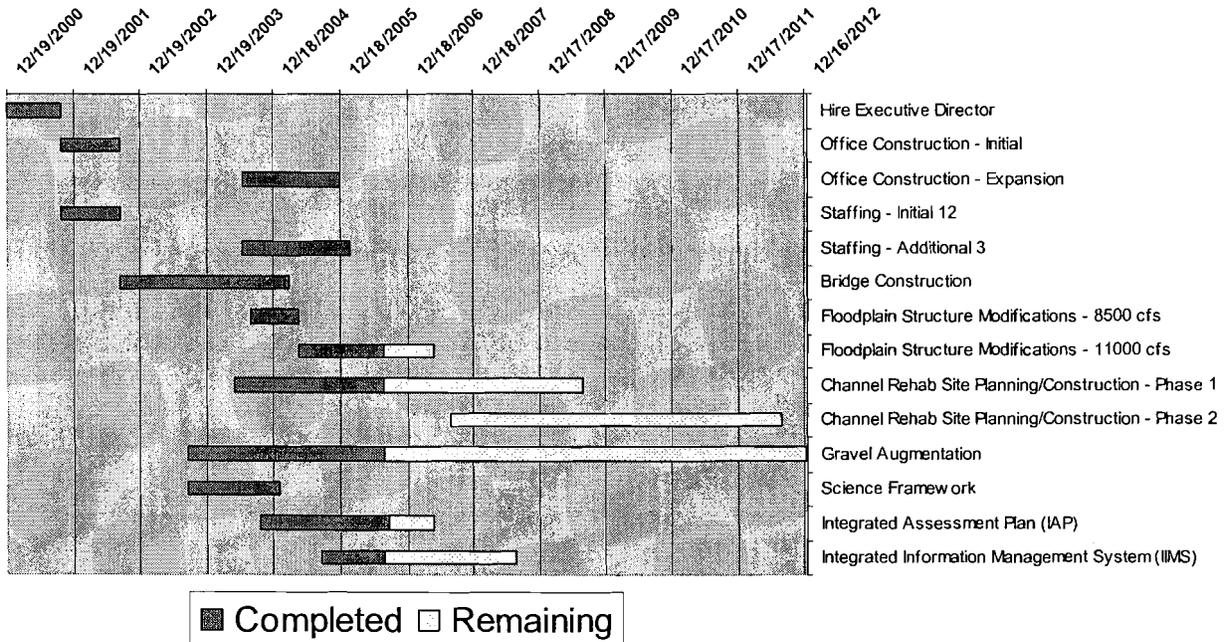
**SUBJECT:** Director's Report; April 1, 2006 – September 20, 2006

**DATE:** September 12, 2006

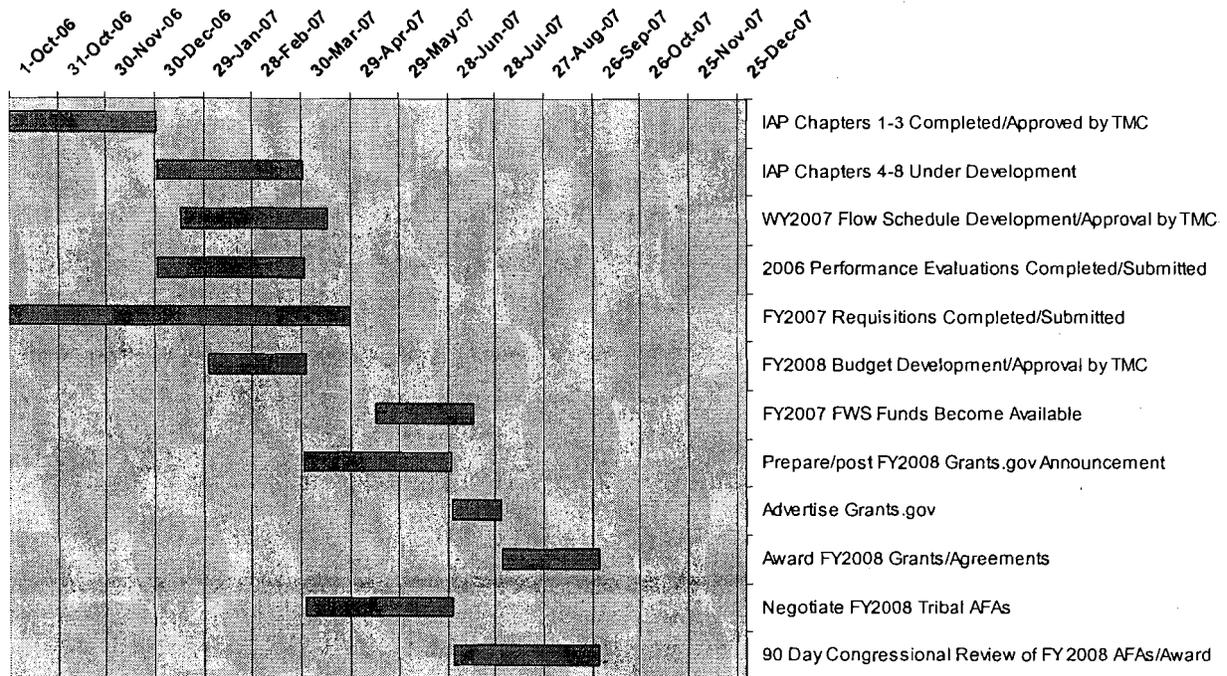
1. Summary: Since a written quarterly report was not supplied at the June TAMWG and TMC meetings, this report covers the period from April to September 2006. Primary areas of emphasis and accomplishments for the TRRP staff and partners during this time have included: 1) continued work on FY2006 financial assistance agreements; 2) development and revision of draft budget proposals for FY2007; 3) evaluation of current budget development procedures and ways to improve them for the FY2008 budget cycle; 4) coordination with affected landowners to complete "accords, agreements, and satisfactions" necessary for floodplain structure modifications in preparation for spring 2007 dam releases; 5) pre-design and NEPA/CEQA compliance activities for the Canyon Creek Suite and Indian Creek channel rehabilitation sites; 6) implementation of the Lewiston Hatchery Coarse Sediment Augmentation Project; 7) refinement of study design and operations plan for fish habitat assessment activities and initial field work; and 8) continued efforts to review/revise goals, objectives and schedule for completion of Chapters 1-3 of the Integrated Assessment Plan.

