



## Trinity River Restoration Program

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

To: James Lee, Science Coordinator, Interdisciplinary Team Co-Coordinator  
Chad Able, Implementation Branch Chief, Interdisciplinary Team Co-Coordinator

From: Seth Naman, Flow Work Group Coordinator

Subject: Water Year 2023 Flow Recommendations

The Flow Work Group (FWG) met August 3, 2022 to discuss recommendations for flow releases from Lewiston Dam for water year 2023. The work group remains concerned with some aspects of the TRRP flow scheduling process.

One discussion centered on the work load required to develop, analyze, and recommend new hydrographs for 2023. Framing this concern is the fact that because spring flow releases do not occur until the majority of the water year is over, and the water volumes available for analysis are relatively small, hydrographs analyzed by FWG in the past are very similar to each other. As a result, model outputs from hydrographs within water year types show little substantive differences in the performance metrics from the modeling outputs. Consequently, the work group believes that repeating the modeling process would create more work for analysts, the results of which are unlikely to further our understanding of the ecological effects of flows released from Lewiston Dam.

Some work group members also expressed concern that implementation of science-based recommendations was not occurring as a result of administrative or other constraints, thereby limiting the ability of TRRP to implement adaptive management and lessons learned by TRRP scientists. We recommend the TRRP reexamine the processes by which adaptive management is implemented and the decision making that governs whether or not science-based recommendations are implemented.

The FWG's recommendation for Water Year 2023 is to *implement* the recommendations presented to and voted on by the Trinity Management Council at their December 2021 meeting (December 2, 2021 memo to TMC from IDT, attached). Additionally, no new water management methodologies have been developed or analyzed to date that would cause the FWG to recommend anything other than that which was recommended last December. As new information becomes available, the work group will re-examine the information for future

implementation recommendations. Our recommendations for water year 2023 are summarized below and further detailed in the attached memorandum from December 2, 2021:

1. A single peak flow event of 6,500 CFS (daily average) for the flow synchronization period (December 15 to February 15) if triggered by flow event
2. One hydrograph covering the February 15 to April 15 time period scaled to three different flow volumes depending on water year 2023 characteristics
3. One hydrograph covering the March 15 to April 15 time period scaled to three different flow volumes depending on water year 2023 characteristics

These flow components comport with the recently released Trinity River Winter Flow Project report, available here: <https://www.trrp.net/library/document/?id=2566>. Expected ecological outcomes and monitoring techniques from the above recommendations are contained in Section 7 of that report. The FWG plans to meet again in the winter and spring of 2023 to make recommendations for scheduling the remaining ROD water volume that would be released after April 15, 2023. Elevated flows in the March 15 to April 15 period would be joined together with TRRP's spring flows beginning on April 15 to ensure a coherent and seamless flow release from Lewiston Dam for water year 2023. The FWG looks forward to our upcoming discussions with the Interdisciplinary Team, and the upcoming implementation of this exciting new flow release methodology that we think marks a significant step forward in restoration of the Trinity River.

Seth Naman

TRRP Flow Work Group Coordinator