



Trinity River Restoration Program

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NC-150

MEMORANDUM

TO: TMC Members and Alternates; TAMWG Members

FROM: Doug Schleusner, Executive Director
Trinity River Restoration Program

CC: Staff

SUBJECT: Director's Report; March 29, 2007 – June 18, 2007

DATE: June 19, 2007

1. Summary: Primary areas of emphasis and accomplishments for the TRRP staff and partners during the past quarter have included: 1) reconsideration of the TMAG portion of the proposed budget for FY 2008 which was not approved by the TMC at the March meeting and development of a revised proposal; 2) construction contract preparation, solicitation, and award for the Indian Creek channel rehabilitation site; 3) planning, design, and NEPA/CEQA compliance actions for the Dark Gulch/Lewiston 4 rehab sites; 4) continued work on FY 2007 financial assistance agreements; and 5) responding to comments received on the review draft of Chapters 1-3 of the Integrated Assessment Plan (IAP).

Relatively little change has occurred in the Gantt charts presented in the previous Director's Report and are therefore not included in this month's report. They will be updated and included in the September report.

2. General Program Administration:

- FY2007 Budget and Appropriations Status: The Continuing Resolution (CR) for Energy and Water, along with 10 other departments, was extended through September 30, 2007. Reclamation revised its spending plan in early April and made an additional \$1 million available to the Program from the CVPIA Restoration Fund. During the same period, and after a great deal of effort, it was learned that the CDFG grant money could not be made available in FY 2007. These two circumstances resulted in a net increase of about \$480,000 to the Program. However, to date about \$353,000 in unplanned expenses has been incurred, along with about \$270,000 in unexpected savings. The situation has been

further complicated by the need to award the Browns Mountain Road/Culvert Repair grant using existing TRRP funds because additional year-end money has not yet become available. Details of these events were described in my email/attachments of April 21 and discussed at the May 11 BTeam meeting. We continue to monitor this closely, and believe we will be able to meet the critical needs of the Program as approved by the TMC in September 2006, but are unlikely to fund much if any of the work listed in the “walk up table” also approved at that time.

- FY2008 Budget Development: At their March 28-29 meeting the TMC approved the Program Administration (including RIG and TMAG salaries) and Implementation components of the proposed FY 2008 budget. The TMC could not reach agreement on the project portion of the TMAG budget, and requested that I reconvene the BTeam. This meeting took place on May 11 and focused largely on the costs associated with juvenile outmigrant surveys (rotary screw trap operations) as documented by the operators in a series of meetings. Other items of concern were discussed in less detail. On May 18 I distributed my revised proposal for the TMAG budget based on concerns and recommendations from all of the sources cited above. On June 5 the TMC participated in a conference call to discuss and vote on the proposal. About five motions were presented but none of them received enough votes for approval. As a result the staff proposal will be elevated to the Secretary’s designees for final resolution. No date has been set for that decision.
- FWS Disposition of FY2008 Funds: During the June 5 conference call, Mike Long announced that the Arcata FWS office would be retaining operational control of their appropriated funds for improved accountability rather than transferring those funds to Reclamation for administration as they have for the past five years (Refer to Mike Long’s email of June 13 for more information.). This topic was the subject of a June 18 meeting between Reclamation and the Service. Details will be provided by Brian Person and Mike Long in the near future.

3. Rehabilitation Implementation Branch:

- Channel Restoration Sites: The construction contract for the Indian Creek Rehab Site was advertised and awarded in mid June, with construction starting in mid July. This will bring the total number of rehab sites constructed to eight. The Design Team met several times recently to finalize design concepts for the Dark Gulch/Lewiston 4 rehab sites. This will lead to 50% designs which are necessary for completing the draft EA/EIR on schedule. Locations and conceptual designs are being developed for the “remaining eight” sites in Phase 1. Upon completion in 2009, this would bring the total number of sites constructed to 24. At this rate the Program is on track to complete all 47 rehab sites by 2012. More detailed information is provided in the handouts and presentations from TMAG/RIG staff, including next steps for the Master EIR.
- Gravel Augmentation: The first phase of Indian Creek will produce sufficient gravel to complete the Hatchery gravel augmentation project in August. Approximately 10,000 tons of gravel will be placed this year (FY2007), with about 25,000 tons scheduled for each of the next two years.

4. Modeling and Analysis Branch:

- Scientific Framework and Integrated Assessment Plan (IAP): A revised and updated schedule will be presented at the June TAMWG and TMC meetings. The IAP steering committee has responded to the TMC's decision of April 20 (see minutes of that conference call) to delay the IAP schedule several months (reengaging in early November) in order to meet this summer's aggressive due dates associated with the channel rehab site designs and Master EIR. These IAP tasks and schedule require another high level of involvement by many individuals, and the Program Office requests the continued support of the TMC principals in making their time and expertise available to this effort.
- IIMS: The Integrated Information Management System (IIMS) is showing substantial progress, with much interest from the cost-sharing offices (Klamath and San Joaquin). At least nine data sets are established and populated (including streamflow and temperatures, redd counts, and realty information) containing over one million records. Refer to the demonstration by Andreas Krause.
- Fish Health and Late Summer Flows: CDFG Biologist Sara Borok, of the Klamath Fish Health Advisory Team (KFHAT), sent out an email on June 5 that upgraded the alert level from green to yellow. This is based on Dry water year forecasts for both the Trinity and Klamath Rivers, an average (121,000) run size prediction, and increased levels of juvenile diseases. Program biologists are monitoring current conditions

5. Recent Events and Meetings (Periodically refer to website calendar for updates):

- April 4 – Physical Workgroup Meeting, Weaverville
- April 17-20 – IIMS Meeting/Training, Weaverville
- April 23 – Fish and Riverine Ecology Workgroup Meeting, Weaverville
- April 25 – Watershed Workgroup Meeting, Weaverville
- May 1 - EA/EIR Notice of Preparation for Lewiston-Dark Gulch Rehab Project
- May 9 - ID Team/Design Team Meeting, Weaverville
- May 11 - BTeam Meeting, Weaverville
- May 15 - Public Scoping Meeting for Lewiston-Dark Gulch Rehabilitation Project
- June 12-15 – Rehab Site Field Trips, Remaining 8
- June 19 - TAMWG Meeting, Weaverville
- June 20 - TMC Meeting, Weaverville

6. Upcoming Events (Periodically refer to website calendar for updates):

- June 25-July 20 – Rehab Site Field Trips, Phase 2
- June 26 – IAP Steering Committee Conference Call
- July 10 – IDTeam Meeting for Remaining 8, Weaverville
- August 15 - IDTeam Meeting for Phase 2, Weaverville
- September 18-19 (tentative) – TAMWG Meeting, Weaverville
- September 25-26 (tentative) – TMC Meeting, Weaverville
- November 6-8 (tentative) – IAP Part 1 Wrap-up (location TBD)
- January 15-17, 2008 – IAP Workshop 1 (location TBD)
- February 26-28, 2008 – IAP Workshop 2 (location TBD)