



Trinity River Restoration Program

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NC-150

MEMORANDUM

TO: TAMWG Members

FROM: Robin Schrock, Executive Director
Trinity River Restoration Program

SUBJECT: Director's Report

DATE: June 11, 2012

This report provides updates on all major Program activities since the March 2011 meeting. The Fall Flow subgroup of the Flow Work Group has just provided recommendations to Reclamation's Northern California Area Office regarding the potential need for additional flows to benefit the anticipated record run of salmon to the Lower Klamath this year (handout). Updates will be provided during the meeting by TRRP staff about the ongoing independent Phase 1 review, 2012 projects, and technical workgroup activities. The 2011 annual report is available as hard copy and to download online from www.trrp.net. All Program partners and their technical staff have been working hard to meet the expectations for timely turnover of program products. They are to be commended for their professionalism and dedication to the Trinity River.

Flow Scheduling

After receiving the official announcement of the water year from the Department of Water Resources as Normal on (handout) April 7, 2012, Tim Hayden and Rod Wittler worked over the weekend to revise the TRRP report and activated the backup meeting on April 12th. The Flow Work Group developed a normal hydrograph focused on riparian regeneration. The TMC considered and adopted the hydrograph during a special telephone conference call on April 17, 2012 and then forwarded the workgroup memo to the Regional Directors of the Service and Reclamation. Tim Hayden and Rod Wittler will be providing monthly updates (handout).

The 2012 Current Flow Schedule (http://www.trrp.net/?page_id=150 and handout) was immediately distributed through the TRRP email distribution list, the Resources Conservation District, and TRRP staff volunteered to post laminated copies at launch sites and businesses along the river. A water hazard poster was also posted at the same time. We appreciate the help of those citizens who helped to distribute the materials.

The Flow Work Group would like to better coordinate with TAMWG and TMC so suggest both groups schedule their spring quarterly meeting a little later, suggesting TAMWG meet – a day between March 28 & April 3, 2013 – Preferred date: April 1, 2013 (No foolin!) and TMC – two days after the TAMWG meeting, between March 30 & April 5, 2013 – Preferred date: April 3, 2013. The TMC should also schedule a contingency conference call on or about April 12 to finalize any changes to the proposed flow schedule if necessary.

Typical restoration releases by water year can be accessed at www.trrp.net under Restoration Actions/Flows/Typical Releases at http://www.trrp.net/?page_id=391.

Fall Flows Recommendation

The Fall Flows Subgroup of the TRRP Flow Work Group provided recommendations for fall flow releases in response to the projected large adult run for 2012 (handout).

Implementation Update

- **Design and Implementation Activities**
 - Final Civil Designs have been completed for 2012 Channel Rehabilitation Projects including: Upper Junction City (UJC) and Lower Steiner Flat (LSF). Construction is planned to start July 1 for both projects.
 - Final environmental compliance documents for the 2012 mainstem projects are being finalized by TRRP Weaverville Office in coordination with partner regulatory agencies
 - Final construction contracts, landowner agreements, and BLM Right-of-Ways are in final stages for the 2012 project sites.
 - Revegetation Designs are in progress for the 2012 Channel Rehab Projects, and Indian Creek Bank Naturalization Project, planned final completion is scheduled for July.
 - Watershed implementation projects are planned for award in July timeframe with initiation late summer/fall.
- **Planning**
 - Phase I Review being conducted by TRRP Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) is in final stages with the draft report planned for roll-out to program partners in July.
 - Next Design Team meeting planned for July 30-Aug 1. Peter Wilcock and an Army Corps of Engineers Team will be providing workshop on the “Stream Project” – an Alternative Analysis Decision Framework for design comparisons. This workshop will be open for all workgroups.
 - 2013 planning and design considerations being evaluated in coordination with the upcoming results of the Phase I Review. Design Team will be discussing this at the next meeting in July.
 - Coordinating with Dept of Water Resources and Trinity County on new FEMA 100 year floodplain study, planned for roll-out in fall of 2012.
 - Realty coordination and Rights-of-Entry access documents are underway for summer/fall monitoring activities
 - Bureau of Reclamation archeologists are conducting 40 mile planning and analysis study for to facilitate future Phase II implementation projects.

- **Infrastructure Improvements**

- Well-Grant program has been very successful this fiscal year with 22 new applicants. TRRP office has been very engaged in coordination activities assisting landowners with various steps of the Well-Grant program process including: water rights, environmental permits, facilitating with regulatory agencies, etc.
- Bucktail Bridge Cost Benefit Analysis underway by CH2M HILL in coordination with Design Team and Trinity County Department of Transportation (TCDOT). Cost-Benefit Analysis and preliminary designs are approximately 50% complete with a planned finalization scheduled for August timeframe.

