FY25 Executive Director's Budget Narrative

23 May 2024

FY25 budget priorities

The appropriated portion of the TRRP operating budget has been proposed for a modest increase from FY24; we anticipate approximately $12.3m of Water and Related Resources funding. FWS funding for tribal outmigrant monitoring tasks is projected to be somewhat lower this year, though the final amount they contribute will not be known until September. On the balance, our planned budget is about $800k higher than FY24, though much of this is consumed by year-on-year cost increases.

The following is a narrative to accompany the FY25 TRRP budget recommendation spreadsheet. It has been developed following extensive discussions with partners, internal program staff deliberations, mid-term projections in implementation priorities, and has incorporated previous discussions of program priorities from recent fiscal years.

It should be noted that the three categories within the budget (Administration, Implementation, and Science and Monitoring) are arbitrary and are included solely for familiarity because of how past budgets have been prepared. They do not reflect any strict lines of overhead vs. restoration activities vs. science. For example, much of the "Technical Assistance" funding on the Admin page reflects science support and workgroup participation (including Design Team) by agency staff; and the costs included in both the Implementation and Science pages include significant overhead costs associated with positions and projects which would logically be considered Admin. Further, costs have frequently been moved between these subjective categories, so the reader is strongly cautioned against trying to compare the relative amount of the budget going to Admin, Implementation, and Science and Monitoring within or between years.

The budget, as proposed, identifies largely status-quo funding for Administration, status quo funding for Implementation tasks (except as described below), and status quo funding for Science tasks except for the additional projects proposed under the FY25 Science Request for Proposals. The proposed budget includes assumptions about costs of key tasks based on year-adjusted prior year costs; actual funding amounts may vary based on staff salary adjustments, indirect and fringe rate changes, and other cost changes. **As such, the proposal before the TMC is to approve these items as priorities in principle, with the acknowledgment that final numbers may differ from what is listed in the initial budget.** Any savings from lower-than-anticipated operating costs would be redirected to the Implementation activities such as gravel processing or repairing the breach in the Sawmill side channel; alternatively if the land exchange happens and NEPA is completed, a phased implementation of the Sky Ranch channel rehabilitation project could be initiated.

Administrative Budget

TRRP Program Office Personnel

The funding level proposed assumes that the Executive Director, Secretary, and Grants and Agreements Technician positions are encumbered for the full year.

TRRP Administration

TRRP Office Operations

Proposed based on multi-year averages and projection of costs for lease, utilities, fleet, and other non-staff overhead costs.

TMC Notetaker

Having an objective, professional notetaker is invaluable for adequately documenting our deliberations and maintaining transparency. A contract for a new notetaker should be awarded very soon, if not by the June TMC meeting. This estimate assumes four in-person TMC meetings and eight monthly meetings.

TCRCD Outreach Grant

This long-running grant promotes the program's image in the community, provides valuable environmental education, and significantly streamlines our communications (e.g. NEPA mailings, newspaper ads). Since the start of the new 5 year grant and following turnover at the RCD, the RCD staff have stepped up their game substantially, and recent outreach events have been overwhelming successes. I propose to fund this fifth and final year of the grant. We will discuss a successor grant during development of the FY26 budget.

Technical Assistance

This line funds the participation in program activities by staff from across the TMC agencies. The proposed budget for these lines is flat with the FY24 costs (which were forward funded in FY23) plus year-on-year increase. Some of the costs noted are actual amounts from multiyear agreements, while the two tribes are scaled costs based on FY24 because new multiyear agreements for those entities still need to be negotiated.

Implementation Budget

TRRP Program Office Staff

This funding level assumes the positions of Implementation Branch Chief, Public Affairs Specialist (Outreach Coordinator), Civil Engineer, Civil Engineering Technician, and Senior Natural Resource Specialist (Compliance) are encumbered, and assumes we continue to hold vacant the second CE Tech.

Miscellaneous

FEMA/Flood Compliance Updates

This flood mapping is performed by the Denver Technical Service Center to prepare for submission of pre- and post-project compliance documentation to FEMA and the county floodplain administrator.

Realty

Temporary access agreements will only be required if we commence work at the Sky Ranch site. The figure shown is a placeholder.

