ATTACHMENT 2

Trinity River Restoration Program

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NC-150

MEMORANDUM

TO: TMC and TAMWG Members

FROM: Brandt Gutermuth, (Acting) Implementation Branch Chief
Trinity River Restoration Program

SUBJECT: Director's Report

DATE: February 18, 2016

Major TRRP activities between December 17, 2015 and February 17, 2016 focused program efforts to: 1) Finalize the Bucktail Channel Rehabilitation Project environmental document with the project's co-lead, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM); 2) Proceed with refinements for proposed Deep Gulch and Sheridan (combined) projects and to initiate public NEPA/CEQA documentation for these; 3) Ensure that FY 2016 funding set aside for Decision Support System and Outreach funding is utilized for those activities; 4) Develop agenda and make arrangements for the 2016 TRRP Science Symposium; and 5) Develop an initial FY2017 budget, which closely follows TMC guidance from FY2016, for February discussion. Details on some of these activities follow.

FY2016 Funding Updates:

Outreach:

Funding and outreach activities have been ongoing with the Trinity County RCD since 2011. In December 2015 the Trinity County RCD made a presentation on the outreach skills and abilities they have to offer and that are available for the TMC to utilize. The TCRCD is a skilled and enduring Trinity County Agency with outreach and natural resource expertise. Based on their experience, support of the Program to date, and their local status (so that they may provide education and assistance in a timely fashion), the TMC supported the use of FY2016 funds to initiate a 5 year agreement with the TCRCD to provide Program outreach. These funds will be used to build community support and awareness of the program, while allowing for immediate assistance to provide information (e.g., to the local paper) or services (e.g., to provide rentals and support for events). The new TCRCD outreach Agreement will include feedback mechanisms to obtain public input so that future outreach efforts will be more effective.

The multi-year agreement will be in place by the end of FY2106 and additional funds may be added to capitalize on needed priorities.

Decision Support System (DSS):

In September 2015 the TMC directed that $120,000 be set aside to provide for science recommendations regarding the River Corridor Plan and in support of Decision Support System (DSS) development. Recently members of the IDT developed a DSS scope of work (SOW) that they have prioritized for implementation with these funds. The IDT has recommended that Tyrell Dewebber, who has been working under SAB member Jim Peterson's guidance at Oregon State University in Trinity River DSS development, be targeted for employment to initiate steps in DSS development. Tyrell is a modeler, familiar with the TRRP, and working in structured decision making at this time. The SOW has been completed and the TRRP is working with TMC partners to determine the appropriate instrument to fund this effort in order to meet the TMC's request to have the new DSS coordinator attend the Science symposium in late March 2016.

Public Outreach Update

January 2016

- Public comments received on Draft EA/IS for Proposed Bucktail Channel Rehabilitation Project
- Yurok Today article on Limekiln Gulch completed 2015 river restoration project.

February 2016

- Final EA/IS for Proposed Bucktail Channel Rehabilitation Project, including response to comments, is in process with the BLM as the federal co-lead and the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board as the State lead for CEQA. Expected release in late February.

Budget Update (see Initial FY 2017 Budget handout)

Science Updates

- Workgroup Summaries (see Technical Workgroup handout)
- Science Symposium 2016 (see draft agenda)
- A memo was drafted by the Temperature and Flow Work Group recommending actions by the TMC for the completion of the Lewiston Feasibility Study. The Flow Workgroup recommends a follow up letter to Reclamation requesting initiation of the Feasibility Study and a letter to the State Water Resources Control board recommending that they encourage completion of Lewiston studies and construction of the selected temperature control facilities. This memo will finish review on February 17, 2016 and be submitted to the TMC.
- The fish and temperature performance measures were updated by the Fish Workgroup. Four documents will be available through the online data portal and include: 1) Water temperature Targets, 2) Escapement and proportion of natural origin salmonids that contribute to the total escapement, 3) abundance of naturally produced juvenile Chinook salmon, 4) Chinook and Coho salmon rearing habitat.

Implementation Update

- Bucktail Channel Rehabilitation Project: Phase 1 of the project was funded in FY2015. Phases 2 and 3 are funded in FY2016 and are planned for implementation in summer 2016. Review of earlier designs has resulted in the increased use of wood and native material for construction this summer. Similar changes were made to the Upper Douglas City Project in summer 2015. Identification of these issues prior to construction this year will help to ensure implementation of the best functioning and most cost effective project. Negotiations by BLM to purchase a private inholding on the site have been unsuccessful. Similarly, the private owner is not willing to work with the TRRP towards implementation of project features on their private property.

Consequently, the middle portion of the project (the IC-7 side channel) is not expected to be constructed this summer. Implementation staff recommends that the adjacent features, which directly abut the IC-7 side channel (the IC-8 point bar and ELJ-3), not be constructed this year because of the potential to impact the private landowner at the location. These features may be built at a later date.

