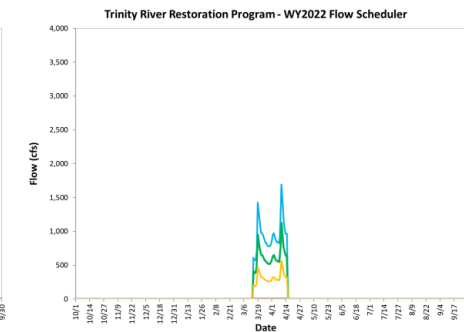
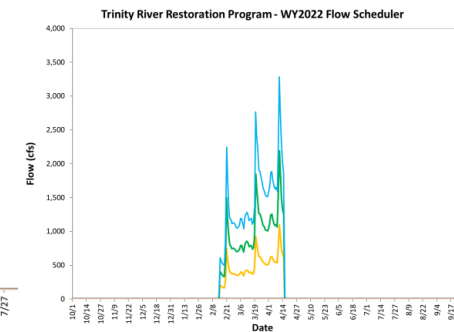
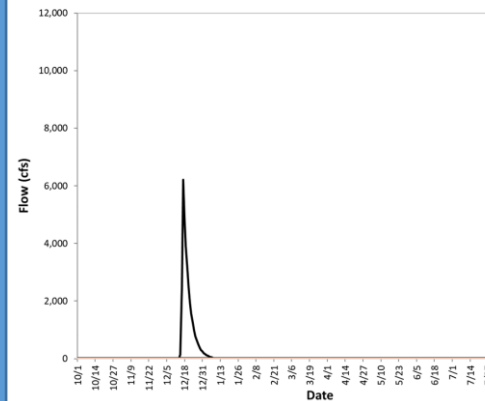
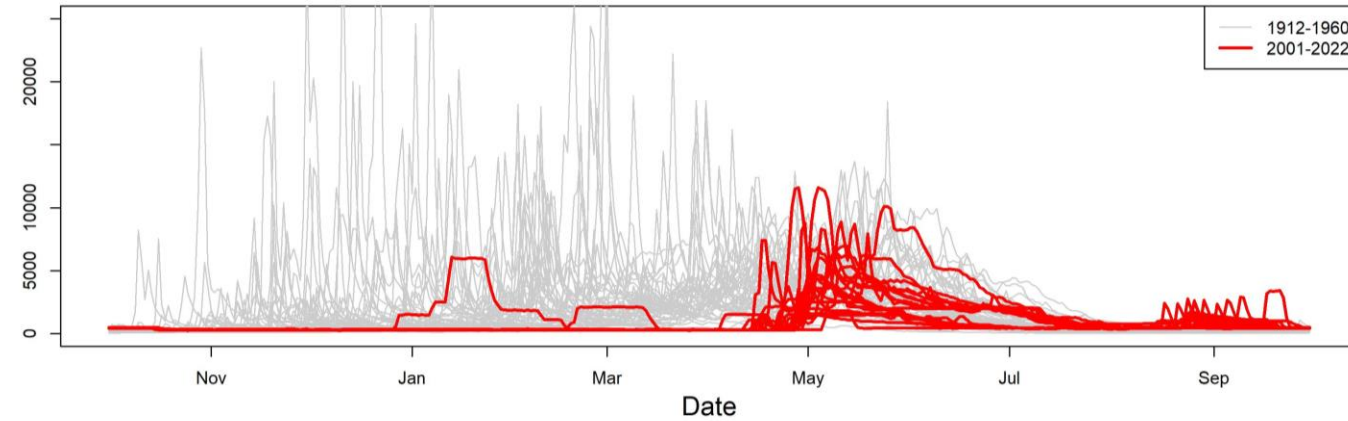
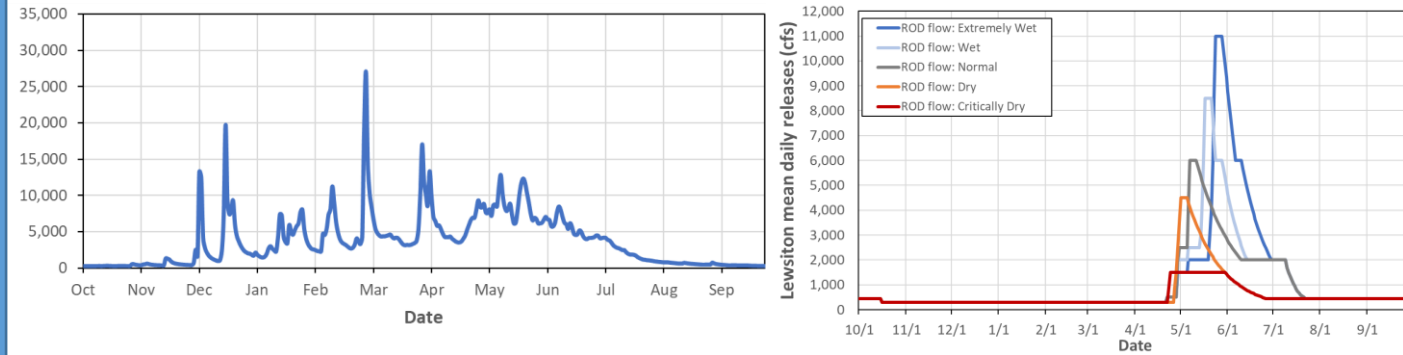




