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US Fish & Wildlife Service
Arcata, CA

Trinity River Restoration Program

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Trinity Adaptive Management
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Gale Norton, Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

June 17, 2005

Dear Secretary Norton,

The Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group (TAMWG) asks for your attention to the appointment of a new TAMWG membership.

The TAMWG was established to advise Interior and ensure the thoughtful involvement of stakeholders in the Trinity River Restoration Program. The original Charter and membership appointments for the TAMWG expired in October of 2004; the Charter was renewed in a timely fashion, but the nomination package for the new membership is about to enter its tenth month of processing by Interior.

The new Charter provides that the original membership may continue to serve until new appointments are made, but in practice this provision is not proving to be a satisfactory substitute for more settled arrangements. Some original members have retired; candidates for membership are frustrated; and the ongoing uncertainty makes it difficult for the group to plan and function effectively.

One of the architects of the Adaptive Environmental Assessment and Management organization on the Trinity refers to the TAMWG as the program's "conscience", and it seems true that communication, consultation, and cooperation between management agencies and a fully functional stakeholders group is important for program success. We hope your attention will minimize further delay in membership appointments and thereby improve the TAMWG's ability to function as intended.

Sincerely,

Arnold Whitridge, TAMWG Chair