



Trinity River Restoration Program

P.O. Box 1300, 1313 South Main Street, Weaverville, California 96093
Telephone: 530-623-1800, Fax: 530-623-5944

MEMORANDUM

To: TMC

From: Mike Dixon, Executive Director
Trinity River Restoration Program

Subject: Director's Report

Date: June 16, 2021

Major TRRP activities between March and June 2021 include:

A critically dry year restoration release was implemented. A FONSI was signed on the Oregon Gulch Channel Rehabilitation Project. Construction has begun on the Chapman Ranch Phase B Channel Rehabilitation Project. A Notice of Funding Opportunity for a watershed restoration grant administrator has posted for applications.

Organizational Updates

- Chris Laskodi, already an employee of the Yurok Tribe, is filling the TRRP/YT Fish Ecologist position and has started work on TRRP tasks.
- A civil engineering technician position remains vacant and should be advertised soon.
- The project coordination specialist position remains vacant

FY21 Budget Update Adjustments since March TMC Meeting:

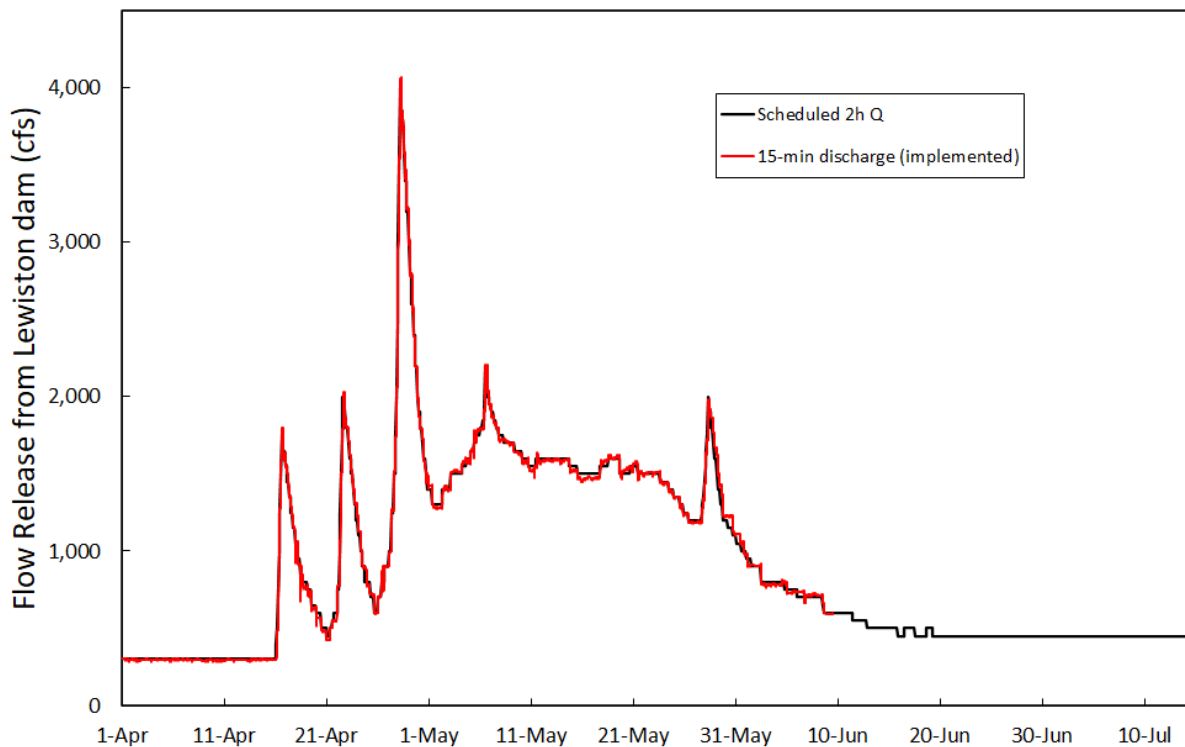
Based upon the TMC's April conference call motion, salary savings and other free funds have been directed to a portion of the revegetation work for the Chapman Ranch Phase B Channel Rehabilitation Project.

Watershed Notice of Funding Opportunity

Our Notice of Funding Opportunity (R21AS00232) for Trinity River tributary restoration work is open for proposals on www.grants.gov. The solicitation seeks to issue a grant to an experienced third-party grant administrator to oversee subawards to qualified applicants. At least one interested applicant has inquired about the NOFO, which will be open until July 21, 2021.

