



Trinity River Restoration Program

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MEMORANDUM

To: Mike Dixon, Executive Director
James Lee, Implementation Branch Chief (Acting)
Eric Peterson, Science Coordinator (Acting)
Trinity River Restoration Program

From: Oliver Rogers, Design Team Coordinator
Trinity River Restoration Program

Subject: Design Team Coordinator's Quarterly Report

Date: August 31, 2023

Major Design Team activities between June and August 2023 include:

The Design Team met on August 11th, for a quarterly meeting and received updates from the Federal Design Team, Hoopa Design Team, and Yurok-State of California Design Team. Topics covered included: a timeline update on the Sky Ranch project (Land-for-Land Transfer), a presentation of the current design plan set for the Upper Conner Creek Rehabilitation Site, and an update on the Sawmill Gravel Processing Site Rehabilitation design and Evans Bar project. A presentation on the Oregon Gulch project (currently under construction) was given and the Design Team was queried on the proposition of an FY24 Chapman Ranch Post-Construction Review. Additionally, Patrick Flynn from the Trinity County Planning Dept. updated the Design Team on his work with DOI's Appraisal Team on BLM acquisition of "Trinity River Parcel" (aka Smith Pit).

Proposed Project Updates

- **Sky Ranch Channel Rehabilitation Site:** The Sky Ranch BLM/USFS/TPUD Legislated Land-for-Land Transfer is still pending. An updated timeline was received from the Interagency Liaison Brenda Tracy (USFS) and presented to the Design Team. The new estimated due date for closing of escrow and recording of deeds is February 29, 2024. Much of the supporting environmental reporting (legislation passed in 2014, NEPA not required) has already been prepared and TRRP staff have kept private landowners within the Environmental Study Limit (ESL) informed of the project timeline. The Federal Design Team anticipates the ability to construct this project in 2025, assuming the Upper Conner Creek project is completed in 2024.

- Upper Conner Creek Site Design: The Hoopa Design Team's Kyle Sipes presented the current design which addressed the lack of participation of a key private landowner near the Junction City campground area. Primary changes to the design included:
 - Riparian Area R-2 was divided into two smaller features to avoid subject property
 - Upstream end of R-3 altered
 - Spoils Area U-2a significantly reduced to avoid subject property
 - In-channel features IC-2 and IC-3 removed from the project
 - River crossing relocated to a downstream location; additional crossing added to upstream end of project
 - Additional access road required to access Areas C-2 and R-2a

Foothill Yellow-legged Frog Assessment Modeling (FYFAM) modeling and Log Jam Feature design is currently in progress. Preparation of a 90% design and supporting documentation is expected by the end of September 2023. A Revegetation design will follow the 90% design.

- Sawmill Gravel Processing Rehabilitation Site: The Design Team did not formally review the 60% design prior to the Design Team meeting. The Yurok/State design team indicated a need to make additional adjustments and plan to progress the meander alternative to a 60% design by late September. The design will utilize a smaller containment feature to fill the breach between the existing side channel and mainstem channel. Contractor Use Area C-1 is designed for stockpiling material for gravel operations and will eventually become a floodplain feature. There are lingering questions and logistical considerations before the 60% design can be fully developed.
- Evan's Bar Channel Rehabilitation Site: The Yurok/State design team updated the Design Team on the Existing Conditions report which was previously distributed to the Design Team and private landowners in the ESL. TRRP received a response from Bill Rich who is communicating for the neighborhood. Landowner concerns over access at the site including a public river access, areas used to stage boats, native-surfaced access routes, a saline spring and the CDFW/Hoopa Valley Tribe co-managed fish weir remain. A discussion about how TRRP can effectively communicate with the Evans Bar Neighborhood is planned for early September.

Project Updates

- Chapman Ranch Phase B Channel Rehabilitation Project: Irrigation and post-revegetation maintenance of the site will continue through the 2024 season.
- Oregon Gulch Channel Rehabilitation Site: As of mid-July, the project has exported approximately 106% of the roughly 321,000 CY designated. Another approx. 114,000

CY of material has been stockpiled on site and the estimated excavation volume remaining is approximately 82,000 CY. Site-specific design modifications are detailed in the QC reporting for the project. Site conditions and inclement weather have improved during this reporting period and revegetation efforts are planned to begin on Sept. 11. Due to limited post-implementation access irrigation of the site is likely to be excluded.

- **FY24 Chapman Ranch Post-Construction Review**: The Design Team supports a post-construction analysis of the Chapman Ranch (Phases A and B) project. There has been considerable change in the condition of the project as compared to the As-Built condition including shifting and sorting of gravels, scour and deposition. The last formal review was conducted for the Deep Gulch/Sheridan Creek projects and provides a template for future work. The Design Team recommends conducting a review of Chapman Ranch soon recognizing the most recent 2022 Terrain did not capture change that occurred due to restoration releases of WY 2023.

FY 2024 Design Team Meeting Calendar

- Thursday, November 16, 2023 @ 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- Thursday, February 15, 2024 @ 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- Thursday, May 16, 2024 @ 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- Thursday, August 15, 2024 @ 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.