



Trinity River Restoration Program

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MEMORANDUM

To: TMC

From: Mike Dixon, Executive Director
Trinity River Restoration Program

Subject: Director's Report

Date: September 15, 2021

Major TRRP activities between June and September 2021 include:

Several projects, including the Chapman Ranch Phase B Channel Rehabilitation Project, both the Willow Creek and Junction City weirs, tributary spring chinook and summer steelhead surveys, and redd/carcass surveys were impacted by the Monument Fire. An award to an administrator for our watershed restoration grant program is pending.

Organizational Updates

- A civil engineering technician position remains vacant and should be advertised soon.
- The project coordination specialist position remains vacant
- Tanya Sommer will be reporting as the Field Supervisor of the Arcata Fish & Wildlife Office in October and will assume the role of TMC primary for USFWS

FY21 Budget Update Adjustments since June TMC Meeting:

The Chapman Ranch Phase B revegetation was fully funded with residual FY21 funds. However, actual costs of this project may evolve due to the protracted implementation during the Monument Fire evacuation. \$30k was added to our general modeling support agreement with the Denver Technical Service Center; this agreement provides support for channel rehabilitation design, watershed restoration, and habitat effectiveness work by a suite of partners. The FY21 budget is fully expended.

Watershed Notice of Funding Opportunity

Our Notice of Funding Opportunity (R21AS00232) for Trinity River tributary restoration work closed on July 21, 2021. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation was selected for the award, pending final review by Reclamation's Denver Policy Office.

Implementation Update (current as of 9/3/21)

Chapman B: The Yurok-Hoopa civil construction crew was on track to complete work at Chapman B in mid-September before the Monument Fire forced workers to cease the week of August 2nd. With the county roads along the JC river corridor reopened, Yurok mobilized a small crew the week of Aug 30 to construct a containment dam to attempt to prevent ceremonial boat

dance flows from further disturbing the downstream end of R-11 side channel, and the crew did some other buttoning up of features to non-FS lands within the project site. The Hoopa reveg crew remobilized to non-FS lands within the project site on Sept 8 to build BDAs and begin reveg where possible. We were notified on September 9 that the Shasta-Trinity NF would grant an exemption from the forest closure order effective September 13, so plans are in motion to get work back on the ground in time to complete the project's in-channel work by October 15.

Sky Ranch Channel Rehabilitation Site: No new developments since the last quarterly report in June.

Oregon Gulch Channel Rehabilitation Site: 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: Staff had been communicating with the landowners of the 8 private parcels at the upstream end of the ESL to engage them early on our intent to develop a channel rehab project over the coming years. The ESL doesn't include any of these properties, but the cluster of houses use two stream crossings from Dutch Creek Rd to access their properties that would be at least temporarily impacted by construction activities. Aaron Martin, Oliver Rogers, and Chad Abel had scheduled a meeting with the property owners for Saturday, Sept 11, but decided to take a rain check when the Monument Fire broke out. We hope to still meet this fall, as these houses are second homes and most the owners are not in the area through the winter months.

Sawmill Gravel Processing Site: State-Yurok design team has continued to progress on design work for Sawmill close-out design.

Upper Conner Creek Channel Rehabilitation Site: We were able to reach all the affected landowners, with the exception of one family, prior to start of the Monument Fire. It does appear there are enough willing landowners to do a project here, but the scale of the project is still contingent on where we ultimately have access. Hoopa design team is continuing to progress on design development.

Hatchery Gravel Augmentation: Yurok Tribe Construction Corporation completed placement activities the week of July 26 at the hatchery reach. While this is a long-running gravel augmentation site on the Trinity River, there had not been augmentation at this location since 2007. There was considerable consternation concerning augmentation activities on Facebook community forums from a small but vocal group. TRRP had all necessary permits and approvals to do the augmentation, and turbidity was monitored, recorded, and submitted to the waterboard at the conclusion of the project. Thanks to Todd Buxton for spending numerous days monitoring placement and engaging with visitors to the site.

Winter Flow EA: An update to the EA development is on the agenda for this quarterly meeting. In brief, we anticipate the public draft will be released on Sept 16/17. We will have a public meeting during the 30-day comment period.

Public Outreach Update

Publications and Education Materials: The annual report has been completed, and a copy has been furnished to TMC. Nearly everyone in the TRRP office fed information or drafted pieces of

the annual report, but Kathy Martens deserves credit and appreciation for her the report's layout and her numerous attempts at re-editing.

Public Events and Environmental Education

On Thursday, July 29, we hosted the annual public float with help from RCD and Trinity River Rafting. Five rafts were on the water that day, with one TRRP-er, 6 participants, and 1 guide per raft. Thank you to Chad Abel, Todd Buxton, Eric Peterson, Brandt Gutermuth, and Chris Laskodi for participating in the event.

We posted notices at boat ramps and public places for the pulse flow action to cool the lower Trinity and prevent a disease outbreak for spring Chinook that Reclamation performed July 31 – August 4. We likewise posted notices for the ceremonial boat dance flow increases that occurred Sept 2 – Sept 9.