Planning

NEPA/CEQA Compliance/Permits

This funds a contractor to perform biological and cultural field surveys and develop permitting packages for future projects. The existing contract will expire just before the end of FY24, so the cost proposed is an estimate for a new contract.

Revegetation Supply
This optional task associated with the environmental support services contract described above allows for advance ordering of container stock, native grass seed, straw, and other revegetation materials in advance of channel rehabilitation revegetation work.

BLM Technical Assistance
This task funds participation by BLM technical specialists in program activities, primarily compliance for restoration work on BLM-administered public lands. The BLM has used our funds judiciously and is a key partner in our work.

Geophysical Support Services
This broad category funds annual aerial photography, boundary surveys, post-construction as-built surveys, and large-area remote sensing data collection. The estimate shown here is to fund annual 40 mile aerial photography and as-built surveys for channel rehabilitation.

Design and Support Services
The need for design support services in the coming year is uncertain.

$40k is proposed to be added to our general Technical Service Center modeling support agreement. This task allows us to lean on technical specialists in that office in support of a suite of research and modeling program activities.

Construction
Construction Projects
Once again, we propose to use the Construction Project task as the balancer for the budget due to its scalability. Accordingly, we propose the following ranked priorities for funding in FY25:

- In the event that NEPA has been completed for the Sky Ranch Channel Rehabilitation Project, a first phase of implementation of that project would be pursued.
- If the Sky Ranch project cannot be implemented, repair of the side channel breach and bulk excavation and processing of sediment at Sawmill.
- Subject to funding and permitting, we would also pursue implementation of one or more process-based restoration projects in key tributaries, likely in the Weaver Creek or Deadwood Creek basins.

Large Wood Supply
The purpose of this task is to procure large wood for habitat installation in the <u>following</u> fiscal year. We will require large wood per the design of the upcoming Sky Ranch project.

Construction Inspector
TRRP office implementation staff should be able to cover the on-site government inspector role in the coming fiscal year, so paying for an inspector from the Willows Construction Office or Northern California Area Office should not be necessary.

VE Study
The next projects in queue for implementation (Upper Connor Creek, Sky Ranch, Sawmill Close-Out) have all had VE studies, so we do not anticipate needing a VE study this FY.

High Flow Gravel Augmentation
Funding for placement of gravel is required this FY.

Coarse Sediment Processing/Placement
The supply of processed gravel is largely depleted, so we will need to process gravel this FY. Funding proposed herein would begin replenishing that supply.

Revegetation Maintenance/Irrigation
We conduct three years of post-project irrigation and maintenance of plantings at channel rehabilitation sites. In FY25 we will irrigate this year's Upper Conner Creek site.

Systemic Riparian Mapping
This required monitoring project recurs at five year intervals; it was funded in FY24.

Watershed Implementation
Our NFWF watershed grant is fully funded and subawards are awarded or in process for several projects. As described above in Construction Projects, we may pursue direct funding of beaver dam analogs in a key tributaries. If we can get design and NEPA for one or more sites completed, those projects would be added to this category and funded out of the construction project balancer.

Science and Monitoring Budget

Science Program Support

Program Office Personnel (BOR)
The number assumes that the Science Coordinator, Data Steward, Physical Scientist, and a Natural Resource Specialist (GIS support) are fully encumbered. The Data Steward position is currently vacant; it is uncertain if it will be encumbered at the beginning of the fiscal year. It will be solicited as a ladder position, so the actual cost of that position would also be dependent on the performance level at which the selectee is hired.

Program Office Personnel (HVT)
We will continue to require riparian ecology expertise for science & monitoring, revegetation design, and compliance support in the coming year.

Program Office Personnel (YT)
We will continue to require fish biology expertise for science & monitoring, flow management, channel rehab design, and compliance support in the coming year.

SAB
This is the cost of funding our SAB agreements for this year.

Stream Gaging
This is an intra-agency agreement Reclamation holds with USGS to fund gaging in the Trinity River watershed. The gage network underwent an internal review by the workgroups in 2018.

Status and Trend Monitoring
These projects are proposed for funding at FY24 levels adjusted for year-on-year cost increases. No changes to these existing projects are proposed at this time.

