



Trinity River Restoration Program

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NC-150

MEMORANDUM

To: TMC

From: Mike Dixon, Executive Director
Trinity River Restoration Program

Subject: Director's Report

Date: March 25, 2022

Major TRRP activities between December and March 2022 include:

Hydrographs were developed for the spring flow release. NFWF released a solicitation for TRRP watershed restoration grants. Scoping began for a proposal to permit additional gravel augmentation locations.

Organizational Updates

- A vacancy notice for a TRRP civil engineering technician closed on March 14. We are awaiting a certificate of eligibles.
- The project coordination specialist position remains vacant.
- TRRP Secretary position remains vacant.
- An offer for the HVT riparian ecologist position was made to and accepted by Veronica Yates who will be starting in April. She has several years of revegetation and restoration experience in northern California.
- Workplace capacity restrictions have been lifted at the TRRP Office and supervisors have returned to work in accordance with new telework policy. The remainder of staff may begin working in the office subject to new telework agreements anytime but no later than April 28, 2022. Mask requirements have also been lifted.

Budget Updates/Adjustments:

New interagency agreements are in progress or have been completed for agreements that expire in FY22. There is a possibility that the Oregon Gulch Channel Rehabilitation Project could receive some additional funding this year through the recently passed infrastructure bill.

The TRRP successfully competed for several hundred thousand dollars of drought/fire disaster mitigation funding and will be implementing some additional fire suppression repair work to mitigate erosion problems on public land in the Monument Fire footprint.

The President's FY23 budget is scheduled to be released on March 28. Once it is public, TRRP staff will set up one-on-one meetings with TMC entities to discuss an initial budget for the

coming year. A proposal should be ready to be brought to the full TMC by the June quarterly meeting.

Watershed Restoration Grant

Our watershed restoration grant request for proposals posted jointly with the solicitation for Klamath River Coho Restoration Grants at the beginning of March. A total of \$972k is available for grants this cycle. An applicant webinar was held on March 10 and pre-proposals are due March 28. The Application Review Committee will review pre-proposals in April and full proposals will be due from those invited to apply by May 23. We anticipate that subawards should be made for projects by late summer.

Phase II Implementation Review Contract

A framework for comparative evaluation has been agreed to with Reclamation contracting staff. The solicitation should open for bids in early April, with review of bids tentatively scheduled for mid-May. Barring challenges, an award will most likely be made prior to the June TMC meeting, and an introduction of the contractor and their team could likely be included on that agenda.

Implementation Update

Sky Ranch Channel Rehabilitation Site: We coordinated a site visit with BLM in February to the Sky Ranch site. BLM-Redding brought recreation, planning, archaeology, and ecology staff. There was subsequent discussion with BLM and USFS fire staff regarding maintaining a space for equipment staging during fire operations. We also have buy-in from the one private landowner whose property is impacted by the rehab design. Sky Ranch has a clear path forward pending completion of the land exchange between Trinity Public Utilities District, BLM, and USFS.

Oregon Gulch Channel Rehabilitation Site: Extensive communication with the County for permit-related matters and with Eagle Rock (where excavated material will be hauled to) occurred in the last quarter. We released the statement of work to the tribes who are responding with cost estimates. The independent government cost estimate is being developed to aid in cost negotiations. We intend to begin work at the site by mid-summer.

Evans Bar Channel Rehabilitation Site: We are on solid footing with the neighborhood at Evans Bar and know a project is possible here. The State-Yurok design team will be developing an existing conditions report next.

Sawmill Gravel Processing Site: In order to process rock below the 100-year flood, we need to develop a close-out design for the site to be submitted to FEMA. The 30% close-out design is complete. With new augmentation sites likely being permitted over the next year, additional processing at Sawmill will foster the additional lowering (material removal) needed at the site to get to a closeout design.

Upper Conner Creek Channel Rehabilitation Site: We continue to speak to landowners as HVT design team finishes the 30% design. In the last quarter, we gained firm commitments from 3 additional landowners but had 1 landowner tell us they'll "never" be involved.

Public Outreach Update

Publications and Education Materials: An article titled “FAQ: Tribal Nets” was submitted to RCD for the spring Conservation Almanac. An abbreviated version of that full article titled “Tribal Harvest and Net Fishing” was picked up by Two Rivers Tribune and Trinity Journal in February. Two Rivers ran the article on the front page.

The Trinity River Survey is currently available to the public in digital (SurveyMonkey) or paper versions – RCD is hosting this survey and data collection on their website and Facebook page.

