



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

The Trinity River Restoration Program

Applying Science to Guide River Restoration

Overview

The Trinity River begins in the rugged Trinity Alps mountains in northwestern California. The river tumbles through steep canyons and meanders through broad valleys until it joins with the Klamath River to flow into the Pacific Ocean.

This powerful river once supported large populations of fall- and spring-run Chinook Salmon, as well as smaller runs of Coho Salmon and steelhead. Floods, as predictable as the salmon,

refreshed spawning gravels, scoured deep holes, and provided clear, cool water.

Declining Fisheries

Gold mining activities, from the late 1800's through the 1950's, degraded riparian conditions, simplified and incised the river channel, and degraded salmon spawning habitat.

In the 1960s, the Trinity and Lewiston dams were built to divert flow to the Sacramento River and supply the Central Valley with water. At one point,

up to 90% of the flow was diverted to the Central Valley.

Dramatic changes in flow and available habitat led to a 96% decrease in salmon populations compared to historic levels.

In the 1990s, intent on reversing the decline, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hoopa Valley Tribe and other agencies initiated the Trinity River Flow Evaluation Study. The study showed that an increase in spring flows to mimic natural snowmelt patterns were necessary to maintain and restore salmon populations.

In 2000, the U.S. Department of Interior created the Trinity River Restoration Program to restore the Trinity River and its populations of salmon, steelhead and other fish and wildlife by restoring the attributes that produce a healthy, functioning river system.

Restoration Strategy

The program's restoration strategy includes the following:

- Flow Management
- Mechanical Channel Rehabilitation
- Sediment Management
- Watershed Restoration
- Adaptive Environmental Assessment and Monitoring
- Environmental Compliance and Mitigation



The Trinity River. Credit: USFWS



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How We Help

The Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are co-leads for the DOI, overseeing the implementation of the Program.

Arcata Fish and Wildlife Office staff work in close collaboration with partners to lead the development and implementation of key fishery resource scientific studies. These studies are being conducted to evaluate the success of program restoration actions.

- Fish Habitat
- Juvenile Salmonid Density and Production
- Chinook and Coho Salmon Spawning Distribution
- Chinook Salmon Production Modeling
- Aquatic Habitat Restoration Design and Effectiveness Monitoring
- Water Temperature Monitoring

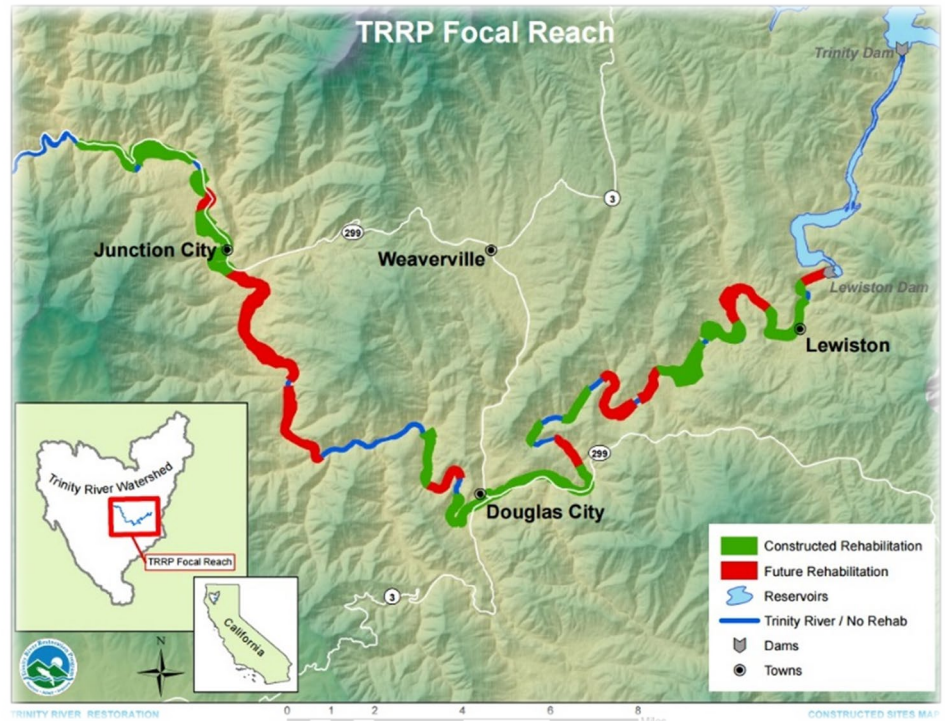
Additional responsibilities include:

- Serving on the Trinity Management Council
- Working closely with the program's Science Coordinator and fish biologist
- Contributing technical assistance
- Participating in five technical work groups

For More Information

Trinity River Restoration Program:

<http://www.trrp.net/>



Overview of TRRP focal areas, approximately 64 km. Credit: TRRP



Channel Rehabilitation at Bucktail 2016. Credit: Kenneth DeCamp



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