Effectiveness Monitoring & Other

These two projects (which will be presented on June 6) were solicited through the FY25 Science Request for Proposals. They were reviewed by the technical workgropus and reviewed and ranked by SAB. Subject to the principal investigators adequately responding to comments, I propose funding both projects. A third project is also recommended for implementation but will be completed solely with in-kind labor and thus will not require additional funds.

Annual Costs Summary by TRRP Program Activity	2023	2024 Working	2025 Proposed
Program Administration	$ 3,676,752.34	$ 2,470,817.75	$ 3,091,180.90
Rehabilitation Implementation	$ 5,107,455.23	$ 9,522,208.24	$ 5,710,362.20
Science Program-*includes FWS tribal funds transferred to TRRP/USBR*	$ 4,864,326.24	$ 4,940,492.04	$ 5,193,232.09
TOTAL *(doesn't include FWS salary/ops funds retained at FWS)*	**$ 13,648,533.81**	**$ 16,933,518.03**	**$ 13,994,775.19**

TMC TRRP Annual Funding (*doesn't include FWS salaries/operations funds retained at FWS*):	2023	2024 Working	2025 Proposed
USBR (Water & Related A30 funds) *Any recovered funds are included here*	$ 11,207,000.00	$ 11,295,883.49	$ 12,265,000.00
USBR (CVPIA H37 funds)	$ 1,500,000.00	$ 3,475,000.00	$ 1,500,000.00
USBR (BIL ecosystem restoration)	$ 454,000.00	$ 1,768,150.00	$ -
FWS* - annual transfer to TRRP/USBR for specific tribal projects	$ 505,119.00	$ 525,000.00	$ 350,000.00
TOTAL	**$ 13,666,119.00**	**$ 17,064,033.49**	**$ 14,115,000.00**

***FWS** annual funds transferred to TRRP/USBR for Tribal monitoring/survey projects.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION		2023 Approved	2024 Working	2025 Proposed
TRRP Administration Personnel				
TRRP Program Office Personnel ED, Secretary, Grants and Agreements Specialist		$ 581,399.00	$ 610,469.00	$ 670,113.00
	Subtotal	**$ 581,399.00**	**$ 610,469.00**	**$ 670,113.00**
TRRP Administration				
TRRP Program Office Operations (TRRP office rent, vehicles, utilities, supplies, RO contracting, NCAO)		$ 317,232.00	$ 333,094.00	$ 346,417.76
TMC Notetaker - TRRP contract		$ 18,307.20	$ 23,558.52	$ 25,236.54
Public Education and Outreach/Website - TCRCD Work expands community knowledge of Program and educates schoolchildren, promoting environmental stewardship with a goal of improving support/success of restoration efforts.		$ 107,359.26	$ 109,836.23	$ 110,340.38
Headwaters Refinements Contract - Extension		$ 22,160.00	$ -	$ -
	Subtotal	**$ 465,058.46**	**$ 466,488.75**	**$ 481,994.68**
Technical Assistance				
Hoopa Valley Tribe -AFA		$ 499,927.09	$ 649,288.00	$ 540,721.14
Yurok Tribe-AFA		$ 557,703.17	$ 744,572.00	$ 603,211.75
CA Dept of Water Resources - FA		$ 300,000.00	$ -	$ 150,000.00
CA Dept of Fish & Wildlife - FA		$ 536,954.50	$ -	$ 290,149.97
NOAA Fisheries - IA		$ 310,545.12	$ -	$ 162,686.36
Forest Service - IA		$ 89,290.00	$ -	$ 46,000.00
Trinity County Technical Assistance (TRRP grant, floodplain development permit, FEMA)		$ 335,875.00	$ -	$ 146,304.00
	Subtotal	**$ 2,630,294.88**	**$ 1,393,860.00**	**$ 1,939,073.22**
TOTAL PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION		**$ 3,676,752.34**	**$ 2,470,817.75**	**$ 3,091,180.90**

