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US Fish & Wildlife Service
Arcata, CA

Trinity River Restoration Program

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Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group

Arnold Whitridge, Chair
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Serge Birk, Vice Chair
Central Valley Project Water
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Jeffery Bryant,
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Tim Colvin,
Trinity Lake Resort Owners Association

E.B. Duggan,
Willow Creek Community Services District

James Feider,
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Patrick Frost,
Trinity County Resource Conservation District

Zeke Grader,
Coast Federation of Fishermen's
Associations

Dan Haycox,
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Dana Hord,
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William Huber,
South Fork Trinity River CRMP

Kevin Lewis,
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Byron Leydecker,
California Trout, Inc.

Richard Lorenz,
Trinity County Resident

Charles Schultz,
Bureau of Land Management

Jimmy Smith,
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

Dr. Elizabeth Soderstrom,
Natural Heritage Institute

James Spear,
Natural Resource Conservation Service

David Steinhauser,
Trinity Outfitter and Guide Association

Dr. Mary Ellen Mueller,
Designated Federal Official
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Mike Ryan, Chairman
Trinity Management Council
c/o Trinity River Restoration Program
P. O. Box 1300
Weaverville, CA 96093

September 14, 2004

Dear Mr. Ryan,

The Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group recommends that the Trinity Management Council actively encourage improvements in Klamath River management that will provide satisfactory conditions for Trinity River fish in the lower Klamath without the use of Trinity River flows beyond those recommended by the Trinity River Flow Evaluation Study and adopted in the December 2000 Record of Decision for Trinity River Mainstem Fishery Restoration.

Under present management, life-threatening conditions for Trinity fish have become common in the lower Klamath; the TAMWG acknowledges that supplemental Trinity releases can offer expensive temporary relief for this recurring problem, but feels that what's needed most is a long-term solution.

Please consider that the water necessary for supplemental releases may not always be available when needed, as there is no dedicated source, and that in some years Trinity reservoir may not hold sufficient cool water to make effective supplemental releases and still provide suitable Trinity River temperatures afterwards. It seems imprudent to rely on relief that may not always be available when needed, or that might help Trinity fish through the lower Klamath but then kill their incubating eggs.

Please also consider that the supplemental releases involve substantial costs-to Trinity stakeholders, notably for hydropower generation foregone, and to the Trinity River Restoration Program, including for this year's releases the costs of extra monitoring, bridge contract amendments, and apparently the price of the purchased water.

We hope the TMC is not satisfied with repeated palliative treatments that burden Trinity interests almost exclusively, and we hope the TMC is not content to leave development of a satisfactory solution to others. The TAMWG urges the TMC to seek protection for Trinity's fish and Restoration Program through a Klamath-based solution for a Klamath-based problem.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue as presented here and in the attached letter from last year. I look forward to forwarding your response to TAMWG members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arnold Whitridge". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned centrally below the word "Sincerely,".

Arnold Whitridge, Chairman
Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group