WY2024 guidance on flow planning

Ken Lindke
Environmental Scientist CDFW
Flow workgroup coordinator



Outline

- Direction from foundational documents
- Objectives and constraints of WVF recommendation
- Motions from September TMC meeting and outcomes
- Request for guidance on objectives and constraints for WY24 flow management



Foundational Documents

“The AEAM Program, guided by a **Trinity Management Council (TMC)** established as part of this decision and by sound scientific principles, will ensure the proper implementation of these measures, conduct appropriate scientific monitoring and evaluation efforts, and **recommend possible adjustments to the annual flow schedule within the designated flow volumes provided for in this ROD** or other measures in order to ensure that the restoration and maintenance of the Trinity River anadromous fishery continues based on the best available scientific information and analysis.”

2000 ROD



Foundational Documents

“Though the annual Trinity River fishery volumes will follow those identified in Table 1 according to water year type, **the daily releases may be changed in magnitude and/or duration at a future date to achieve fishery resource restoration goals in the Trinity River.** Potential changes will be identified and referred to Reclamation for action by the TMC, the decision-making group of the Adaptive Environmental Assessment and Management (AEAM) organization and consistent with all applicable laws.”

2000 Implementation Plan (EIS/EIR)



Foundational Documents

“The AEAM organization uses a designated team of scientists that recommend changes to fishery restoration efforts and annual operating schedules in response to monitored effects of implemented actions and in order to ensure that restoration goals of the Trinity River are effectively met.”

2000 Implementation Plan (EIS/EIR)



Objectives for flow management

- Increase the amount and improve the quality of rearing habitat
- Link phenology of prey and salmonid species to disturbance caused by management to increase BMI production of appropriate species for fish food
- Increase/maintain spawning habitat for native salmonids
- provide thermal regimes that promote growth and survival throughout rearing and outmigration
- Inundate ephemeral surfaces above winter baseflow for ecological needs
- Various flow objectives (e.g., ramp rates and release volumes)

TRRP Objectives and Targets Summary (paraphrased)