2-year funding, FY23 and 24

Yellow Highlight are Changes from last TMC meeting

IMPLEMENTATION BUDGET		2023 Approved	2024 Working	2025 Proposed
Implementation Personnel				
TRRP Program Office Personnel (Implementation Branch Chief, Public Affairs Specialist, Civil Engineer, CE Tech (1), Natural Resource Specialist)		$ 462,266.00	$ 1,095,318.00	$ 1,158,677.00
	Subtotal	**$ 462,266.00**	**$ 1,095,318.00**	**$ 1,158,677.00**
Miscellaneous				
FEMA/Flood Compliance Updates - Denver TSC		$ 45,000.00	$ 45,000.00	$ 45,000.00
River Acres House Purchase & Removal		$ 530,000.00	$ 75,918.00	$ -
Realty Acquisitions (Easements, material storage)		$ -	$ 17,671.80	$ 20,000.00
	Subtotal	**$ 575,000.00**	**$ 138,589.80**	**$ 65,000.00**
Planning				
NEPA/CEQA Compliance/Permits/ (TRRP contract: wetland delineation, bird surveys, native seed, cultural res surveys)		$ 210,058.00	$ 218,460.32	$ 227,198.73
Revegetation Supply TRRP contract: native seed, native grass hay, plants		$ 121,479.00	$ 125,124.00	$ 130,128.96
BLM Technical Assistance - IA (NEPA, permits)		$ 176,340.45	$ -	$ 90,824.31
Geo-Phys Support Services (Aerial photography, boundary surveys, bathemytry and lidar, topography)		$ 42,422.81	$ 129,579.00	$ 134,762.16
	Subtotal	**$ 550,300.26**	**$ 473,163.32**	**$ 582,914.16**
Design and Support Services				
Hoopa Valley Tribe Support Services		$ 150,903.00	$ 9,080.00	$ -
Yurok Tribe Support Services		$ 250,000.00	$ -	$ -
TSC Modeling Support		$ 53,136.00	$ 40,000.00	$ 40,000.00
	Subtotal	**$ 454,039.00**	**$ 49,080.00**	**$ 40,000.00**
Construction				
Construction Projects		$ 2,027,566.00	$ 6,111,202.12	$ 3,150,000.00
Construction Large Wood Supply YT		$ 250,000.00	$ 250,000.00	$ 250,000.00
Construction Inspector		$ -	$ -	$ -
Value Engineering Study - Reclamation requirement		$ 7,360.00	$ -	$ -
Sediment Augmentation YT		$ -	$ 143,554.00	$ 149,296.16
Coarse Sediment Processing/Placement YT		$ 177,000.00	$ -	$ 200,000.00
Revegetation Maintenance/Irrigation-HVT		$ 103,923.97	$ 110,072.00	$ 114,474.88
Systemic Riparian Mapping Project HVT (Funded Every 5 Years)		$ -	$ 151,229.00	$ -
	Subtotal	**$ 2,565,849.97**	**$ 6,766,057.12**	**$ 3,863,771.04**
Watershed Implementation				
Watershed Grants		$ 500,000.00	$ 1,000,000.00	$ -
	Subtotal	**$ 500,000.00**	**$ 1,000,000.00**	**$ -**
TOTAL IMPLEMENTATION BUDGET		**$ 5,107,455.23**	**$ 9,522,208.24**	**$ 5,710,362.20**

