

Final Minutes
Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group
Trinity County Library, County Supervisors Room, Weaverville, CA

September 10, 2009

Start of meeting: 9:15 AM

Attending members:

Member:	Representative Seat:
Arnold Whitridge	Trinity County Resident
Ed Duggan	Willow Creek Community Services District
Tom Weseloh	California Trout, Inc.
Tim Viel	Natural Resources Conservation Service
Pat Frost	Trinity County Resource Conservation District
Richard Lorenz	Trinity County Resident
Joe McCarthy	Commercial Fishing Guide
Brent Tenpass	Alternate for City of Redding Electric Utility Depart
Dana Hord	Big Bar Community Development Group
Jeffrey Sutton ¹	Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority
Gil Saliba	Redwood Regional Audubon Society
David Steinhauser ²	Trinity River Rafting, Inc.

¹ Arrived during discussion of Item 4.

² Arrived following discussion of Item 6.

Members that did not attend:

Member:	Representative Seat:
Byron Leydecker	Friends of the Trinity River
Emelia Berol	Northcoast Environmental Center
Sandy Denn	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
Ann Hayden	Environmental Defense
Elizabeth Hadley	City of Redding Electric Utility Department

Designated Federal Officer: Randy Brown, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arcata, CA.

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Approval of March Minutes

Arnold Whitridge opened the meeting and asked for a review of the June meeting minutes. Tim Viel asked about a comment by Larry Hanson in the June minutes regarding a concession that more hatchery than wild steelhead are in the Trinity River. Viel was concerned the comment may be taken to mean more hatchery than wild steelhead are also present in the tributaries. It was decided that this was not an issue to be dealt with by edits to the minutes.

Ed Duggan made a motion to accept the June minutes.

Rich Lorenz seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Tom Weseloh and Dana Hord abstained, as they had not attended all of the June meeting.

2. Open Forum and Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

3. Designated Federal Officer Topics

Randy Brown reported that he is trying to get some of the former TAMWG members to rejoin the TAMWG. Jim Feider and Spreck Rosekrans are two specific former members that are being contacted.

4. History and evolution of Trinity River restoration efforts

Andreas Krause of the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) gave a Powerpoint presentation on the evolving restoration philosophies for the Trinity River. This information was based on his recent review of a set of historic files for the program. A couple of early impacts to the river that were not previously well known or appreciated were hydraulic and dredger mining in the river and the use of early "river-training" structures that had been used. Krause next explained the symptoms of change and some of the early attempts to fix problems. Once the dams were constructed, sand started to build up in the river and vegetation began to encroach on the banks. One source of sediment was from logging in the watershed with highly decomposed granite. He showed photos of a "riffle sifter" tried in the 1970's to extract sand from the bed. This technique failed and was abandoned. Ripping the river substrate with a bulldozer to release embedded sands was also tried in the 1970's and 80's to loosen sand for transport downstream. Another technique was to construct large pools where sand was captured and then removed by repeated dredging. In another example of early restoration, 14 spawning riffles were built as static structures where gravel was added over time. Gravel berms were also constructed to keep water flowing over the constructed riffles. These constructed riffles and berms did not work well and are now being removed by the current program. In another early attempt at restoration, channelization was

tried at various places such as Rush Creek. They attempted to continue to push the thalweg over to one side of the river despite Rush Creek depositing large bedload at the mouth and moving the thalweg back away.

Eventually, these early forms of physical channel alterations to reduce sand were abandoned in favor of addressing the source of sand in the contributing watersheds. In Grass Valley, \$70 million was spent to purchase land, build a sediment-trapping dam, and install erosion control measures. This project was thought to be more successful at controlling sand inputs. Kraus noted that the river is more of a gravel bedded river today.

