

To: Trinity Management Council

From: Doug Schleusner, Executive Director  
Trinity River Restoration Program

Subject: Quarterly Report, October 15 to December 13, 2001

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1. Summary: During my first two months as Executive Director I have balanced my time among three main areas: 1) personnel actions related to the AEAM staff; 2) other substantive items that are at the core of the Trinity River Restoration Program; and 3) administrative matters related to my position as a new Reclamation employee. In the coming months I expect the time devoted to the last item will decrease, and more time will be focused on the first two. In particular this will include continued staffing efforts, assistance to the Fish and Wildlife Service in the FACA committee nominations process, coordination of the Weaverville office space design and construction, and more “hands-on” coordination of the projects in this year’s budget.
  
2. Contact Information: The temporary office facilities and administrative support supplied by the Trinity County Resource Conservation District are gratefully acknowledged. Until permanent office space is available, I can be contacted in the following ways:
  - Business phone: (530) 623-5944  
(866) 623-5944 (toll-free)  
(530) 945-7489 (cell)
  
  - Mailing Address: Bureau of Reclamation  
Trinity River Restoration Program  
P.O. Box 1300  
Weaverville, CA 96093
  
  - Temporary Office: Trinity County Resource Conservation District  
#1 Horseshoe Lane  
Weaverville, CA 96093  
(530) 623-6004 (voice, RCD will still take messages)  
(530) 623-6006 (fax)
  
3. Office Space: Reclamation contacted the General Services Administration (GSA) in August 2001 and identified basic office requirements (located in Weaverville, 3000 s.f. in size, storage, secure parking, ADA accessible, etc.). GSA conducted a space survey in September, and issued a solicitation for proposals on October 23 to those properties that met the minimum requirements. Replies were due in early November. GSA is currently negotiating with respondents, and expects to have a signed agreement by mid-January 2002. Design would begin immediately thereafter, and it is projected that construction would be completed in May 2002.

4. Staffing: The Implementation Plan in Appendix C of the EIS/EIR outlined an AEAM Team of about 12 individuals, including the Executive Director, Administrative Assistant, two Group Leaders, and four technical staff members in each group. The Plan recognized that this outline was a starting point and subject to change. *(The membership and staff specifications presented herein should be considered flexible as funding changes and the organizational scope matures. p. C-21)*

The Executive Director reported to Weaverville on October 15, 2001. The Technical Modeling and Analysis Group (TMAG) Leader position was advertised October 22 and closed November 23. A certificate of qualified applicants has been referred for consideration, and a selection should be made by mid to late-January 2002. Position descriptions have been written for the Administrative Assistant and the Rehabilitation Implementation Group Leader, and are being reviewed and classified prior to advertising. Selections should be made by late-February.

The technical specialist positions for both groups will be advertised and filled later in the spring of 2002. This schedule is necessary for several reasons, including: 1) the time required to write and approve approximately eight position descriptions, 2) to allow the new Group Leaders to participate in the review process, and 3) to have office space available for the new employees. Extensive outreach is planned to achieve a large group of diverse and highly qualified applicants.

5. Meetings and Contacts: The following partial list is presented to illustrate the nature and extent of initial contacts made by the Executive Director during the past two months in order to become familiar with the issues, groups, and individuals associated with the Trinity River restoration efforts. Future reports will only include brief summaries of the key activities.
- Trinity County Resource Conservation District, Pat Frost and staff - initial introductions and inquiry about availability of temporary office space.
  - Trinity Management Council – initial telephone introductions and contact numbers.
  - Other follow-up contacts from September 17 TMC meeting, including Chuck Shultz, Jeffery Phipps, Byron Leydecker - initial telephone introductions and contact numbers.
  - Weaverville Rotary luncheon – invited guest of RCD.
  - NRCS, Jim Spears, Area Conservationist - initial introductions and contact numbers.
  - Regional Engineer, Ed Solbos – update on mainstem activities in progress.
  - NCAO Area Manager, Mike Ryan – overview and priorities.
  - NCAO Env. & Natural Resources, Russell Smith – history, slide presentations.
  - Eureka Times-Standard, John Driscoll – interview regarding FACA charter/stakeholders.
  - DOI, Jason Peltier and David Cottingham – discussion regarding FACA charter.
  - Trinity River TMDL for Sediment – public meeting sponsored by EPA.
  - NCAO – Reclamation budget meeting.
  - Trinity River TMDL for Sediment – technical workshop sponsored by EPA.
  - NCPA/WAPA, Jeffrey Phipps – introductions, overview of concerns and suggested priorities.

- Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Association, Zeke Grader, Pietro Parravano - initial telephone introductions, contact numbers, and invitation to stakeholder mixer hosted by RCD.
  - Trinity River field trip, Byron Leydecker, Herb Burton, Brandt Gutermuth/BLM – site visits of past rehabilitation projects, Grass Valley ponds, float trip from Bucktail to Steel Bridge.
  - Stakeholder mixer hosted by RCD – informal introductions with 40-45 Trinity County residents, including members of the Board of Supervisors, Trinity PUD, business owners, and county/state/federal agencies located in Weaverville.
  - EPA, Chris Heppe (Arcata) – discussion of Reclamation's comments on TMDL.
  - Yurok Tribe (Eureka), Troy Fletcher, Dave Hillemeier, and other Tribal members, Russell Smith, Frank Perniciaro – discussion of annual funding agreement.
  - Klamath River field trip with Yurok Tribal Fisheries, Dave Hillemeier, Charlie Chamberlain, Russell Smith, Frank Perniciaro – river trip on lower Klamath, discussion of tribal fisheries program.
  - Hoopa Valley Tribe (Weaverville), Danny Jordan, Mike Orcutt, Joseph Jarnaghan, and others – presentation of HVT fisheries program, overview of concerns and opportunities.
  - Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region weekly staff meeting, Kirk Rodgers, primary staff – initial introductions, and later follow-up on personnel actions, FACA information.
  - Fish and Wildlife Service California/Nevada Operations Office, Mary Ellen Mueller – general discussions including FACA charter, TMC agenda, personnel actions.
  - Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region, Roger Pollock and Patricia Rivera – discussion of future presentation of CVPIA Restoration Fund at TMC meeting.
  - Reclamation's Denver office, Susan Rush – discussion of FACA nominations process.
  - Weaverville Ranger District, Joyce Anderson and Loren Everst – introductions and discussion of Forest Service anadromous fisheries program, role in Trinity Basin.
  - BLM, NRCS, and RCD, Jim Spears, Brandt Gutermuth, Pat Frost, and others – discussion of Grass Valley ponds maintenance and monitoring.
  - Trinity Journal (Weaverville), Mike Wenninger – introductions and contact information, ideas for news articles, weekly deadlines to consider.
6. Workshop Planning: The AEAM program includes a scientific review component that relies on a series of technical workshops to develop a broad-scale multi-disciplinary sampling strategy for the upper 40 miles of the Trinity River. The FY2002 budget includes funding (Task # NH-10) for the first workshop. Several individuals (Glase/FWS, McBain/Trush, Chamberlain/Yurok Tribe) requested a meeting with the Director on November 20 to begin the planning process for this workshop, which is tentatively scheduled for early February 2002 in Weaverville, CA. Examples of questions to be addressed at the workshop include:
- What is the basic sampling unit for habitat quantification (pools/riffles or alternate bar sequences)? How many sampling units should be contained in a sample reach?
  - How many monitoring reaches will be needed over the 40-mile reach to provide reasonable statistical significance?

The results of this workshop will be widely shared to allow both public and peer review of the findings and recommendations. Subsequent workshops will develop the more detailed habitat- and species-specific sampling plans to be consistent with the overall sampling strategy.

7. Stakeholder Letter: On November 23, 2001 several stakeholder groups sent a letter to members of the Trinity Management Council that discusses the subject of project priorities for the Trinity River Restoration Program and provides several specific recommendations. I have reviewed the letter and the tasks identified in the FY2002 budget, and prepared a crosswalk comparing them. I propose that the subject be discussed during this afternoon's Budget Issues agenda item with the intention of developing a response to the stakeholders.
8. Budget: Monitoring and administration of the Trinity River Restoration Program Budget is going through a transition period, with responsibilities shared by Russell Smith and Doug Schleusner. A separate cost center has been established for the Executive Director, with the goal of having full operational responsibility transferred in the near future. In this transition phase, certain tasks may be retained by and/or detailed questions referred to Russell Smith.
9. Trinity River TMDL for Sediment: The EPA released this document for public review on October 15, 2001, and requested comments by November 19, 2001. A public meeting was held in Weaverville on October 30, followed by a technical workshop on November 6. As other agencies and organizations may have done, Reclamation sent a letter to EPA. Due to the short timeframes involved, it was not feasible to prepare a consolidated response from the TMC. Copies of Reclamation's letter are available for those who are interested.