



Trinity River Restoration Program

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NC-150

MEMORANDUM

TO: TAMWG Chair and Members

FROM: Mike A. Hamman, Former Executive Director
 Jennifer Faler, Acting Executive Director
 Trinity River Restoration Program

SUBJECT: Director's Report

DATE: March 18, 2010

This report discusses the activities of your former Director during his last quarter with the Program, lays out the transition plan for the changes that are underway with new staff arriving this very week, and continuing efforts for the incremental improvement process established during the past year. Your former Director also wishes to express the great appreciation he has for the TAMWG and its mission and the personal pleasure he has had getting to know members of the TAMWG and working with the very talented and dedicated folks who care so deeply about the natural resources of the Trinity basin. In particular, he has enjoyed his association with the TAMWG Chair in working through all the sticky wickets that attach themselves to this Program. Your Acting Director, Jennifer Faler, will be working diligently to continue on the path set and maintaining the very fruitful relationship that the Program Office has with the TAMWG members. Following is the quarterly report.

Organizational Refinement

- The senior staff from the Program Office and 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" was held 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. A good and positive meeting with progress

toward developing a mutual understanding of each others' views and how we may work more effectively in resolving a number of pending issues.

- The Science Program Coordinator, Ernest Clarke or Ernie as he prefers, will be reporting for work on March 22 in Arcata for a week and will be attending numerous meetings including the upcoming TMC session on next week.
- 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 is 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 in 2010 has been resolved some we are now moving forward with the process.
- The Executive Director position has been advertised, extended for two weeks closing on March 22nd and a list of qualified applicants will be sent to Brian Person in short order. He has stated that he plans to follow the same approach as the last recruitment in the selection process.

Budget Update and Process

- The approved FY 2010 Budget is now being implemented and all funding previously cut from the Program budget by the conference process has been restored by reprogramming within the Region. In addition, an additional \$600,000 in ARRA funds was requested to complete all 2010/2011 restoration sites and approved bringing the total 2010 budget to \$16.6 M.
- A draft plan for establishing a multi-year budgeting process (2011-2015) has been developed and reviewed by the B Team and presented to the TMC at the December meeting. The process was well received and the TMC concurred that this is the planning process they want to see utilized and refined in order to assist them in making well informed budget decisions. They could not, however, come to consensus on the proposed budget policies that were presented by the ED.
- 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. The approach is to utilize the IAP process to prioritize the science activities through an inter-disciplinary team (IDT) 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 TMC authorized the IAP SC to serve as the interim IDT and activate the workgroups in order to focus on science priorities and form the interdisciplinary team, with the Science Program Coordinator as the Chair, needed to provide management the recommendations for funding the science program. This process will be used to formulate the 2011 draft budget being presented today and on April 1 at the TMC meeting.

Annual Report

- An outline and first rough draft 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 reviewing the draft report sections has been developed with March 31 as the deadline for the first round of reviews on the first draft.
- Will also use the SAB and the USGS to review and comment on a good draft with the goal of finalizing the report for publication in August 2010.
- Incorporate the outcome of the very successful Science Symposium held in January.

Flow Scheduling and Temperature Management Workgroup

- 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 2009 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 TMC action was reaffirmed at the December 2009 meeting and due to workload and scheduling considerations; the ED initiated the group by adding temperature management issues to the Flow Scheduling workgroup tasks. He determined that this is the right group to be looking at these issues and that once the annual flow recommendation process is completed, the group can then turn their full attention to the myriad of temperature issues. The process would be chaired by the ED and recommendations would be carried forward to the TAMWG and TMC for further action.
- The Flow Scheduling and Temperature Management Workgroup have met on three occasions starting in January. Meeting notes that discuss the details have been distributed but the general outcome has been that an amended "Normal" hydrograph was developed that accommodates IHAP data collection benches and considerations for the propagation of yellow legged frogs and the riparian vegetation re-growth desired. This will be presented in detail today and at the TMC for their conditional recommendation (assuming the April 1 forecast stays normal) to the Regional Directors. In addition, several temperature management issues have been identified for further discussion with the goal to spend the next few meetings identifying studies and operational issues that the group would recommend for TMC consideration to request that Reclamation pursue.

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. Some progress has occurred here with the two DOI agencies continuing to interact and further refining their respective degrees of responsibilities and oversight of Program activities. The two agencies have met with the Hoopa Valley Tribe's Fisheries Dept. staff to discuss the complex relationship between the federal agencies and the Tribe and how that translates into the necessary working relationships to effectively perform Program functions in a collective manner.

- The work planning process continues to evolve in a positive direction with the five-yr budget and work plan forming the basis for establishing a consistent and transparent process for developing annual work plans and projects and the commensurate budgets.

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 selected, with reporting date of March 22.
- 2) B Team has reviewed the 2011 budget and is prepared to recommend a conditional approval to the TMC. The ED, DOI budget team and the B Team have developed a draft five-year budget plan.
- 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 Design Team work group continued its work to complete design work for 2010/2011 projects.
- 7) The TRRP Science Symposium was held on January 12 and 14 with much heralded success.
- 8) First very rough draft of the Annual Report was completed in mid-March
- 9) The 2010 flow schedule was determined on March 16 with minor refinements to the "normal" Hydrograph.

Recent Events and Meetings

- Jun. 17,18 – TMC meeting, Weaverville
- Aug. 12 - TRH Ad hoc committee meeting, Weaverville
- Aug. 19 – TMC Conference call
- Aug. 25 – Hoopa Valley Tribe Boat Dance Ceremony
- Aug. 26 – Inspection of Trinity Dam Auxiliary Bypass Valve
- Aug. 27 – TMC Trinity River Field Visit
- Sep. 10,11 – TAMWG Meeting, Weaverville
- Sep. 15,16 – TMC Meeting, Arcata
- Oct. 6,8 – Out-migrant Workshop, Weaverville
- Oct. 19,20 – Design Team 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
- Dec. 14,15 - TAMWG meeting, Weaverville
- Dec. 16,17 - TMC meeting, Redding
- Jan. 12 – SAB meets to discuss their 2010/2011 involvement and to tour the Upper Trinity
- Jan. 13,14 - TRRP Science Symposium
- Jan. 19,20 - Design Team meeting
- Jan. 25 – Flow Scheduling and Temp. Management Work Group meeting, Weaverville
- Feb. 1,5 – Klamath Basin Science Conference
- Feb. 11 – TMC Conference Call
- Feb. 18,19: DOI staff and HVT Fisheries staff retreat in Redding
- Feb. 24 – Flow Scheduling and Temp. Management Work Group meeting, Weaverville

- Mar. 15 - B Team meeting, 20011 budget, Weaverville
- Mar. 16 – Flow Scheduling and Temp. Management Work Group meeting, Arcata
- Mar. 17 – Physical and Riparian Work Group meeting , Arcata
- Mar. 18 – TMC Conference Call
- Mar. 22 – Fish and Riverine Ecology work group meeting, Weaverville

Upcoming Events

- Mar. 31, April 1 – TMC Meeting in Hoopa
- Apr. 13 - Contingency Flow Scheduling Work Group
- Apr. 14,15 – Design Team Meeting
- Apr. 15 – TMC Conference Call
- Apr. 27 – Physical Work Group Proposal Review Meeting
- May 20 – TMC Conference Call
- Jun. 15,16 - Design Team Meeting
- Jun. 23 – Physical Work Group Meeting
- June – TAMWG and TMC meetings
- July or August – Program Scientists' workshop