Science Update

- **New Trinity River Publication:** The USFWS has announced release of the Beechie et al. report *"Estimated changes to Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) habitat carrying capacity from rehabilitation actions for the Trinity River, North Fork Trinity to Lewiston Dam"* . This document will/can be a starting point for the Potential Habitat Subgroup to start addressing their task which is to address the IAP Priority Issue to Address: *"Identify targets for how much habitat we need, and identify how much habitat we can potentially have based on geomorphic and hydrologic conditions by answering the questions: How much habitat do we need to meet program goals? What is the maximum habitat potential in the upper 40 miles"*.
http://www.fws.gov/arcata/fisheries/reports/technical/Trinity_River_report_final_2012-5-24.pdf
- **Adult Salmonid Monitoring Review:** An independent evaluation of the existing adult salmonid assessments was complete in March 2012. With the assistance of USFWS statistician Dr. Nick Som, the Fish work group is implementing the reviewers' findings.
- **External Peer Review:** Two investigation plans and two draft reports are currently undergoing external peer review. A number of draft documents have been reviewed over the past six months and are now being revised. TRRP peer review procedures are being considered in light of the Department of the Interior's scientific integrity policy.
- **Fiscal Year 2013 Science Work Plan:** Currently undergoing external review. The review panel will provide a unified science work plan that meets the Program's adaptive management needs to the Trinity Management Council. The panel will consider among other things duplication and potential linkages between projects, the scope of projects and tasks, and the completeness and of the work plan.
- **Reclamation Science and Technology (S&T) funding:** UC Berkeley researchers Dr. Matt Kondolf and Dr. Giyoung Ock along with TRRP physical scientists Dr. Dave Gaeuman and Mr. Andreas Krause received funding from Reclamation's S&T program to develop an assessment of ecological roles of gravel bar features restored by gravel augmentation and channel rehabilitation activities.
- **Sediment Monitoring:** Was conducted in May 2012 during the spring flow release. The information will be used in a future sediment budget update.
- **Geomorphic Assessment:** The USGS provided an interim report on the geomorphic assessment to allow inclusion in the Phase I Review. The interim report included documentation of the GIS mapping protocol and a geo database with mapping of geomorphic features on the 1980, 2001, and 2011 aerial photos. A presentation by USGS staff to Scientific Advisory Board members and the Physical workgroup accompanied delivery of the report.

Budget Update

The President’s Budget demonstrates continued support for the Trinity River Restoration Program, however, in planning partnership activities please consider what might change as the proposed budget works its way through Congress.

FY2013 Funding Sources:	2011	2012	2013
			Presidents Budget
1) USBR Water & Related (A30)	\$ 11.82		\$ 14.10
2) USBR CVPIA (H37)	\$ 1.00		\$ 2.00
3) USFWS	\$ 2.18		\$ 1.98
TOTAL	\$ 15.00		\$ 18.08
Summary by Program Activity			
	2011	2012	2013
Program Administration	2,996,000		\$ 3,780,000
Rehabilitation Implementation	6,314,000		\$ 8,700,000
Science Program	5,690,000		\$ 5,600,000
TOTAL	15,000,000		\$ 18,080,000

Notes:

- 1) TRRP costs funded by Reclamation are considered reimbursable under CVPIA 3406(b)(23) and (b)(1) other.
- 2) Restoration fund
- 3) USFWS allocation estimated from FY12

Organizational Update

Website:

- **New!** “2012 Channel Rehabilitation Information” at <http://www.trrp.net/?p=3865>
This feature gives links to maps of each site (excerpted from the final EA/IS), a link to the old EA/IS post in the archive, and a link to our general channel rehabilitation page.
- **New!** “2012 Restoration Flow Release Schedule” at <http://www.trrp.net/?p=3820>
- **New!** “Trinity River Potable Water and Sewage Disposal System Assistance Program” at <http://www.trrp.net/?p=3668> You can download the application forms or stop by our office.

Save the Dates

- **June 2013 Trinity River Restoration Program Science Symposium**
The third Trinity River Restoration Program Science Symposium will be held in Weaverville, California, during the week of January 7, 2013. The event will be a forum for strategic planning for the Trinity River based on the outcomes of the Phase I Review and other timely results from 2012 studies. The symposium will serve as a foundation for improving the quality of future management decisions based on up-to-date scientific findings. More detailed information on the symposium will be shared in the coming months.