This is the first Director's Report to include several simplified Gantt charts to help illustrate the Program's progress and significant work scheduling issues to aid in TMC oversight and policy discussions. Nearly all of the tasks could be expanded into their component parts, and very detailed charts are available (upon request) for many projects. Some representations of "completed" and "remaining" activities focus more on schedules rather than quantity, but we will continue to improve upon these displays. Your suggestions are appreciated.

## Progress of Major TRRP Components



## Major Tasks - FY2007



## 2. General Program Administration:

- FY2008 Budget Development Process and Subcommittee Results: At the June TMC meeting Irma Lagomarsino was asked to convene an informal subcommittee to examine the budget development process and find ways to improve it for FY2008. Doug Schleusner prepared a concept paper that identified a number of problem areas and possible solutions which he shared with the group on August 31 in Arcata. The group will meet again on October 19. A key finding and major recommendation to the group is that the TMC should plan on approving the FY2008 budget at the March 2007 meeting because of other scheduling requirements established by Reclamation's Acquisition Services.
- Workgroup Meetings: All workgroups have had at least several meetings and conference calls during the past six months. Reports continue to be generally positive, especially regarding advance notification using the master e-mail list. There are several ideas in circulation on how to make these groups more effective, including better follow up with meeting notes, reassigning the riparian and wildlife components, and asking for more specific work products during the budget development process. More information on these topics will be provided in coming weeks.
- Public Education and Outreach: The TRRP website ([www.trrp.net](http://www.trrp.net)) celebrated its one year anniversary in August. Use continues to average between 2000-2500 site visits per month. Updated on a monthly basis, we have incorporated links for current stream gage data, flow schedules, reservoir levels, and an e-mail notification service. This site has been very useful for posting draft and final environmental documents for public review, and the before/after photos of current construction projects continue to be well received. The TRRP has been represented in numerous presentations and exhibits during the past six months, and many more are planned into the fall and winter.

## 3. Rehabilitation Implementation Branch:

- Browns Mountain Road/Culvert Repair: Ed Solbos has continued to work with the Denver Technical Services Center to identify problems associated with this road project and to develop/implement a permanent design solution. He and his staff are also working with Trinity County to identify short-term actions to ensure the road's function through the winter and next spring's releases. As stated in the FY2007 budget documents, this repair will be funded by Reclamation out of non-TRRP dollars.
- Floodplain Structures: During the May 2006 peak releases we reached 10,100 cfs with minimal tributary accretions. Activities are on schedule to ensure that dam releases of at least 11,000 cfs with 10 year tributary flows will be possible in 2007. The TRRP has processed over 30 "Agreement, Accord, and Satisfaction" documents totaling over \$140,000 with property owners that have structures requiring modification. These agreements are recorded on the landowner's title at the County Courthouse and relieve this program of any future liability at those locations.