Water Year 2021 ROD Flow Implementation

As shown in the figure below, Reclamation's Northern California Area Office and Central Valley Operations staff have done an exceptional job in meeting the release schedule that was recommended by TMC for a critically dry water year at the March 2021 meeting.



Water Year 2021 Spring flow release scheduled, implemented

Implementation Update

Chapman B: We received the Floodplain Development Permit from Trinity County several weeks ago and the notice from FEMA that our CLOMR is technically complete. This signifies the final piece of compliance and permits needed to implement Chapman B. The civil crew is ready to mobilize once Yurok receives the funding modification to their annual funding agreement that will allow them to draw funds.

Chapman B marks the first project in which Yurok's construction corporation will be a subcontractor for a TRRP project. Their involvement is very similar to how the Hoopa Valley Tribe has subcontracted to their roads department on channel rehab projects for several years now.

We requested assistance from NCAO to cover OGR duties at Chapman B through the construction period due to ongoing staff shortages at TRRP. NCAO is providing two Civil Techs (Lee Mosier and Dalton Mitchell) that will perform OGR duties on Mon/Tues, Chad on Wednesday, and Oliver on Thurs/Fri on typical weeks. Additional coverage by TRRP staff is expected. Chad, Oliver and Brandt will also regularly attend the weekly meeting onsite on Monday afternoons.

Sky Ranch Channel Rehabilitation Site: Design development has been paused pending progress on a portion of the project being public land following a multi-party land exchange. This land exchange is now scheduled for early 2022. Minor changes to the design in response to reviewer comments and private landowner concerns need to be completed prior to moving the design forward. There is an active mining claim within the footprint which could impact the design as well.

Oregon Gulch Channel Rehabilitation Site: The FONSI for Oregon Gulch has been signed. Brandt worked to quickly submit for Water Board and Army Corps permits so the project can be considered “shovel ready” for grant purposes. Yurok has been actively pursuing soft funds to augment project costs, and Chad has been in conversation with CalTrans as they expressed initial interest in applying mitigation funds to the project like they did for Dutch Creek.

HEC-RAS modeling for submittal of the CLOMR application to FEMA has begun. Trinity County has said they will issue an initial Floodplain Development Permit to allow removal of tailings then a second permit to allow for the implementation of channel rehab activities after FEMA’s review of the CLOMR.

We intend to implement the initial phase of Oregon Gulch in FY22, potentially as soon as Fall of 2021.

Evans Bar Channel Rehabilitation Site: Design development for this project by the joint State/Yurok Tribe design group has been paused to allow for focus on design development for the close-out of the Sawmill gravel processing site.

Sawmill Gravel Processing Site: State-Yurok provided the existing conditions report and conceptual designs in early April to the Design WG. Their team worked through comments received and sent a revised document with responses to initial comments. Comments to the revised report were due June 4.

Upper Conner Creek Channel Rehabilitation Site: We worked with the Hoopa Valley Tribe design group to redraw the ESL boundaries so properties superfluous to features in the preferred alternative were removed. The new ESL now only requires participation from a dozen individual landowners. At least one key landowner in the middle of the ESL is not interested in construction on their property, which will require a reconsideration of some design features should we gain enough support from adjacent landowners to move forward with the design.

Hatchery Gravel Augmentation: The augmentation proposal is an action item for TMC consideration at this June quarterly meeting. Under the proposal, placement of gravel would occur between mid-July and mid-August. We’ve been provided an approval to proceed by the land agencies (BLM, FS, DWR), and funding is available from Yurok’s previous annual funding agreement.

Winter Flow EA: We are nearing the end of the 30-day public scoping period. As expected, we have received more comments on this flow action than we’ve received for channel rehab projects in recent years. We expect to complete modeling and analysis shortly after the scoping period ends, and we’ve remained in close contact with NCAO/CVO through the planning process. We have individuals at NCAO/CVO assigned to provide water and power analysis of the proposed action. Our EA schedule has us completing all analyses over the next month and having an internal draft EA by mid-July. An interagency draft will be ready for review by August 1, leading to a draft EA to the public around mid-August. Currently, we expect to get to a FONSI determination in October.