Landowner and Stakeholder Meetings

As stated earlier in this report, a meet and greet was scheduled with the Evans Bar landowners for Sept 11 before the Monument Fire forced us to delay. We hope to reschedule before the neighborhood boards up for the winter.

Upcoming

The public meeting of the winter flow EA is tentatively scheduled for the evening of Tuesday, October 5th. COVID is forcing us to conduct this meeting virtually.

An article will be presented to RCD's Conservation Almanac by September 17.

A initial strategy for FY22 outreach activities is being presented to TMC at this quarterly meeting.

Science Update

In Final Edits

The draft synthesis report, "Synthesizing 87 years of scientific inquiry into Trinity River water temperatures", (J. Eli Asarian, Kyle De Juilio, David Gaeuman, and Seth Naman) was submitted to TRRP for peer review.

The draft synthesis report, "Trinity River Juvenile Salmonid Habitat Synthesis: Physical Habitat Capacity at the Restoration Site and Reach Scale- Draft" (Cooper, Gaeuman, De Juilio, Martin, Boyce, Goodman, Som, and Alvarez) was submitted to TRRP for peer review.

The draft technical memorandum, "Trinity River Project Area Riparian Mapping" (Hoopa Valley Tribe and McBain Associates) was submitted to TRRP for peer review

Final Publications and Reports

The final monitoring report, "Water Year 2019 Trinity River Hardwood Recruitment Monitoring" (Hoopa Valley Tribe and McBain Associates) was finalized and submitted to TRRP and scheduled for posting to the TRRP dataport.

The article, “A new data-driven riparian revegetation design method” (Bair, J.H., S. Loya, B. Powell, and J. Lee) was published in the journal Ecosphere 12(8):1-22 and posted to the TRRP dataport.

The TRRP-supported thesis, “Response of Invertebrate Drift to Dam-Release Restoration Pulse Flows From Lewiston Dam on the Trinity River, CA” (Jasmine S. Williamsen, HSU) was submitted to TRRP of 09 September and scheduled for posting to the TRRP dataport.

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

None since June meeting

Environmental Reports and Findings

None since June meeting

Post-Implementation Reports

None since June meeting

Program Science Metrics Objectives and Targets

No publications since June meeting

Final Data Packages

None since June meeting

Appendix I: Technical Workgroup Briefings September 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 this quarter. A meeting was planned for 14 September.

Workgroup: Design
Alvarez

Coordinator: Justin

The Design Workgroup met on 10 August. Topics covered were Chapman Ranch, which was evacuated at the time, Sawmill and Upper Connor Creek channel rehab sites, and the Phase II Channel Rehabilitation Review SOW.

Workgroup: Flow

Coordinator: Seth Naman

The Flow Work Group most recently met on September 8. The focus of the meeting was to develop recommendations to the Interdisciplinary Team for science funding priorities for FY22. Other topics discussed included current and planned flow releases, environmental conditions, and adult fish return, fall hatchery releases, and fish disease updates.

Workgroup: Watershed

Coordinator: Chad Abel

Watershed Workgroup met on Sept 10 to discuss the \$250,000 in science funding available in fy22. The workgroup was also briefed on the progress to award the NOFO for a 3rd party administrator of the watershed grant program at that time.

Workgroup: Physical

Coordinator: Conor Shea

The Physical Workgroup met on August 30, 2021 via teleconference. The workgroup reviewed and discussed several issues:

- Post Monument Fire monitoring
- Ideas for FY2022 Flexible Science Funding Proposals
- Use of SAB Complexity Metric
- Scope of Work for Phase 2 Channel Rehabilitation Review
- Fine Sediment Augmentation
- Summer 2021 Hatchery Reach Gravel Augmentation

In response to a request from Brandt Gutermuth, a sub-workgroup led by Todd Buxton developed guidelines for fine sediment augmentation. Todd is continuing to work with Brandt Gutermuth and Chad Abel to obtain regulatory approval from the State Waterboard for adding fines to gravel augmentation projects.

The Summer 2021 Hatchery Reach Gravel Augmentation was completed in August. Gravel augmentation had been conducted in the Hatchery Reach many times since the dam was completed, but not recently since 2007. The work was successfully implemented by the Yurok Tribe. Todd Buxton and Chad Abel provided government oversight.

The next meeting was scheduled for 13 September.

Workgroup: Riparian and Aquatic Ecology

Coordinator: Chris Laskodi

The RAE Workgroup has not met at the time of this writing, but is scheduled to meet 14 September to discuss FY 21 science proposals.

Workgroup: Interdisciplinary Team

Coordinator: James Lee

The Interdisciplinary Team met twice last quarter: 04 August and 24 August. The main topic during both meetings was to develop a process to rank and fund FY 21 science projects. Other topics discussed were FY 22 workgroup priorities and the Phase II Channel Rehabilitation Review SOW.

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! USFWS and HVT portion submitted to TRRP for peer review Aug 21
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			*						Draft submitted to TRRP for peer review July 21
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.