Krause next described the construction of side channels in the 1980's and 1990's that were designed to increase rearing habitat. Nine "feather edge" sites were performed as a way to reduce encroaching vegetation. The feather edge technique was successful in the short term but not in the long term. They did provide the seeds of today's philosophy of vegetation control. He noted the junction of the North Fork Trinity River as a "natural analog" for the restoration. Upstream of the North Fork junction, the vegetation is encroaching on the mainstem Trinity, whereas downstream, gravel inputs from the North Fork have created a mobile bar and an example of what the current program is attempting to engineer.

Krause next showed some examples of today's restoration effort. He showed Hocker Flat and Valdor Gulch and noted that, in Valdor Gulch, they introduced large woody debris. Snorkeling showed that juvenile fish were associated with the large wood. He noted that today's philosophy of gravel injection, vegetation removal, and mobility of substrate is thought to be working. The new, evolved ideas in side channel construction introduce more complexity. They choose sites based on channel form instead of simply having a willing landowner. He showed some newly derived floodplain concepts that recognize the need for sand on floodplains for natural vegetation colonization.

Responding to questions, Krause explained that the restoration organization in the 1980's was a combination of Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). They still had their partners of the Department of Water Resources or Department of Fish and Game. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Forest Service were involved with the projects on their land base.

Responding to questions about locations of cold-water refugia for fish, Krause said his focus in his review so far has been mostly physical management. He noted that there has been a large effort on fisheries, but he has not been able to delve into this area. He noted that recently they have flown the river for thermal imaging for cold-water refugia. As far as refugia, older residents had reported that in pre-dam days, the river had dried up but still contained large isolated holes with fish in them.

Bill Brock noted that, in the 1980's, they knew that many of the projects were only treating symptoms. Their hands were "tied" and they could not address the source of many problems. He cited the problems with Grass Valley Creek where Champion was permitted by the California Department of Forestry to cut an area of 2400 acres the year before the buyout was initiated.

There was discussion as to whether a shift in policy is needed to help with the evolution of the program. It was thought that the program allows for an adaptive management approach, but some changes or adaptations will require policy changes such as flow releases.

5. Channel rehabilitation program update

Jennifer Faler passed out a hard copy of her Powerpoint presentation on Rehabilitation Implementation (Attachment 1). The current project is in what is called the Sawmill Site about two miles below Lewiston Dam. The design involves 14 features including gravel injection, re-contouring banks, creating meanders, and creating scour channels. The cost is \$2 million. She discussed some changes to the gravel additions. There was a risk to storing too much gravel on site and it was planned to phase in the gravel placement. The gravel size should vary from 3/8 to 5 inches and is mostly a spawning gravel. She noted a couple of complaints have been received from fishing guides and realtors regarding in-river work and muddy water. The contractors are in compliance with the permit that allows 20 NTUs of turbidity at 500 feet below the project. She noted that there is only 19 days to perform the project due to slow process of federal contracting combined with concerns for coho entering the river by September 15. Higher releases for the Boat Dance for five days also created some issues. Otherwise, the project is going well.

She noted that they are trying a new process where the contractor is making their own rock with an on-site plant. They can control the product and level of fines for both river rock and for road rock.

Responding to questions, she said the delay in the contract is due mostly to problems with procurement government-wide and lack of contracting officers.

Another new process introduced in this project is that the Trinity Resource Conservation District (RCD) has cooperated with the TRRP by getting large woody debris from federal land next to an airport that needed trees removed. No bids were received by the Forest Service to cut the trees during their advertised bid request. The project was modified to allow the RCD to excavate the trees with the roots attached.

6. Program realignment; status of TAMWG recommendations

Brian Person of the BOR gave an update on the program realignment. He noted that the changes are really too subtle to be called a realignment. He listed several accomplishments such as progress toward selection of new science lead. One issue is that the new science lead will be stationed in Weaverville with the Bureau of Reclamation personnel but will have as a "supervisor of record" someone in the Fish and Wildlife Service. They are looking for a special person with the correct type of skills to accomplish this. He noted that from a quick perusal of the certified list, he saw many with excellent skills.