The EA scoping notice for new gravel augmentation sites upstream of Indian Creek was published to the TRRP website and announced on the TRRP Facebook page on March 17. Scoping will continue for 30 days. Riparian landowners upstream of Douglas City also received a paper copy of the scoping notice in the mail.

Public Events and Environmental Education:

TRRP, along with the Trinity County RCD and Pat Frost from Shasta College, hosted birding events associated with the Great Backyard Bird Count on February 19 and 20.

An invasive weed pull at Bucktail was coordinated with the Trinity County Resource Conservation District on Saturday, March 19. Several TRRP office staff were in attendance, as were other agency staff and members of the public.

The first Science on Tap was held at Trinity County Brewing in Weaverville on March 23. TRRP’s own Ken Lindke was a co-presenter on glaciers of the Trinity Alps at the inaugural event. It was exceptionally well attended. The next Science on Tap is 6pm on April 27 (the fourth Wednesday of every month). Josh Smith from the Watershed Center will be presenting on restoration of Indian Valley Creek in the South Fork Trinity River watershed.

Landowner and Stakeholder Meetings:

Numerous landowner contacts were made in the last quarter in advance of the gravel augmentation site scoping notice. Many of the proposed sites would require private landowner involvement, so site visits with landowners were part of this outreach effort as well.

Upcoming

River Week, Day at the Wetlands, and other youth-focused educational events occur in the next quarter.

Science Update

In Review or 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) remains in peer review; reviewers expect to complete their review by 15 April.

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) remains in peer review; reviewers expect to complete their review by 15 April.

The draft report, “Assessing temperature regimes and juvenile Chinook Salmon growth in Trinity River off channel and mainstem habitats” (Emily J. Cooper, Kenneth Lindke , Taylor Daley, Kyle DeJulio, Kyle Hopkins) remains in peer review; reviewers expect to complete their review by 15 April.

The draft report, “A First Year of Periphyton Monitoring in the Trinity River, California [Draft For Peer Review]” (E. Peterson) went through peer review and is in final edits.

The draft synthesis report, “Coarse Sediment Storage Synthesis on the Trinity River: Recommendations and Correlations to Juvenile Chinook Salmon Rearing Habitat” (McBain Associates and Hoopa Valley Tribe) was received by TRRP and submitted to peer review.

The draft synthesis report, “Long-Term Analyses of Estimates of Abundance of Juvenile Chinook Salmon on the Trinity River, 1989-2018”(USFWS), which is part of the juvenile chinook production pair of reports, was reviewed and comments were returned to the authors.

Final Publications and Reports

The technical memorandum, “Trinity River water year 2019 systemwide riparian mapping, Lewiston Dam to the North Fork Trinity River” (Hoopa Valley Tribe and McBain Associates) was finalized and posted to the TRRP dataport (<https://www.trrp.net/library/document?id=2545>).

The annual flow implementation report, “Trinity River water allocation, temperatures, and model results for implemented flows and approved hydrographs for water year 2021. Report TRRP-2022-1 for the Trinity River Restoration Program” (T. Buxton) was finalized and posted to the TRRP dataport (<https://www.trrp.net/library/document?id=2544>)

Design Reports- N/A

Environmental Reports and Findings- N/A

Post-Implementation Reports- N/A

Program Science Metrics Objectives and Targets- N/A

Final Data Packages- N/A

Appendix I: Technical Workgroup Briefings March 2022

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

Workgroup: Fish

Coordinator: Bill Pinnix

The fish workgroup met March 3rd 2022 to strategize completing the objectives and targets assignment ahead of the June TMC meeting. Most of the fish workgroup objectives and targets are finalized. The workgroup continues to refine water temperature targets for juvenile Chinook Salmon at Weitchpec and will be recommending changes to the current targets and a sub-workgroup was formed to address this topic specifically.

Workgroup: Design

Coordinator: Oliver Rogers

The Design Team met on January 12th to receive updates from the Hoopa Design Team, Federal Design Team, and Yurok/State Design team. Topics covered were general updates on the various channel rehabilitation projects, presentations of the status of the design for the Sky Ranch and Upper Conner Creek projects, an update on the overall TRRP Design Process including schedule and milestone revisions and providing Design Team input to TRRP's Science Branch on program-wide unit standardization.

