



## **Trinity Lake Revitalization Alliance**

March 24, 2010

Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group  
Randy Brown, Acting Field Supervisor

RE: Public Comment Statement

We ask that the following be entered into record as public comment on TRRP and TAMWG operations.

### **TLRA Introduction**

I would first like to introduce TAMWG members to the Trinity Lake Revitalization Alliance. We are a newly forming 501c3 corporation focused on restoring the economy of the Trinity Reservoir communities north of Trinity Dam and fighting for the equitable management of Trinity water.

The Alliance is composed of residents, property owners, and business owners, many of whom have lived in the area before the dam was built.

### **TMC Structure and Voting Changes**

In January 2010, TLRA wrote letters to the Secretary of Interior and various members of Congress in support of TAMWG's recommendations for TMC voting and membership changes. TLRA concurs with TAMWG that these changes are necessary for efficient management of the TRRP and the ability of TMC to meet the challenges facing the project.

### **TAMWG Membership**

TLRA requests the opportunity to join TAMWG to represent the people in the area of origin for Trinity Reservoir water. TLRA can be a voice for the communities and businesses along the reservoir that are directly affected by USBR water management and TRRP water usage and flow schedule.

### **River Restoration Science**

TLRA members attended the January 2010 TRRP Science Symposium. In light of presentation data and speakers' comments, we are concerned that TRRP "restoration" projects are being performed without significant Scientific Advisory Board oversight.

With only a 15% chance of refilling each year, the water in Trinity Reservoir is limited in most years and any releases should be used wisely. While we support the effort to improve the salmon habitat in the Trinity River, we are alarmed at the use of water for a "great experiment."

The geomorphology presentation showing the effect of the bench water release on the movement of habitat rocks and material is an example of when the best use of water should be reviewed. There may be some restoration projects that are best held until years with substantial reservoir carryover.

As our climate patterns change through the decades, the original science in the TRRP EIR/EIS and Record of Decision should be questioned, reviewed, and adapted to current conditions. Our environment is not constant.

We encourage TAMWG to advocate for sound science and valid data before each river project is started.

### **Trinity Lake Cold Pool**

With continued pressure on Trinity Lake water and the increase of frequent California droughts, we support the effort to implement a minimum cold pool carryover to ensure the availability of cooling water for late summer and fall river temperature control.

We ask that the TAMWG work with TRRP and USBR to implement better flow schedules to help ensure, on their part, adequate reserve in Trinity Lake for the river ecosystem as well as the ecosystem above Trinity dam.

### **TRRP EIR Recreation Mitigation**

The Trinity River Mainstem Fishery Restoration Draft EIS/EIR (Oct 1999) page 2-285 and the Final EIR Table ES-4 recognizes that the restoration project would have a significant impact on reservoir water levels. To reduce the impact, the EIRs recommend three mitigation measures:

Mitigation. Implementation of the following mitigation measures would reduce Trinity and Shasta Reservoir water elevation-related impacts to less than significant levels:

- All affected boat ramps should be extended a sufficient distance to accommodate the new water elevations.
- Marina owners would be compensated for costs associated with moving their facilities or constructing new facilities as a result of the new water elevations
- Campground facilities should be modified or funding provided to accommodate the new water elevations.

TLRA asks that the TAMWG help support efforts to implement these mitigation measures by advocating these projects and their funding to the TRRP and TMC.

The following are excerpts from the Final EIS/EIR. The forecasts in that report were very optimistic about the impact of the restoration project on recreation. We can now see that the forecast under the Preferred Alternative was wrong. The combination of TRRP flow releases and pressure for water from the CVP have had a very significant impact on water levels.

In the following excerpt images, blue are additions/changes to the Draft EIS/EIR.

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Flow Evaluation.

Trinity River Basin. Trinity Reservoir water-surface elevations would not be significantly below threshold levels for any of the major facilities under this alternative. Projected recreation facility availability would decrease slightly for Stuart Fork Ramps and Fair View Ramp. Major marina relocations would be required 2 percent less often as compared to the No Action Alternative. Under the Flow Evaluation Alternative, the availability of Trinity Center Ramp and Minersville Ramp would remain unchanged from No Action, and campground availability would increase by 1 percent. Annual recreation use is expected to be essentially the same as under the No Action Alternative. Recreation use and benefits would change by less than 1 percent. ~~Recreation facility availability would increase slightly compared to No Action levels. Annual recreation use is expected to increase by 6,600 visitor days, or about 1 percent, compared to No Action levels. Recreation benefits would increase by \$71,900 annually.~~

Flow Evaluation.

Trinity River Basin.

Annual Impacts.

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2020 Economic Impacts: Under the Flow Evaluation Alternative, the Trinity/Shasta County regional economy would be positively affected by increases in spending associated with increases in water-oriented recreation. Recreation-related spending associated with increases in use of the Trinity River and Trinity Reservoir would more than offset the decreases in recreation-related spending associated with projected declines in use at Shasta Reservoir. Annual regional economic output would increase by an estimated \$3.28<sup>3.0</sup> million, place of work income would increase by \$2.0<sup>1.8</sup> million, and employment would increase by 66<sup>62</sup> jobs (Table 3-51). These increases are not considered substantial. Revenues specific to businesses in Trinity County are estimated to increase \$1.7 million annually.

The economic sectors most affected by recreation activity are wholesale trade, retail trade, and lodging places. Annual employment in these sectors is estimated to increase by 43<sup>41</sup> jobs, with 41<sup>39</sup> of those occurring in the retail trade and lodging sectors. These impacts are not considered substantial.

Existing Conditions versus Preferred Alternative.

Trinity River Basin.

*Economic Impacts.*

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**Annual Impacts:** Under the Preferred Alternative, the Trinity/Shasta County regional economy would be positively affected by increases in spending associated with increases in water-oriented recreation. Annual regional economic output would increase by \$2.6 billion, place of work income would increase by \$1.41.5 billion, and employment would increase by 35,900 jobs (Table 3-54). More than 99 percent of these changes in economic activity are attributable to the effects of increased population on recreation use and spending associated with the Trinity River and Trinity and Shasta Reservoirs. Project-related effects are not substantial.

Thank you for your time. The TLRA looks forward to working with the TAMWG to achieve a balance for all Trinity water users and ecosystems.

Sincerely,



Ms. Kelli Gant, chair  
Trinity Lake Revitalization Alliance

Cc: Supervisor Jaegel  
Supervisor Pflueger