Randy Brown, responding to questions, thought that this special science coordinator may be selected within a month. They have received a list of certified candidates from the human resources office. He invited people from the TAMWG and TMC to sit in on the interview process. Even though it is a final decision of the FWS to select the candidate, he hoped that

everyone involved would be able to come to agreement on the hire. He said the process would start with a conference call that would have a set of questions. Participants could ask questions and all would write down their impressions. Reference checks would be made on the top candidates and selections would be made for direct interviews.

Rich Lorenz thought it may be good to have Arnold Whitridge involved. But on the other hand, if the TAMWG is not involved, this would put the responsibility of the choice of this candidate on the shoulders of Person and Brown.

Arnold Whitridge thought that science skills are important, but collaborative skills may be even more important. Whitridge asked if any others on TAMWG might want to participate beside him. No one volunteered but he left it open that anyone can contact Whitridge.

Person, continuing his update, noted recognition of several issues. These issues included recognition of lack of sufficient technical knowledge by members of the TMC, the need to move on issues that have been problematic such as budget decisions, need to increase the number of out-of-meeting contacts among TMC members, inclusion of higher level persons involved in government-to-government resolutions, and a need to schedule another retreat.

Person next discussed TAMWG deliverables and he passed out a print out from an "action tracker" that has been created to organize TMC responses to TAMWG requests (Attachment 2). The action tracker print out included issues such as hatchery operation and authority to change practices. Person noted that the hatchery issue is being reviewed by their solicitors office. The action tracker also listed that the new membership in TMC had been voted on, but Person noted that the BLM membership did not pass. The conflict-of-interest issue has not been addressed as the members have an extremely wide range of opinions on whether or not a conflict exists and whether it should be addressed. One way conflict-of-interest is being addressed is through development of the RFP process.

Jeff Sutton asked if the conflict-of-interest is more perception or legal. Person said that conflict of interest has not been formally examined by a solicitor regarding votes and bylaws. It was noted by Gil Saliba that there is a perception that increasing funds are going to agencies to support salaries and not to program objectives. Whitridge noted that no one has examined conflict of interest from a legal view. Whitridge also added that many decisions have financial effects on decision-makers which are distinguishable from the effects on the program as a whole, and when this is the case, the affected decision-maker is in a conflict-of-interest position. Person noted that the split on the conflict-of-interest is about 4 to 4 on the TMC. He thought his own agency is not in a conflict of interest since they were chosen to lead the program. Tom Weseloh agreed with Person's example of the BOR not having a conflict of interest, as they are required to staff the TRRP program. Weseloh said that, on State programs he has served on, it is illegal for someone to vote their own agency to receive funding for a project that could be performed by a set of other equally qualified groups. He further noted that it is rare for a TMC member agency to not receive money resulting from issues for which the member voted.

Rich Lorenz suggested that they let Irma to proceed with her efforts on the conflict-of-interest issue. Lorenz also clarified that Person's verbal update did not constitute an official response from the TMC as requested by the TAMWG. Jeff Sutton raised the issue of

TAMWG full membership on the TMC. Currently, the TAMWG chair is an official member with non-voting rights. Sutton thought voting rights would be good for the TAMWG. Randy Brown noted that bringing in a non-government member would turn the TMC into a FACA committee.

Rich Lorenz commented that three months have now passed and three months are left before TAMWG will get their expected response to their letter to the TMC.

7. Trinity reservoir operations and river temperature issues

Brian Person provided an update on the issue of elevated river temperatures and options to modify operations of Trinity Reservoir. He noted the existence of an auxiliary outlet on Trinity Dam that could be used to moderate temperature downstream in the Trinity River. The outlet has design issues that could limit its use. Emergency releases could be approved, but it remains to be resolved from where the replacement water would come. Another major issue is that there is a limited amount of cold water in Trinity Reservoir to address downstream temperature issues.

Responding to questions, Person said the authority exists to use water in the Trinity Reservoir for the benefit of fish downstream. This has been legally reviewed by the agency solicitor.