- Deep Gulch and Sheridan: Limited access to downstream portions of the Deep Gulch Project site necessitated additional review of the project and how it would be best implemented. Last week Yurok tribal staff, TRRP office staff, and our environmental consultant (North State Resources) visited the site to evaluate in the field. Options to access the Deep Gulch site from a shared access road within the Sheridan Creek Project Environmental Study Limit (ESL) initiated discussions on the benefits of combining the sites for environmental compliance, reduction of impacts (e.g., consolidating some activity areas) and overall cost benefits from site specific evaluation of similar activities within adjacent locations. Designs are now being evaluated to ensure that they will meet implementation needs so that wood might be brought into and stored on-site in proximity to proposed wood structures, so that any processing areas might be used or preserved as appropriate, and so that impacts to private landowners' property will conform to their requests. In addition, negotiations with BLM to minimize impacts to the riparian reserve while also decreasing overall impacts to tailings of interest, are ongoing. Interpretative sign installation and preservation of "pristine" tailings on BLM-managed land is an opportunity that the Program is now pursuing.

- The Chapman Ranch Design was reviewed by the Design Team and is approximately final. The design will be updated if needed as more information is gained during implementation of proposed 2016 (Bucktail) and 2016-2017 (Deep Gulch-Sheridan and Lower Dutch Creek) projects, and via proposed channel rehabilitation site effectiveness monitoring reporting.

- Lower Dutch Creek: The TRRP and USFS are working toward environmental documentation and public review of an environmental document for the Lower Dutch Creek Project. The project was delayed as the implementation branch put their efforts towards finalizing the Bucktail project EA/IS and initiating Deep Gulch-Sheridan. After the Deep Gulch-Sheridan Creek environmental document is available for public review, a Lower Dutch Creek EA/IS is planned. The project would target implementation in 2017.

- The Design Team Workgroup is proposing to form a focus group to evaluate past channel rehabilitation projects in order to assess their overall effectiveness and physical/ecological responses. This would initially consist of a group of qualified scientists tasked with building on current questions and conducting field observations to determine how our designs are performing. Ultimately the group would develop program effectiveness monitoring reporting and would develop study plans for long-term evaluations. Brandt Gutermuth has suggested Robert Stewart as coordinator of this focus group.

Environmental Compliance Update

- The TRRP is working to complete the FINAL Bucktail EA/IS with BLM and North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board.

- Development and organization for a Draft EA/IS is under way for: Deep Gulch – Sheridan Creek Channel Rehabilitation Site on BLM and private managed lands.

- A new ESA Sec 10 A (1)(a) 5-year Permit was received from NOAA Fisheries for take of SONCC salmon in the Trinity River watershed. TRRP science and monitoring projects are covered under this 5 year permit including: 1) Outmigrant Trapping at Willow creek (USFWS and Yurok operated screw traps) and Pear Tree (HVT screw trap), 2) Juvenile snorkel counts, 3) Redd and Spawner surveys, 4) Brown trout predation studies, 5) coho ecology studies, and 6) watershed evaluations.

- The Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination (PJD) has been received for implementation of the Bucktail channel Rehabilitation Project.

- TRRP is coordinating with North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and Army Corps of Engineers to ensure that long-term gravel augmentation permitting covers any schedule that the TRRP may propose.

- **Coordination and refinement of Biological Assessments for ESA-listed species.** The goal is to produce BAs that will reinitiate the TRRP's section 7 consultations with NMFS and FWS in a supportive fashion that will result in comprehensive and durable BOs to cover the full scope of the TRRP's habitat and watershed restoration activities. Expansion of the watershed restoration program to fulfill TRRP objectives within the watershed from Lewiston dam to the Klamath River confluence has required investigating effective means of expanding the geographic scope, potential types of watershed restoration activities, ESA administrative and regulatory processes and researching other applicable and/or intersecting programmatic ESA consultations.
    - Programmatic NMFS BA: The Program is working with TRRP technical staff and partner agencies to complete draft Effects Analysis with draft BA available for review by early March.
    - Programmatic FWS BA: The Program is working with FWS and TRRP technical staff to address approach for larger watershed restoration program geographic effects analysis; draft BA for review by mid-March.

Publications and Reports

New TRRP and associated Trinity River items included data packages were posted on http://odp.trrp.net/

- Beechie, T.J., G.R. Pess, H. Imaki, A. Martin, J. Alvarez, and D. H. Goodman. 2015.Comparison of potential increases in juvenile salmonid rearing habitat capacity among alternative restoration scenarios, Trinity River, California. Restoration Ecology 23(1): 75-84.