On September 1, this office mailed out over 400 letters (“return receipt requested”) to riverfront landowners formally notifying them that beginning in the spring of 2007, the TRRP would implement up to 11,000 cfs depending on the water year type. The letter also provided information about the “Potable Water and Sewage Disposal System Assistance Program” and numerous applications have been handed out since that date. Two major structures (one house and one garage) still require some type of modification or relocation, and negotiations with the landowners are underway.

- Channel Restoration Sites: The Lewiston Hatchery Coarse Sediment Augmentation Project was completed in late August, ahead of schedule and before the Labor Day weekend. This project included channel widening and instream channel excavation as well as gravel augmentation. It was a very successful partnership with the US Forest Service, who performed NEPA compliance, permitting, and construction contract management. The TRRP prepared construction drawings and specifications, and approved the FONSI on May 31. Due to the unexpectedly high cost of gravel, only 2,500 tons out of the planned 9,000 was placed along 1800 feet of river adjacent to the hatchery. The project was designed so that additional volumes of gravel can be added in 2007 and beyond, funds permitting. Very few complaints were received during the construction period.

The final EA/EIR for the Canyon Creek Suite of Rehabilitation Sites was completed and the FONSI signed on August 30, with contract award planned in the near future. This will allow construction to start in early October.

The draft EA/EIR for the Indian Creek channel rehabilitation site was released on August 3, and a public hearing will be conducted by the County in Weaverville on September 14. Designs are being prepared by the TRRP, and construction will occur in 2007.

#### 4. Modeling and Analysis Branch:

- Scientific Framework and Integrated Assessment Plan: At the June TMC meeting a steering committee was established with Curtis Anderson as the chair of the group. They have been meeting frequently with TMAG staff and the ESSA representatives during the past three months, with particular emphasis on process and overall goals and objectives that will lead to a final version of Chapters 1-3 by December. The first meeting for all program participants will be at Reclamation’s Keswick Office September 25-29, followed by a smaller writing session on October 10-12. The first product of the steering committee is a draft program goal which will be presented at the September TAMWG and TMC meetings. Concurrence with such a goal statement is critical to making further progress on the IAP.
- Habitat Assessment: Field work for both 2-d and Empirical Habitat Mapping (EHM) is nearly completed for this field season. The original vegetation cover mapping (McBain & Trush 2001) has been validated, and initial substrate mapping has been completed. Hydraulic data (WSEL, rating curves) is complete, as is the Habitat Suitability Criteria for modeling (Numerical Habitat Mapping – NHM). Most data (low & medium flows) for 2-d model calibration has been collected. Model validation is underway. Two reaches of the mainstem have been mapped by field crews using EHM. Digitizing of those maps should be completed by late October. Collectively, this information should set the stage for a

productive discussion at a habitat assessment symposium later this year or early 2007 that will influence the program of work in 2007. Curtis Anderson is also the chair of a steering committee for this effort as well.

- Flow Scheduling: The technical analysis and planning meetings that led up to this year's approved flow schedule are widely regarded as valuable, productive, and a model for future collaborative AEAM efforts. There have been suggestions, however, within the budget process subcommittee that in 2007 the program should use the standard ROD hydrograph for whatever water year type that occurs in order to allow concentrated efforts on the IAP and FY2008 budget. This will be discussed at the September TMC meeting.
  - IIMS: The Integrated Information Management System (IIMS) for the Trinity River Restoration Program is making substantial progress. Initial data sets have been acquired and loaded into the system. A training session for program partners is scheduled for November.
  - Significant Data Collection: High flow videography, low flow photography, sediment monitoring, post high flow observations of channel conditions.
  - Design Input to Implementation Projects: TMAG has actively assisted in development of objectives for the Lewiston and Dark Gulch channel rehab projects in cooperation with the RIG and the larger TRRP IDTeam. The TMAG is also working on a large woody debris (LWD) policy proposal for consideration by the TAMWG and TMC at a future meeting.
5. Recent Events and Meetings (Periodically refer to website calendar for updates):
- April 1 – TRRP Presentations at California/Nevada Chapter of AFS (Nina Hemphill, Tim Hayden, Wade Sinnen), San Luis Obispo, CA
  - April 3 - TRRP Presentations at Federal Interagency Sedimentation Committee (Andreas Krause, Dave Gaeuman), Reno, NV
  - April 10 – Final Water Year Determination
  - April 11 – Flow Scheduling Work Group Meeting
  - April 11 – TAMWG Strategic Plan Conference Call
  - April 14 – TMC Flow Schedule Conference Call
  - April 24-28 – COTR (contracting) Training at Shasta
  - April 17-18 – Physical, Fish, Riparian, Wildlife Work Group Meetings, Weaverville
  - April 26 – G2G Meeting with Hoopa Valley Tribe, Shasta
  - May 3 – G2G Meeting with Hoopa Valley Tribe, Shasta
  - May 3 – Watershed Work Group, Weaverville
  - May 8 – CVPIA Program Activity Review (PAR) Program Managers Meeting (Ed Solbos), Sacramento
  - May 9 – Budget Work Group Meeting (2007 Budget Planning), Weaverville
  - May 22 – Meeting with CDFG on Revegetation Plan for Rehab Sites, Redding
  - May 23-26 – Peak Release of 10,000 cfs
  - May 25 – TRRP IDT Meeting, Weaverville
  - May 26 – G2G Conference Call with Hoopa Valley Tribe
  - May 31 – TRRP Adopts USFS EA and Signs FONSI for Hatchery Site Rehab/Gravel Project