Mike Hamman of the TRRP passed supporting material on Trinity River water temperatures (Attachment 4) for his Powerpoint presentation on the Trinity River temperature management. Hamman noted the temperature targets for the Trinity River are typically 60 F and these drop to 53 F during adult migration and spawning. He showed a graph of seasonal water temperatures in the Trinity Reservoir and at various locations on the river. These showed that showed Trinity Reservoir to be generally cool but increasing in temperature throughout the summer. Lewiston Reservoir had more variable and at times exceeded 53 F. Consequently, the Trinity River at Douglas City gage reached temperatures above 60 F during July. The additional flow releases for the Boat Dance resulted in drop in river temperatures at Douglas City by 4 to 8 F this year.

There was discussion about slight modifications to the release pattern to gain slightly cooler water during the later summer and avoid violating water temperature targets. Pat Frost also mentioned the health of tributary watersheds as a tool to moderate mainstem temperatures. Tom Weseloh noted that there are reports of high algae buildups in the lower river and that this could be related to temperature. It was reported to be "pretty green" in the Hoopa area. Bill Brock reported that the Forest Service has found an invasive algae (*Dydimosira* spp.) in the upper Trinity River that seems to be working its way down river.

8. Evaluation of hatchery goals and practices

This item was discussed before Item 7. Larry Hanson of California Fish and Game passed out a two-page summary of an ad hoc committee meeting regarding potential changes to the management of the Trinity River fish hatchery (Attachment 3). He said it was thought that the current directives for the hatchery did allow for some modifications to the hatchery

practices without a solicitor's opinion. The goals of the hatchery were examined against the goals of the TRRP. Perceived issues were that 1) an excessively large adult hatchery return could result in impacts to natural fish spawning, genetics, harvest and 2) competition between hatchery juveniles and natural produced juveniles. A Technical Advisory Group (TAG) has been formed. This first meeting was mostly formational and future meetings by the TAG and the ad hoc committees are planned.

Responding to questions, Hanson said with science based suggestions, the committee could move as the committee has "some momentum." There was discussion of attendance by TAMWG members. Tom Weseloh agreed to go, if his schedule allowed. Weseloh verified that the ad hoc committee was not reviewing the goals of the TRRP. Rich Lorenz stated his appreciation for Hanson's initiative on this issue.

9. Past and potential watershed restoration projects

Mark Lancaster of the Five County Salmonid Conservation Program gave a Powerpoint presentation on their tributary restoration program. The Five County program seeks outside funding for restoration of tributaries in the five counties of northwest California. Their prioritization is 1) migration barriers, 2) water quality, 3) water quantity, 4) training and education, and 5) to avoid lawsuits. Lancaster noted that this area has a extensive and failing road system. There is one major road failure per year. The Trinity River has a TMDL for sediment and most problems initiate at road crossings. He listed 11 sites in the Trinity River basin where work has been done at a cost of \$1 million. Total expenditures to date in the TRRP area has been at least \$6-7 million of which \$1.3 has been provided by TRRP. Lancaster presented a list of future projects that he thought should be done, of which he estimated a cost of at least \$19 million. He noted that these projects are mostly related to sediment reduction, maintaining water flow, and barrier removal. He also noted that much of the creeks have been heavily mined and the sediment turned "upside down." There are lots of opportunities for restoration in the watersheds.

Tom Weseloh stated that tributary restoration is important as neither steelhead nor coho restoration will occur via mainstem restoration alone. Most of the habitat for these two species is in the tributaries.

Tom Weseloh made a motion that the TAMWG recommend the TMC to schedule a similar presentation by Lancaster, that the TMC expand the TRRP definition of watershed restoration, and the TMC prepare a letter of support for Five County Salmonid Restoration Program to aid the Five Counties as it seeks outside funding.

The motion was seconded by Tim Viel.

The motion passed unanimously.