- BLM (U.S. Bureau of Land Management) s.d. [2015]. Wild and Scenic Trinity River Public Access Map. BLM, Redding, California.

- Borok, S. and S. Cannata. 2015. Annual report, Trinity River basin salmon and steelhead monitoring project, 2014-15 season, 2014 angler creel surveys in the lower Klamath River. Report to the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP). California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Arcata, California.

- Goodman, D.H., N.A. Som, J. Alvarez, and A. Martin. 2015. A mapping technique to evaluate age-0 salmon habitat response from restoration. Restoration Ecology 23(2): 179-185.

- HVTFD (Hoopa Valley Tribal Fisheries Department), McBain Associates, Domenichelli and Associates, and Cardno. 2015. Final design document: Trinity River, Bucktail (river mile 105.3 – 106.25). Report to the TRRP (Trinity River Restoration Program). HVTFD, Hoopa, California.

- Kier, M.C., J. Hileman, and S. Cannata. 2015. Annual report, Trinity River basin salmon and steelhead monitoring project: chinook and coho salmon and fall-run steelhead run-size estimates using mark-recapture methods, 2014-15 season. Report for the Trinity River Restoration Program. California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Redding, California.

- North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Bureau of Land Management. 2015. Trinity River Channel Rehabilitation Site: Bucktail (River Mile 105.45-107.0). Draft environmental assessment/initial study. Trinity River Restoration Program, Weaverville, California.

- North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Bureau of Land Management. 2015. Trinity River Channel Rehabilitation Sites: Bucktail (River Mile 105.45-107.0). Project Initial Study Environmental Checklist and Evaluation of Environmental Impact. Trinity River Restoration Program, Weaverville, California.

- Petros, P., N.J. Harris, and W.D. Pinnix. 2015. Juvenile salmonid monitoring on the mainstem Trinity River, California, 2014. Hoopa Valley Tribal Fisheries Department, Yurok Tribal Fisheries Program, and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arcata Fish and Wildlife Office report to the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP). Arcata Fisheries Data Series Report Number DS 2015-44, Arcata, California.

- Pinnix, W. D., K. De Juilio, P. Petros, and N. A. Som. 2016. Feasibility of snorkel surveys for determining relative abundance and habitat associations of juvenile chinook salmon on the mainstem Trinity River, California. TRRP (Trinity River Restoration Program) report by Yurok Tribal Fisheries Program, Hoopa Valley Tribal Fisheries Department, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arcata Fish and Wildlife Office, Arcata Fisheries Technical Series Report Number TR 2016-24, Arcata, California.

- TRRP (Trinity River Restoration Program). 2015. Restoration Flow Releases on the Trinity River – Water Year 2014. Work Group Report TR-TRRP-2015-1. TRRP, Weaverville, California.

- TRRP (Trinity River Restoration Program). 2015. Trinity River Restoration Flow Release Schedule Design for Water Year 2015. Technical Memorandum WG-TRRP-Flow-2015-1. TRRP, Weaverville, California.

- USBR (U.S. Bureau of Reclamation). 2015. Value engineering, final report, Trinity River Restoration Program: Chapman Ranch, Deep Gulch, and Sheridan Creek sites. Report for the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP). USBR, Sacramento, California. [Public version via TRRP, Weaverville, California.]

- USBR (U.S. Bureau of Reclamation) and ERDC (U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center). 2015. National Large Wood Manual: Assessment, Planning, Design, and Maintenance of Large Wood in Fluvial Ecosystems: Restoring Process, Function, and Structure. USBR Pacific Northwest Regional Office, Boise, Idaho.

Data Packages:

- Peterson, E. B. 2015. TRRP Supplemental Metadata, Template for use in TRRP Data Packages. TRRP (Trinity River Restoration Program), Weaverville, California.

- TRRP. 2015. TRRP Environmental Study Limit (ESL) Boundaries, Version 2015-12-23.Data Package, Trinity River Restoration Program, Weaverville, CA. Online athttp://odp.trrp.net.

- TRRP (Trinity River Restoration Program) and GMA Hydrology. 2016. Aerial Orthophoto Mosaic (3-Band) of the Trinity River, July 27, 2015. TRRP Data Package. TRRP, Weaverville, California.

Save the Date

- Science Symposium - TRRP Decision Support System **March 29-31, 2016.**
- Day at the Wetland. Weaverville, CA, May 2016. TRRP technical staff volunteers to serve as field instructors for local 4th grade students. Contact Donna Rupp, drupp@tcrcd.net for information.
- Children's Festival. Weaverville, CA. May 9. Contact Donna Rupp, drupp@tcrcd.net for information.
- Citizen Science coordinator training for Foothill Yellow Legged Frog (FYLF), March-April 2016.
- Spring Public Float, May 2016.