



Trinity River Restoration Program

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NC-150

MEMORANDUM

TO: TAMWG Chair and Members

FROM: Mike A. Hamman, Executive Director
 Trinity River Restoration Program

SUBJECT: Director's Report

DATE: December 11, 2009

This report is an update as to the activities and progress made during the last quarter. The issues and items that were discussed at the last TAMWG meeting were also presented at the September TMC meeting that generated much interest and discussion. Following is my report.

Organizational Refinement

- The ED and the senior staff of the Arcata FWS met to continue working toward defining the respective functions the two offices will serve while focusing on integrating the organizations to best capitalize upon our respective expertise and plan for means to obtain additional expertise we currently need either through recruiting positions that fill that need (potentially by sharing some positions with the Klamath program); through utilization of partner resources; and by tapping outside experts. We have also discussed the means and approach to better coordinate activities and how to be more effective in working with our tribal partners all in addition to meeting the challenging workload facing each office.
- A DOI staff and Hoopa Valley Tribe "retreat" is being scheduled in February to address trust obligations, G2G processes, and the means to improve relationships and trust between the agencies as recommended by the CDR Situation Assessment.
- The Science Program Coordinator position selection process is nearing completion. The selection panel completed the interview process and recommendations were made to the selecting official. The process is now in the hands of the FWS and we anticipate an offer being made prior to year's end.
- Office re-model and/or expansion: Work spaces are being added within existing space to accommodate new hires and provide some work space for Program Partner use. The longer-

term goal is to provide a larger conference room, and up to five additional work stations to accommodate Program partner staff that are working in Weaverville. The ED has met with the building owner and contractor to develop the necessary drawings and specs to meet GSA requirements. Funding continues to be an issue as there is still uncertainty over the 2010 final budget so moving forward with the acquisition process is on hold.

Budget Update and Process

- The approved FY 2010 Budget is now being implemented, however, the conference process that approved the DOI budget reduced the operating budget by an additional \$387,000 essentially wiping out the gains from carryover and de-obligated funds. We continue to have a \$240,000 deficit but the Region is working to restore some or all of the cut. Program staff is working with our tribal partners and the many players in Region, Denver and W. DC in finalizing the 2010 AFAs that may now not be completed until April due to review delays and more stringent application of government oversight.
- A draft plan for establishing a multi-year budgeting process (2011-2015) has been developed and reviewed by the B Team. A master budget planning tool has been developed to recognize on-going administrative, RIG and core monitoring work that we are relatively certain will occur during the next five years. The tables map these on-going expenditures against full program funding and illustrate available dollars to address other science priorities. Budget policies have been identified for presentation to the TMC on December 17 for consideration. The approach is to utilize the IAP process to prioritize the science activities through a cross-disciplinary approach to assist the B Team with scheduling science activities within the five year plan. This process is designed to recognize science program assessment priorities in a logical step up and step down system that can adapt to changes in funding levels and also be flexible in addressing adaptive management objectives. The next steps are to obtain direction from the TMC that authorizes the IAP SC to activate the workgroups in order to focus on science priorities and form the interdisciplinary team needed to provide management the recommendations for funding the science program. This process will be used to formulate the 2011 draft budget for presentation at the April TMC meeting.

Annual Report

- An outline for the first annual report has been developed jointly with Program partners and other participants that illustrate the activities and findings for 2008/2009.
- A schedule and assignments for drafting report sections has been developed with March 1 as the deadline for section authors to complete the first draft.
- Use the SAB or USGS to review and comment. Finalize report for publication in by June 2010.
- Incorporate outcome of the Science Symposium held in January

Trinity Reservoir Ops and River Temperatures

- A letter was signed by the TMC Chair requesting a formalized process and expressing the concerns of the TAMWG/TMC was finalized and sent to Mr. Ron Milligan, Director of CVO on June 9. To date, no formal response has been made but discussions have occurred to determine how best to address the needs identified. However, a commitment was made to provide CVO staff to assist in the development of a temperature management planning tool.