Tom Weseloh made a motion that the TAMWG recommend the TMC budget a minimum of \$500,000 per year for watershed restoration and to incorporate this

into a five-year budget plan. The TMC should also allow allocations to be carried over in order to meet construction schedules.

The motion was seconded by Jeff Sutton.

The motion passed unanimously.

10. Executive Director topics

Mike Hamman provided an update on progress and activities of the TRRP and passed out copies of his 4-page report (Attachment 5). He commented on the realignment and ongoing discussions with the Fish and Wildlife office in Arcata. Randy Brown agreed with Hamman that progress is being made on discussions. The FWS are shifting the efforts of their people from working on a specific basins but instead to problems across basins.

Hamman described his idea for a Program Operating Agreement or plan where the partners would discuss directions of the program and make changes as needed. He noted that the TMC was caught off guard by Hamman's suggestion and they thought that this could not be done at the same time that the IAP is being performed. He is pushing for discussion among partners about the mission of the program and reconvening a meeting of the Flow Study authors.

Hamman described plans to establish a five-year budgeting process that would use the Integrated Assessment Process (IAP) and have greater flexibility. He noted the need for producing an annual report for publication next spring. A Science Symposium is scheduled for January that would summarize ten years of restoration.

He next described activities on investigations on operation of the Trinity Reservoir and river temperatures. A letter was sent to the director of the Central Valley Operations about dam operations.

Rich Lorenz stated his satisfaction with Hamman's progress to date. He wanted the TAMWG to express support for BLM membership on TMC. He expressed appreciation for Person's committee to attend TAMWG meetings. He suggested that the TAMWG wait for Irma come up with recommendations on conflict of interest or else seek solicitor help in recommendations. At this point, Lorenz had to leave for the day.

11. TAMWG recommendations

Tom Weseloh made a motion to renew the TAMWG recommendation to include BLM as member of TMC. If appropriate, the chairman may reference a letter by Representative Herger.

The motion was seconded by Tim Viel.

The motion passed unanimously.

Tom Weseloh made a motion TAWMG write a letter(s) to TMC to 1) to thank Brian Person and TMC members for attendance of TAMWG meetings; 2) ask that the conflict-of-interest subcommittee report to TAMWG at the December meeting; 3) recommend that the TMC add other members to the TMC (e.g., Humboldt County, TAMWG, and BLM); and 4) send a polite reminder of the TAMWG request made last June for a response by December.

The motion was seconded by Gil Saliba

The motion passed unanimously.

12. Tentative Date and Agenda Topics for Next Meeting

No identified topics. The next meeting tentative date is December 9 and 10.

The meeting was adjourned.

LIST OF MOTIONS

Ed Duggan made a motion to accept the June minutes.

Rich Lorenz seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Tom Weseloh and Dana Hord abstained, as they had not attended all of the June meeting.

Tom Weseloh made a motion that the TAMWG recommend the TMC to schedule a similar presentation by Lancaster, that the TMC expand the TRRP definition of watershed restoration, and the TMC prepare a letter of support for Five County Salmonid Restoration Program to aid the Five Counties as it seeks outside funding.

The motion was seconded by Tim Viel.

The motion passed unanimously.

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The motion was seconded by Jeff Sutton.

The motion passed unanimously.

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The motion passed unanimously.

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The motion was seconded by Gil Saliba

The motion passed unanimously.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