As stated in the March ED report, the involvement of Ken Lindke, Seth Naman, and Kyle de Julio has been invaluable to our progress. Justin Alvarez has also become a regular attendee to our weekly meetings. Brandt has become more involved now that Oregon Gulch FONSI is signed, and he has provided a good sounding board and offered advice on general NEPA questions. He’s also the POC for public comment during the scoping period.

Public Outreach Update

Publications and Education Materials

- Article in Trinity County's *Conservation Almanac* Winter newsletter for spring was the overview of 2020 TRRP activities. James Lee provided a summer article about the screw trap on the Trinity River.
- TRRP 2020 Annual Report is in progress and a draft is expected soon.
- Provided resources for regular Trinity River spotlight articles in *Trinity Journal*
- RCD said the Trinity River survey results will be provided to TRRP soon.

Public Events and Environmental Education

- Chad assisted RCD with a river day event at Trinity Center K-8 school on June 4. The event included a few experiential learning activities and took place on Swift Creek.

Landowner and Stakeholder Meetings

- TRRP hosted a community meeting on May 26 prior to the start of construction activities at Chapman B. All landowners on Sky Ranch Road were mailed an invite, and many adjacent properties on Dutch Creek Road were also invited. The meeting occurred at the end of Sky Ranch Road on the river and attendance was good (~15-20 people). I'd like to thank Oliver Rogers, Brandt Gutermuth, Mike Dixon, Justin Alvarez, Lisa Stromme (McBain), John Stafford (Yurok) and Wes Scribner (Yurok Construction Corporation) for their attendance as well.

Upcoming

- June 18 – Public scoping for the winter flow action closes. During the scoping period, we placed in article in the Trinity Journal, posted a notice on the TRRP homepage, mailed the flyer to all riverfront landowners in the focal reach, and provided the flyer to email addresses on the Trinity flow listserv.
- We continue to work with RCD to plan the public float (Summer), Science Symposium (summer/fall) and Salmon Festival (fall).

Science Update

In Final Edits

The draft report, "Water Year 2019 Trinity River Hardwood Recruitment Monitoring" (Hoopa Valley Tribe and McBain Associates) is in peer review.

Final Publications and Reports

The synthesis report, "Bair, J., S. Loya, and J. Lee. Vegetation encroachment synthesis for the Trinity River." was posted. <https://www.trrp.net/library/document/?id=2493>.

The effectiveness monitoring report, "Sheridan Creek/Deep Gulch Rehabilitation Effectiveness Monitoring Report, WY 2018-2020 (D. Gaeuman, K. DeJulio, A. Martin, D. Bandrowski) was posted: <https://www.trrp.net/library/document/?id=2484>.

The synthesis report, “Thomas Gast & Associates. 2021. Analysis and model evaluation of long-term data collected at the Willow Creek outmigrant trap. Report 20190910YTFP for the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP). Thomas Gast & Associates Environmental Consultants, Arcata, California.” was posted. <https://www.trrp.net/library/document/?id=2492>.

Synthesis Reports (*Appendix II: Synthesis Reports Tracking and Estimated Completion Dates*)

TRRP staff have created a web page for linking synthesis reports as they are completed. It incorporates additional reports that have had a synthesis intent but were not specifically funded by the FY2018 effort. The page is live at <https://www.trrp.net/restoration/adaptive-management/synthesis-reports/>.

Design Reports

YT (Yurok Tribe). 2021. Revised 90 percent design report Trinity River rehabilitation site at Oregon Gulch (river mile 80.9 to 81.7). Report for the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP). Yurok Tribe, Klamath, California. Available: <https://www.trrp.net/library/document?id=2494>.

Environmental Reports and Findings

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, USBR-TRRP (U.S. bureau of Reclamation Trinity River Restoration Program), and USBLM (U. S. Bureau of Land Management). 2021. Trinity River channel rehabilitation site Oregon Gulch (river mile 80.9-81.7) Environmental Assessment/Initial Study. Report DOI-BLM-CA-N060-2021-0002-EA and CGB-EA-2021-013 and State Clearinghouse #20210110191 for the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP). TRRP, Weaverville, California. Available: <https://www.trrp.net/library/document?id=2495>.