- At the September TMC meeting, a motion was approved that authorized the formation of a technical work group that will develop a temperature management plan in preparation for the spring flow scheduling process. The group consists of the TRRP and CVO staff that will lead the development of the operational plan with technical advisors provided by Program partners. The approach is to define operational and institutional realities and explore the range of options and actions that may be taken to most effectively manage the cold water pool in Trinity Reservoir and to meet temperature objectives established for the Trinity River.
- The auxiliary bypass valve at Trinity Dam was inspected on August 26 and only minor cavitation damage was noted so the valve was cleared for limited operation. For operational needs associated with scheduled maintenance activities for Carr generation facilities and Clear Creek dredging work, the valve was operated to "pulse" a volume of water through Lewiston Lake sufficient to meet flow and temperature goals starting in late September. We learned that this may be an effective means of meeting temperature objectives by balancing releases through the power pentstocks with the bypass valve. Additional operational options like this will be analyzed as part of developing the temperature management planning tool.

Program Operating Agreement or Plan

- The TMC has demonstrated full support for the ED to pursue the development of an operating agreement or a plan to improve working relationships, the science program as a whole and become a more efficient program. As identified within the 2004 Subcommittee Report and the CDR Situation Assessment, this activity has been identified as perhaps the most important work that needs to be accomplished. I am finding that this is also one of the more difficult tasks for me to get moving due to the heavy workload and priorities that the Program faces; some institutional and procedural inertia to overcome; and getting activities scheduled and funded. If the Program made this its top priority and took to heart the number of meetings and facilitated retreats that were recommended in the Situation Assessment, the TMC and senior staff would have to meet at least a week for each month in 2010 to come to resolution on the issues. However, with that said, I am making progress on getting a general consensus on an approach for incremental and continuous improvement within the structure and workload that we currently have.
- During the first quarter of 2010, I am scheduling a series of working sessions of the senior science staff within the Program to focus on how we shall proceed. Some key meetings are a facilitated retreat between the senior DOI staff and the Hoopa Valley Fisheries Department staff (February); a two-day senior science staff retreat to discuss Program needs, roles and responsibilities and how best to work together (March); a follow up TMC retreat, and a TMC/TAMWG joint meeting (April). The work groups will also be focused on utilizing the priorities established within the IAP to hone work plans and provide that information to management for more efficient out year planning.
- In support of this process, will schedule workshop(s) with Flow Study Authors and other restoration programs to spur discussion and focus on how to improve the Program's approach toward accomplishing the mission. (Mar, Apr)
- Set up committee led by ED to draft operating agreement based on the findings of the work sessions and receive TAMWG and TMC feedback and finalize a formal or informal agreement or plan. Conduct a review with all Program participants, get final TMC approval (June 2010)

Summary of Program Activities This Quarter

The primary areas of activities for the TRRP staff and partners during the past quarter have included:

- 1) Science Program Coordinator selection process was completed and forwarded to selecting official.
- 2) The Sawmill in-channel site work was completed by Sept. 15 with the contractor working to complete all other site work and plantings by December 31st.
- 3) FY2010 AFA's, grants, agreements and contracts and related actions are being pushed through the system in order to obligate ARRA and Program funds.
- 4) FWS and Program partners are planning and gearing up for out-migrant monitoring, weir counts, IHAP and all other monitoring work for 2010. Partners are working on data sets and reports for the 2009 work as well.
- 6) The IDT group has met on two occasions to complete design work for 2010/2011 projects.
- 7) The ED, DOI budget team and the B Team have developed a draft five-year budget plan.

Recent Events and Meetings

- June 17, 18 – TMC meeting, Weaverville
- August 12 - TRH Ad hoc committee meeting, Weaverville
- August 19 – TMC Conference call
- August 25 – Hoopa Valley Tribe Boat Dance Ceremony
- August 26 – Inspection of Trinity Dam Auxiliary Bypass Valve
- August 27 – TMC Trinity River Field Visit
- Sept. 10-11, – TAMWG Meeting, Weaverville
- Sept. 15-16 – TMC Meeting, Arcata
- Oct. 6-8 – Out-migrant Workshop, Weaverville
- Oct 19-20 - IDT Team coordination meeting
- Oct. 21 – TMC conference call
- Nov. 18 – TMC conference call
- Nov. 19 – B Team meeting
- Dec. 4 – Conflict of interest committee conference call
- Dec. 8 – Physical Workgroup meeting

Upcoming Events

- December 16 -17 – TMC Meeting, USFS Redding
- January 12-14 - TRRP Science Symposium, Weaverville
- February 1-5 – Klamath Basin Science Conference
- February (week of the 8th) – Flow Scheduling Work Group
- February (week of the 15th) – DOI/HVT Retreat meeting
- March 31, April 1 – TMC Meeting