

Meeting Summary
Interdisciplinary Team (IDT)

Wednesday 29 May 2024 8:30-12:00

Via Microsoft Teams and at TRRP Office, Weaverville, CA

Participants

Galen Anderson & Eric Wiseman(USFS), Brian Bommarito (BLM), Kyle DeJulio & Chris Laskodi (YT), Ken Lindke and Morgan Knechtle (CDFW), James, Lee & Eric Peterson (TRRP-USBR), Veronica Yates & Justin Alvarez (note taker) & Smokey Pittman (HVT), Ty Wallin (USFWS), Patrick Flynn (TC)

Program Updates

Veronica is resigning her position effective next Friday June 7th.

Kyle has accepted a different position within the Yurok Tribe as a Senior Restoration Biologist so he will be less involved in the TRRP.

Limiting Factors Analysis

RFQ was released about 2 weeks ago. No questions have come back. Proposals are due on the 14th of June. Once we have the proposal(s) we will set up a review in late June or Early July. Contractor will be selected in August. They will then have 2 years to complete the task.

TMC Agenda Review

Please update your TMC reps as needed to ensure a productive TMC meeting in Weitchpec.

The IDT went through the TMC agenda the highlights of which are below.
informational presentation about Whistkeytown Filling

TRD Reconsultation alternatives review, this will be good to track in relation to water management both storage and river releases.

The Fish Workgroup is presenting on review of Synthesis report recommendations. Kyle has taken most of the other recommendations beyond those in the fish centric reports with a recommendation on what group could be responsible for following up on. This is being put into an action tracker to help us utilize the findings of those efforts.

The RAE workgroup also went over some of the recommendations specifically on the riparian encroachment synthesis, the primary of which is in the TMC realm is having variable summer baseflows.

Channel rehabilitation site status and schedule will now be presented by Oliver rather than James.

We may add an item on guidance for the flow workgroup Water Year 25 process. (This will be included in the Program update rather than as a standalone agenda item per last IDT agenda item discussion, below.)

Day 2 TMC

TMC will review the science proposals and then go into the budget part of which includes the proposals.

TRRP Budget Total is \$14M. This is similar to last year by project. 2024 did have additional BIL funding that allowed for construction of all of Upper Connor Creek as well as some other implementation projects.

There was a question about the systemic faces mapping and what year that was being done. That will happen in summer of 2024 so does not need to be included in FY2025.

The watershed grant proposal ask in total were less than what was allocated by TMC in 2024. The excess will be available to fund the limiting factors analysis.

The USFWS funds have been accounted for differently in recent years since their funding is separate from the TRRP funds.

There are 3 new science proposals one of which is covered by in-kind costs so it shows no expenses on the worksheet.

Scheduling quarterly meetings

TMC will be 9/18-19

TMC 12/4-5

Eric Proposes the Friday 1.5 weeks before TMC so Sept 6 and November 22nd

There was push back against Fridays and there was more support for the previous Wednesday. That would be September 11th and November 17.

The Wednesday before TMC was selected.

Tuesday June 25th will be the review of the science proposals. Ty to send out an invite. The USFWS conference room is already booked for September so Weaverville will host an in person option.

FY25 Science Planning

The science plan has a timeline for soliciting science plans and on Table 3, we are a little off the schedule but do have 3 proposals in hand that have been reviewed and all three have need of revisions, 2 moderate and 1 major. The SAB did recommend all three be funded in FY2025.

Revisions to the proposals to be completed in June. TMC can still set aside funds for these in June contingent on revisions being accepted by IDT.

Eric went through his TMC presentation so we could provide comments. This includes an example motion from 2018.

Kyle brought up an additional comment on the riparian proposal which is the effect of irrigation and overspray should be included as a variable or analysis consideration.

Ken asked about the recommendation to use the swamp protocol and whether that recommendation needs to be followed. There is concern that that path would increase the workload and move the project toward answering questions that are not the purpose of the investigation. Eric responded that a recommendation can be rejected but should be documented.

Eric solicited feedback on the foodscape proposal and whether to build or use an existing model suggested by the SAB as an option but is presently 1D. Folks thought that there was a general shift within the TRRP toward 2D and away from cross section based models. Yet there are benefits to having an existing tool because you can start to define relationships in the environment instead of coding a new tool. Ideas offered included comparing both, or exploring a collaboration with the 1D modelers to shift into 2D.

Action Tracker

The science plan highlighted the need to focus on and refine our objectives into the future. Many of the findings of the science that happens within the program end up in reports but moving it to action is a challenge. Kyle took a step in that direction by pulling out recommendations from synthesis reports to track what has been adopted and if there are better ways to incorporate our learning. It also includes a prioritization scheme.

Kyle went through some items in the document in more detail to give folks a better handle on how this could work.

Currently this document is being tabulated and updated by the workgroups but ultimately this may be a cross discipline master sheet that IDT handles and then they can dictate priorities and give the high priorities to the workgroup coordinators.

Flow Workgroup Request

Last year TMC didn't make a recommendation on flows so BOR and FWS made an independent decision. The Flow Workgroup has a few questions of TMC.

One is requesting clarification from TMC on how they are managing water this year, with the expectation that the Flow WG will again make the technical recommendation to implement WFV.

The second is a request that TMC draft a letter to DOI asking how they will manage flows in advance of April if TMC doesn't make a recommendation.

Below is an early draft of a potential question

Questions from Flow WG and TMC:

Given the desire from the public and science planning, advanced notice of flow scheduling is important. Therefore...

the Flow WG is requesting guidance from the TMC in advance of the upcoming water year (Oct 1 2024) on how to approach the WY25 proposal and requesting the TMC to ask Interior prior to September meeting for timely knowledge on if WVF or traditional scheduling will be used if our normal process does not result in a recommendation.

The discussion focused on how do we get clarity from Interior on what actions they will take if TMC doesn't adopt a recommendation. There were some modified questions to get at that shown below.

IDT requesting that TMC ask interior: If Flow WG recommends WVF again but TMC does not forward that recommendation, then what is Interior likely to do?

IDT is asking the TMC to guide the Flow Workgroup on timeline, objectives (full year), and constraints for WY25 flow scheduling.

Patrick let us know that he is working with Trent to get the County proposal for the water year but it is unlikely to be ready to share in June.

The group did not find consensus on how to making a request to the TMC that captured all of the Flow WG concerns. In the end Eric said that he would include a summary of our discussion in his program update rather than making a request to the TMC as a separate agenda item. The timeline for the Flow Workgroup bringing forward a recommendation for Winter Flow Variability is unclear and there was discussion of doing it at a monthly call ahead of the September quarterly meeting.

Discussion of this last item ran long; the meeting adjourned at 12:30.