USBR-TRRP (U.S. bureau of Reclamation Trinity River Restoration Program) and USBLM (U. S. Bureau of Land Management). 2021. Finding of no significant impact [Oregon Gulch Channel Rehabilitation]. Report for the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP). TRRP, Weaverville, California. Available: <https://www.trrp.net/library/document?id=2496>.

Post-Implementation Reports

TCRCD (Trinity County Resource Conservation District). 2021. West Weaver Creek vegetation resiliency. Report for the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) under U.S. Bureau of Reclamation contract R18AP00008. TCRCD, Weaverville, California. Available: <https://www.trrp.net/library/document?id=2488>.

Hubbard, L. 2021. Indian Creek Habitat Connectivity and Restoration Project. Report for the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP). Yurok Tribe, Klamath, California. Available: <https://www.trrp.net/library/document?id=2481>.

Pryor, C. 2021. Dutch Cr. as-built survey technical report. Report for the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP). Yurok Tribe Fisheries Department, Arcata, California. Available: <https://www.trrp.net/library/document?id=2489>.

Program Science Metrics Objectives and Targets

Workgroup coordinators submitted reports, which were compiled into a global report that was reviewed by the IDT. Objectives and targets were compiled into a single list for use in Refinements Science and Monitoring planning. Feedback from the IDT’s review is being incorporated into the next draft, which will be provided to the TMC before the September meeting.

Final Data Packages

Pryor, C. 2021. Dutch Creek as-built survey technical report. Data Package for the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) Yurok Tribe Fisheries Department, Arcata, California. Available: <https://www.trrp.net/library/data?id=139>.

Appendix I: Technical Workgroup Briefings June 2021

Updates have been prepared for the Trinity Management Council by the Trinity River Restoration Program Technical Workgroup (WG) Coordinators.

Workgroup: Fish

Coordinator: Ken Lindke

The Fish Workgroup did not meet since the March TMC meeting

Workgroup: Design

Coordinator: Justin Alvarez

The design workgroup has held three shorter conference calls since the last TMC meeting to discuss Upper Connor Creek, Evans Bar, Sawmill, and the best way for the design workgroup to engage with TMC.

Upper Connor Creek- The Hoopa Design team's preferred alternative went out for review and the team received good feedback and recommendations this round. An issue encountered at this site is a landowner who is uninterested in working with the program. While this will pose some challenges and force some modification to implementation process, it will not prevent the project from moving forward.

The State/Yurok team presented the Sawmill existing conditions and conceptual design report to the workgroup, which kicked off the review of those products. In addition to the technical edits and suggestions, the result of that review was a debate on the appropriate scale for that project. Should we be revisiting the sawmill site as a whole or should it focus on the gravel storage area? The decision was to put more focus on the gravel storage area and adjacent channel and consider a light touch within the side channel complex.

Evan's bar design is at the beginning stages and the Yurok/State team lead a discussion of the sites constraints and how best to handle a location where we need to accommodate boat in access for residents on the opposite side of the river from the road. Ultimately it was decided that the design concepts document would be developed in advance of the larger existing conditions reporting.

At the last April TMC call it was clear that the design workgroup should revisit how and when to present site designs to the TMC. The workgroup proposed the 30% and 65% design levels as the appropriate times to make a presentation to TMC. This would allow TMC to provide comments after the 30% design which matches the VE study. Any adjustments made based on those comments would be realized in the 65% design. Any further along in the design process there would be a loss of efficiency and added expense to make larger changes to the site design.

Workgroup: Flow

Coordinator: Seth Naman

Since water year 2021 flow planning activities in the spring, the Flow Work Group met on June 9 to review and discuss current Trinity and Klamath rivers hydrology, reservoir storage, juvenile salmonid trapping information and disease conditions, synthesis report updates, and the work group activities for the coming months. The group discussed preparing and ranking hypotheses that could be used for requesting proposals for TRRP funds set aside for specific science needs, as well as reviewing information on the winter flow EA as near-term work group tasks.

Workgroup: Watershed

Coordinator: Chad Abel

Watershed Workgroup met on April 28. The principal agenda item was a discussion on the TMDL listing for fine sediments in most of the Trinity watershed. The group agreed with the TRRP recommendation that fine sediments are no longer a concern in the Lewiston Dam to TMC Executive Director's Report June 16, 2021

roughly North Fork section of the river. The group also discussed generally if objectives and targets should be developed for the Science Workplan like other workgroups have done.