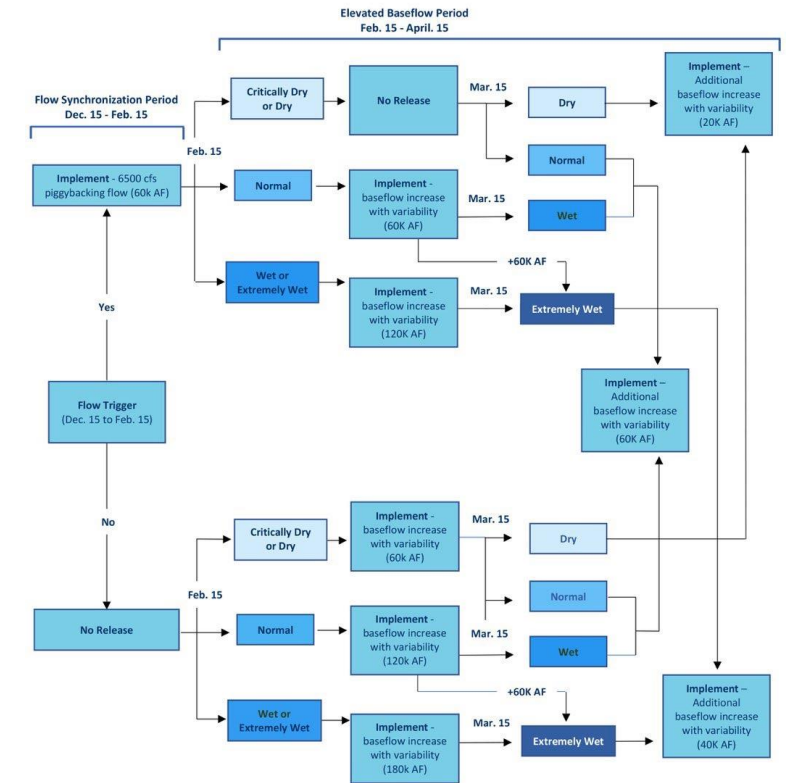
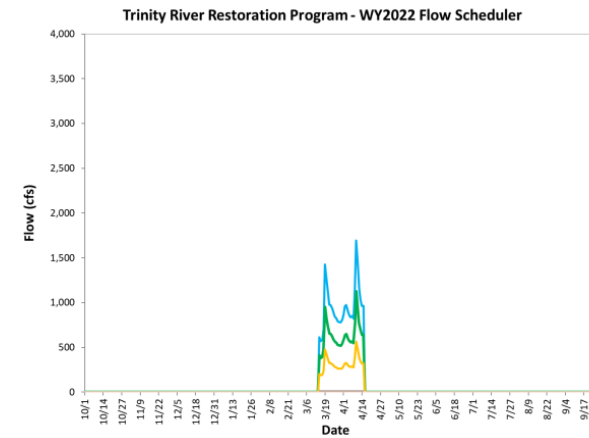
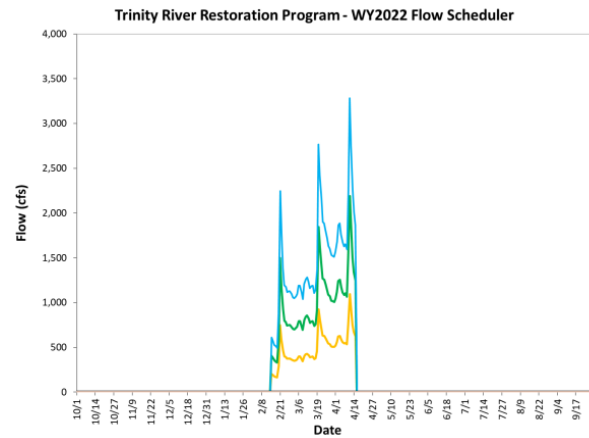
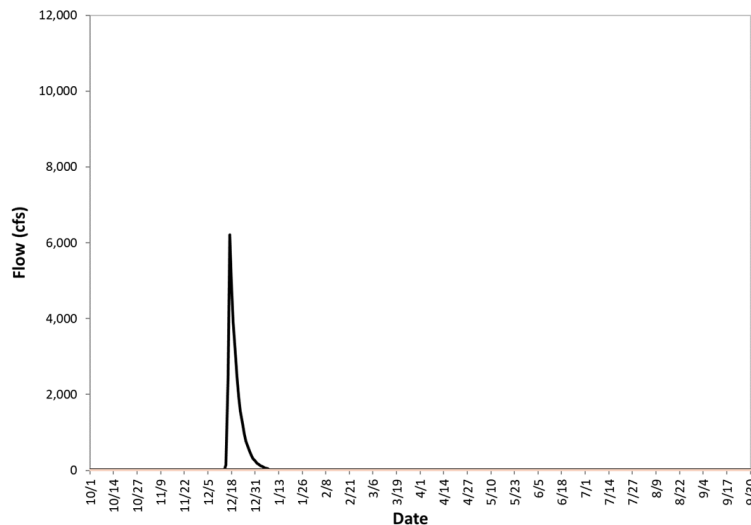
Constraints for flow management

- Water year volume determined in April
- Flow trigger, peak magnitude, and volume of synchronized release
- Water volume allocation for winter baseflow, Feb and Mar B120
- Summer and winter minimum baseflows
- Various ramp rates for peak flow releases
- Maximum fisheries flows



Flow WG & IDT Technical Recommendation

- Repeat of WVF approved by TMC Dec. '22 and implemented WY2023
- Synchronized 6,500 cfs flow with 4,500 cfs forecasted at NF Dec-Feb
- Elevated baseflow Feb-Apr w/ volume based on Feb B120
- Additional baseflow Mar-Apr based on Mar B120



TMC motions

Justin Ly made a motion to approve the IDT's recommendation to implement winter flow variability for WY24, to timely complete the NEPA process prior to implementation, and to inform the public at least two weeks prior to moving forward with winter flow. In addition, a monitoring plan will be provided to the SAB for their review prior to winter flow variability implementation to assess the effectiveness.

Motion failed



TMC motions

Justin Ly moved to recommend that TMC approve beginning October 1, implement 450 cfs baseflow through October 15, then reduce baseflow to 300 cfs from October 16 to April 15.

Motion failed

Note that implementing traditional ROD flow scheduling (i.e., 300 cfs winter baseflow followed by spring releases and full ROD volumes) would be in opposition to this motion.



Summary

- Foundational documents established AM and the directive for TMC to use best available science to meet Program objectives
- WVF remains the best available science to meet Program objectives given currently identified constraints
- WVF and traditional ROD flow scheduling are in opposition to TMC direction based on the September meeting
- If TMC wants a different flow recommendation from Flow WG, specific guidance on what objectives and constraints to follow is needed from TMC.

Trout Unlimited Website:

“Most major river systems, of course, now have dams and water diversion infrastructure on them and cannot replicate unimpaired flow conditions. However, the science of river ecology and hydrology affirms that, in the absence of unimpaired flow conditions, *mimicking the natural variability in river flows is essential to support wildlife species such as salmon and steelhead* that have evolved to those ecosystems and to take advantage of the natural variability of those systems.

Link: [Functional streamflows key to recovering salmon and steelhead | Trout Unlimited](#)

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