- June 4 – TRRP Presentations at North American Benthological Society (Nina Hemphill, Tim Hayden, Wade Sinnen), Anchorage, AK
- June 6 - Budget Work Group Meeting (2007 Budget Planning), Weaverville
- June 12-13 – Rehab Site Design Field Trip and Planning Meeting
- June 13 – TRRP High Flows Presentation to Rotary (Doug), Weaverville
- June 14-15 – TAMWG Meeting, Weaverville
- June 19-20 - TMC Meeting, Weaverville
- June 26-29 – TRRP Presentation (Doug) at American Water Resource Association (AWRA) Summer Conference, Missoula, MT
- July 11 – G2G Meeting with Hoopa Valley Tribe, Shasta
- July 11 – Watershed Work Group Meeting
- July 19 – Fish Work Group Meeting, Weaverville
- August 1 – Contract Award for Hatchery Site Rehab/Gravel Project
- August 3 – Draft EA/EIR for Indian Creek Project Available for Public Review
- August 10 – Trinity River Watershed Council (CRMP), Weaverville
- August 10 – IAP Conference Call
- August 14 – G2G Meeting with Hoopa Valley Tribe, Shasta
- August 16 – Physical Work Group Meeting, Weaverville
- August 17 - Budget Work Group Meeting (2007 Budget Planning), Weaverville
- August 22 - Hatchery Site Rehab/Gravel Project Completed
- August 23 – Browns Mountain Road/Culvert Repair Design Review
- August 25-27 – TRRP Exhibit at Trinity County Fair, Hayfork
- August 28 – USFS and TRRP “Lessons Learned” Review of Hatchery Project
- August 30 –Canyon Creek Rehab Sites Final EA/EIR Completed and FONSI Signed
- August 31 – TMC Budget Subcommittee (FY2008) Meeting, Arcata
- September 1 – 400+ Realty Letters Mailed (notification of future high flows and grant program)
- September 6 – G2G Meeting with Hoopa Valley Tribe, Shasta
- September 11 – G2G Meeting with Yurok Tribe, Weaverville
- September 12 – Presentation to Shasta-Trinity Fly Fishers (Doug), Weaverville
- September 12-13 – TAMWG Meeting, Weaverville
- September 13 – Secretary of the Interior’s Listening Session, Redding
- September 14 – Indian Creek Rehab Site Public Hearing, Weaverville
- September 15 – CEQA Certification of Canyon Creek Rehab Sites EIR
- September 15 – TRRP Presentation (Doug, Serge Birk) at Water Education Foundation Tour, Redding
- September 18 – TRRP Design Team Float Trip and Meeting, Upper River
- September 20-21 – TMC Meeting, Hoopa Fire Hall

6. Upcoming Events (Periodically refer to website calendar for updates):

- September 25-29 – IAP Meeting #1, Keswick Office
- September 29 - G2G Meeting with Hoopa Valley Tribe, Shasta
- October 8 – TRRP Exhibit at Trinity County Salmon Festival, Weaverville
- October 10-12 - IAP Writing Session, Keswick Office
- October 11 – Watershed Work Group Meeting

- October 17-18 – North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board Quarterly Meeting, Weaverville
- October 18 – Fish Work Group Meeting, Weaverville
- October 19 - TMC Budget Subcommittee (FY2008) Meeting, Arcata
- October 21 – TRRP Exhibit at Coleman Hatchery “Return of the Salmon”
- October 23-25 – CALFED Science Conference, Sacramento
- November 13-17 – SALMOD Training Workshop, Arcata
- November 14 – Physical Work Group Meeting, Weaverville
- November 27-December 1 – IAP Review by TMC and SAB
- December 6-7 (tentative) – TAMWG Meeting, Weaverville
- December 13-14 (tentative) – TMC Meeting, Weaverville