Workgroup: Physical

Coordinator: Conor Shea

The Physical Workgroup did not meet since the last TMC meeting. In response to a requests for information from Brant Gutermuth involving fine sediment addition, we formed a subgroup that will develop recommendations for adding fines during gravel augmentation and during rehabilitation projects. We are also coordinating with the Implementation Branch on development of plans for gravel augmentation in the Hatchery Reach.

Workgroup: Riparian and Aquatic Ecology

Coordinator: Chris Laskodi

The Riparian and Aquatic Ecology Workgroup met on May 27th. The group heard updates on the targets and objectives exercise, science symposium, and upcoming field projects for the summer. The science symposium is still in the planning stages, but we do plan on having an online seminar style portion during the late summer and an in-person portion in the fall. John Bair gave presentations on the recently published encroachment synthesis and cottonwood seed dispersal synthesis.

Workgroup: Interdisciplinary Team

Coordinator: James Lee

The Interdisciplinary Team met on 08 June. The workgroup discussed next steps for the objectives and targets exercise and heard an update on Science Plan Drafting Committee activities. They began the process of envisioning the future role of the Scientific Advisory Board. They discussed the development of a process for scoping, selecting, and funding research and modeling projects needed for AEAM.

Synthesis Reports												
Project No.	Brief Title	Involved Entities	Proposed Due	FY19 q4	FY20 q1	FY20 q2	FY20 q3	FY20 q4	FY21 q1	FY21 q2	FY21 q3	Notes
TRRP-2018-002	Tributary Delta	<i>Program Office (POC: Todd Buxton, TRRP)</i>	March 2019		*							incorporating WY19 and 20
TRRP-2018-003	Fish Habitat	<i>HVT, USFWS, YT, USBR TSC (POC: Damon Goodman, USFWS)</i>	2 nd Q 2019									FINAL POSTED!
TRRP-2018-007	Juvenile Chinook Production	<i>USFWS, YT, HVT (POC: Bill Pinnix, USFWS)</i>	July 2017									YT Portion Posted!
TRRP-2018-009	Cohort Reconstruction	<i>HVT, USFWS, CDFW (POC: Ken Lindke, CDFW)</i>	2 nd Q 2019					*				
TRRP-2018-011	Adult Salmon Spawning	<i>USFWS, HVT, YT, CDFW (POC: Steve Gough, USFWS)</i>	2 nd Q 2019									“PR draft to be ready in April”
TRRP-2018-018	Bed Mobility and Scour	<i>HVT, USFWS (POC: Geoff Hales & Scott McBain, McBain Associates)</i>	2 nd Q 2018									FINAL POSTED!
TRRP-2018-019	Cottonwood Seed Dispersal	<i>HVT (POC: John Bair, McBain Associates)</i>	3 rd Q 2018									FINAL POSTED!
TRRP-2018-021	Riparian Encroachment	<i>HVT (POC: John Bair, McBain Associates)</i>	4 th Q 2018									FINAL POSTED!
TRRP-2018-022	Sediment Storage	<i>HVT, USFWS (POC: Geoff Hales & Scott McBain, McBain Associates)</i>	4 th Q 2018									“submitted to Program March”
TRRP-2018-025	Channel Complexity	<i>HVT, USFWS (POC: Smokey Pittman & Scott McBain, McBain Associates)</i>	August 2019	*								Delayed-uncertain timeline
TRRP-2018-027	Fine Sediment	<i>Program Office, NMFS, HVT (POC: Todd Buxton, TRRP)</i>	July 2020									FINAL POSTED!
TRRP-2018-032	Water Temperature	<i>YT, USFWS, HVT, USBR, NMFS (POC: Eli Asarian, Riverbend Sciences)</i>	May 2019			*						Expected completion date: 9/2/20
TRRP-2018-033	Large Wood Management	<i>NMFS, YT, HVT (POC: Scott McBain)</i>	April 2018	*								Internal review
NA	Flow Synthesis	<i>HVT et al. (POC: Justin Alvarez)</i>	Mid FY 22									

Appendix II: Synthesis Reports Tracking and Estimated Completion Dates

* = due date for TRRP Peer Review process according to status assessment in December 2018. Green= on time, blue= complete, orange=delayed.