- Sawmill Site Design: Project update by Yurok/State Design Team, nearing completion a 30% design document with two alternatives being considered. Response to comments on the Sawmill Design and providing additional uncertainty, expected evolution, and habitat analysis to support progressing to a 60% design.
- Upper Conner Creek Site Design: Project update by Hoopa Design Team, also very close to achieving a 30% design document with two alternatives being considered. Major project constraints include numerous adjacent private landowners and an active mining claim, a lack of suitable materials spoiling locations and restrictions on spoiling public (BLM) minerals on private land, and proximity of SR 299 and recreational areas (JC Campground and River Access). In the absence of a TRRP Project Coordination Specialist, efforts to conduct private landowner outreach have been headed by IBC and Civil Engineer.
- Sky Ranch Channel Rehabilitation Site: Project update by Federal Design Team, 60% Design presentation and site visit with the BLM occurred on February 2nd, site visit with private landowners occurred on January 18th. The Congressionally mandated land transfer component within the site footprint is ongoing and development of an EA for the project is expected to follow thereafter.
- Oregon Gulch Rehabilitation Site: A inordinate amount of time is being spent revising/reviewing the FDP permit application, mining reclamation plan (Eagle Rock), and CLOMR application to FEMA. A 90% design report and drawings was presented in June 2020 and will require minor revisions to progress to a 100% design. Submittal of the CLOMR application to FEMA is anticipated for mid-March 2022. Trinity County coordination with TRRP regarding additional permitting requirements/considerations is ongoing. Initial implementation of the Oregon Gulch project could potentially occur as early as Summer of 2022.
- Evans Bar Channel Rehabilitation Site: Early private landowner outreach resulted in early organization of landowner's concerns and will inform design development at the conceptual level going forward.

Workgroup: Flow**Coordinator: Seth Naman**

The Flow Workgroup met on three occasions in the last quarter. The first meeting was to discuss goals for the water year 2022 flow releases, review tools and methods for proposing and analyzing flow releases, encourage work group members to propose hydrographs, and identify a timeline and task leads. Given the Trinity Reservoirs inflows at that time, combined with long-range weather forecasting, work group members were asked to develop dry and critically dry water year alternatives. The second meeting was to review hydrograph proposals from the work group members, select hydrographs to advance to the modeling stage, and identify modelers and tasks. Two dry water year and two critically dry water year alternatives were selected to advance for modeling. At the third meeting, work group members reviewed model results and prepared recommendations for water year 2022 spring flow releases based on information presented by members who completed modeling tasks. The work group closely monitored precipitation, snowpack, and weather forecasts over the last three months.

Workgroup: Watershed**Coordinator: Chad Abel**

No meetings occurred in the last quarter. Chad reached out to TMC reps for their appointments to the fy22 watershed grant Application Review Committee (ARC). The appointments largely coincide with representatives serving on the Watershed Workgroup. Review of pre-proposals is being scheduled for early April.

Workgroup: Physical**Coordinator: Todd Buxton**

The physical workgroup met on February 10, 2022. The meeting included a discussion of sediment augmentation sites with the TRRP implementation branch and finalization of physical metrics recommended for implementation on the Trinity River. Future work targeted by the group is to delineate the physical process domain in the Trinity River restoration reach.

Workgroup: Riparian and Aquatic Ecology**Coordinator: Chris Laskodi**

Did not meet last quarter. Work on objectives and targets is ongoing.

Workgroup: Interdisciplinary Team**Coordinator: James Lee**

The interdisciplinary team met on January 24 and March 21. Topics discussed included: Science symposium conclusion, the Corridor Management Plan, Prioritizing programmatic objectives, WY 22 flow scheduling, and FY 22 science proposals. Work is ongoing among all of these areas, and complete notes may be found under the TRRP calendar entry for each meeting (<https://www.trrp.net/inter-disciplinary-team-idt/>).

Appendix II: Synthesis Reports Tracking and Estimated Completion Dates

Synthesis Reports				
Project No.	Brief Title	Involved Entities	Proposed Due*	Status
TRRP-2018-002	Tributary Delta	<i>Program Office (POC: Todd Buxton, TRRP)</i>	March 2019	Submitted as a journal article; in-review as of March 2022
TRRP-2018-003	Fish Habitat	<i>HVT, USFWS, YT, USBR TSC (POC: Damon Goodman, USFWS)</i>	2 nd Q 2019	USFWS portion Posted; YT portion in peer review
TRRP-2018-007	Juvenile Chinook Production	<i>USFWS, YT, HVT (POC: Bill Pinnix, USFWS)</i>	July 2017	YT Portion Posted USFWS portion in final edits
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	Responding to comments from reviewers as of March 2022
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	In peer review as of March 2022
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	In peer review
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	

* = due date for TRRP Peer Review process according to status assessment in December 2018. 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/>. ed frog production will be modeled this year using FYFAM TMC Executive Director's Report March 25, 2022