2-year funding, FY23 and 24

Yellow Highlight are Changes from last TMC meeting

Budget balancer

SCIENCE AND MONITORING BUDGET		2023 Approved	2024 Working	2025 Proposed
Science Program Support				
TRRP Program Office Personnel (BOR) (Science Coordinator, Data Steward, Physical Scientist, NRS)		$ 940,652.00	$ 987,685.00	$ 1,056,965.00
TRRP Program Office Personnel (HVT) - Riparian Ecologist		$ 157,948.45	$ 201,871.00	$ 170,837.04
TRRP Program Office Personnel (YT) - Fish Biologist		$ 124,714.64	$ 184,133.00	$ 134,891.35
External Peer Review Contract (DOI BPA)		$ -	$ -	$ -
SAB Participation (currently 5 SAB members)		$ -	$ 135,015.00	$ 131,282.00
TRRP-2018-036: Stream Gaging BOR Region Contract		$ 235,900.00	$ 237,720.00	$ 237,720.00
	Sub-total	**$ 1,459,215.09**	**$ 1,746,424.00**	**$ 1,731,695.39**
Status and Trend Monitoring *doesn't include FWS salaries***				
TRRP-2018-001: Chinook Run-Size Est.(CDFW, HVT)		$ 514,229.22	$ 475,966.00	$ 490,962.14
California Department of Fish and Wildlife		*$ 443,059.92*	*$ 404,250.00*	*$ 416,377.50*
Hoopa Valley Tribe		*$ 71,169.30*	*$ 71,716.00*	*$ 74,584.64*
TRRP-2018-034: Chinook CWT-Fall Chinook (HVT)		$ 303,804.85	$ 315,957.04	$ 328,595.33
TRRP-2018-004: Fall Run Scale Age (HVT, YT)		$ 170,283.59	$ 346,544.00	$ 267,859.64
Hoopa Valley Tribe		*$ 118,091.29*	*$ 178,116.00*	*$ 127,727.54*
Yurok Tribe		*$ 52,192.30*	*$ 168,428.00*	*$ 140,132.10*
TRRP-2018-012:Outmigrant Monitor HVT, YT, **FWS****		$ 795,259.00	$ 849,052.00	$ 883,014.08
Hoopa Valley Tribe		*$ 429,087.05*	*$ 449,873.00*	*$ 467,867.92*
Yurok Tribe		*$ 366,171.95*	*$ 399,179.00*	*$ 415,146.16*
TRRP-2018-026: YT Harvest (Lower Klamath) (YT)		$ 188,710.99	$ 337,179.00	$ 204,109.81
TRRP-2018-006: HVT Harvest (Lower Trinity) (HVT)		$ 115,072.30	$ 142,747.00	$ 124,462.20
TRRP-2018-014: Monitor redd distribution, abundance and densities CDFW, YT, HVT, FS, **FWS****		$ 222,727.92	$ 343,575.00	$ 286,010.97
California Department of Fish and Wildlife		*$ 47,693.10*	*$ 93,877.00*	*$ 96,693.31*
Yurok Tribe		*$ 79,293.51*	*$ 160,183.00*	*$ 85,763.86*
Hoopa Valley Tribe		*$ 95,741.31*	*$ 89,515.00*	*$ 103,553.80*
Forest Service (covered under technical assistance)		*$ -*	*$ -*	*$ -*
TRRP-2018-010: Lower Klamath Creel Survey CDFW		$ 100,000.00	$ 147,967.00	$ 152,406.01
TRRP-2018-005: Sport Harvest/Trinity Creel HVT		$ 98,429.66	$ 119,081.00	$ 106,461.52
	Sub-total	**$ 2,508,517.53**	**$ 3,078,068.04**	**$ 2,843,881.70**
Effectiveness Monitoring & Other				
TRRP-2018-035: Channel rehab habitat effectiveness monitor(40 mile model support) YT, HVT, TRRP TSC,		$ 70,348.81	$ -	$ -
TRRP Reclamation TSC		$ -	$ -	$ -
Yurok Tribe		$ 70,348.81	$ -	$ -
Hoopa Valley Tribe		$ -	$ -	$ -
TRRP-2022-5: Improvements to RBM10		$ -	$ 96,000.00	$ -
TRRP-2023-1: Chinook egg survival		$ 172,292.00	$ -	$ -
TRRP-2023-2: Hyporheic flow and macroinverts YT		222,778.00	$ -	$ -
TRRP-2023-3: Lewiston Reservoir Temp Study YT		$ 87,287.00	$ -	$ -
TRRP-2023-4: Evolution of Stream Morphology YT		$ 45,200.00	$ -	$ -
TRRP-2023-X: Cohort reconstruction model support		$ 40,000.00	$ -	$ -
TRRP-2023-X: Bed surface grain map		$ 138,339.00	$ -	$ -
TRRP-2024-X: Limiting Factors Analysis		$ 40,000.00	$ -	$ -
TRRP-2025-1: Restoration vegetation diversity		$ -	$ -	$ 231,663.00
TRRP-2025-2: Benthic macroinvertebrates		$ -	$ -	$ 385,992.00
TRRP-2025-3: Initial steps to a foodscape model		$ -	$ -	$ -
TSC Sediment transport modeling		$ 10,000.00	$ 20,000.00	$ -
	Sub-total	**$ 896,593.62**	**$ 116,000.00**	**$ 617,655.00**
Total Science Budget		**$ 4,864,326.24**	**$ 4,940,492.04**	**$ 5,193,232.09**

Yellow Highlight are Changes from last TMC meeting