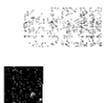
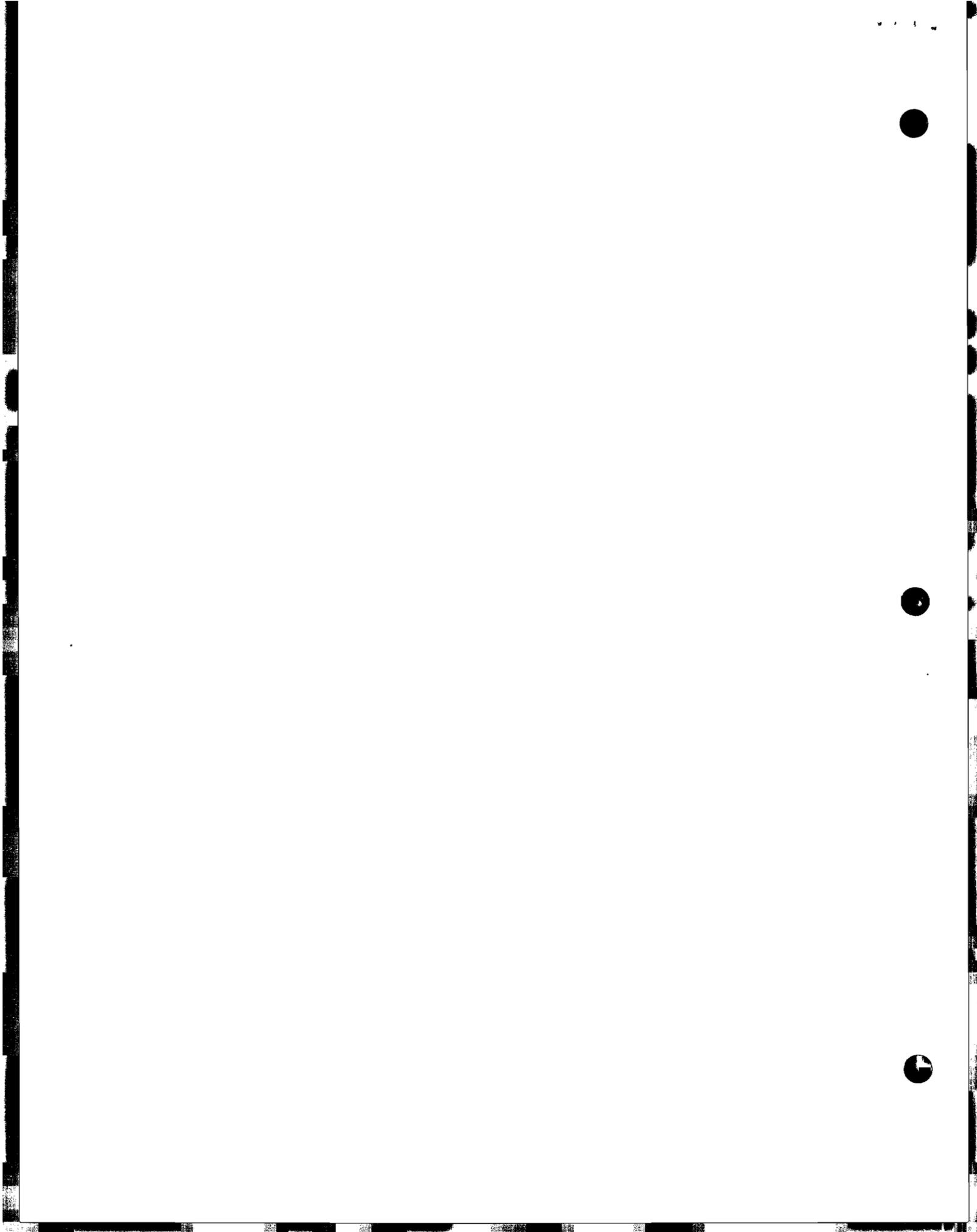
Attachment 1: Rehabilitation Implementation Update. Sawmill Rehabilitation Site Update. Powerpoint presentation by Jennifer Faler, Trinity River Restoration Program.

Attachment 2: TAMWG Action Tracker Open Issues, 9/19/2009. Passed out by Brian Person.

Attachment 3: Trinity River Hatchery Operations and Production Goal Ad Hoc Committee Meeting. August 12, 2009. Handed out by Larry Hanson.

Attachment 4: Trinity River in-stream temperatures for July-September 2009. Handed out by Mike Hamman.

Attachment 5: Executive Director's Report, September 10, 2009. Handed out by Mike Hamman.



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