



Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP)

P.O. Box 1300, 1313 South Main Street, Weaverville, California 96093
Telephone: 530-623-1800, Fax: 530-623-5944

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

TO: ERIC PETERSON, SCIENCE COORDINATOR, IDT CO-COORDINATOR
TY WALLIN, IDT CO-COORDINATOR

FROM: PATRICK FLYNN, FLOW WORKGROUP COORDINATOR

CC: MIKE DIXON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
JAMES LEE, IMPLEMENTATION BRANCH CHIEF, ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION FROM FLOW WORKGROUP TO IDT ON WATER YEAR 2025 FLOW RELEASE SCHEDULES

DATE: SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

ATTACHMENT: TRINITY COUNTY FLOW WINTER FLOW PROPOSAL WY2025 (SIGNED FLOW PROPOSAL COUNTY INFO - AUG 8 2024.PDF)

The Trinity Management Council (TMC) met on June 5-6, 2024. On June 6, the following motion was approved by TMC entities:

Any recommendations or conditions for WY [water year] 2025 flows between 01 Oct and 15 April are to be submitted to the Flow Workgroup by 19 July and any specific hydrographs are to be submitted to the Flow Workgroup by 9 August. Radley Ott and Keli McElroy concurred.

As a result, the Flow Work Group (FWG) met on July 22, August 9, and August 19, 2024 to discuss recommendations for flow releases from Lewiston Dam for water year 2025. Trinity County submitted a proposal for flows between 01 Oct and 15 April by the 19 July deadline that consisted of the following constraints:

1. Losses of fishable days that meet or are less than those listed in the following table. The table is from the Winter Flow Report:

Trinity River Restoration Program: Winter Flow Project Report

Table 5-4. Average, minimum, and maximum impact to wade and boat fishing days gained or (lost) below Lewiston Dam for WY 2004-2019 from the Winter Flow Project compared to baseline conditions.

Month	Change in Days of Wade Fishing (<800 cfs)			Change in Days of Boat Fishing (200-1500 cfs)		
	Average	Min	Max	Average	Min	Max
October		0	0	0	0	0
November	0	0	0	0	0	0
December	0	0	0	0	0	0
January	-4	0	-15 (7)	-3 (2-3)	0	-8 (4)
February	-4	0	-15 (8)	-1 (2-3)	0	-8 (4)
March	-14	-3	-21 (15)	-5 (2-3)	0	-17 (9-10)
April	-24	-14	-30	-16	0	-30
May	+8	+26	-2	+10	+30	0
June	+19	+30	+9	+18	+30	0
July	+12	+29	0	+5	+11	0
August	0	0	0	0	0	0
September	0	0	0	0	0	0
Annual	-7	+13	-34	+8	+29	-7

2. The flow synchronization period (Dec.-Feb.) is supported, provided that only one flow synchronization event occurs.
3. Trinity County requests that receding limbs of any peak flows are minimized.
4. Trinity County requests the flows between October 1st and December 15th be above 300 cfs, up to 800 cfs to allow more water volume shift from the traditional spring event.

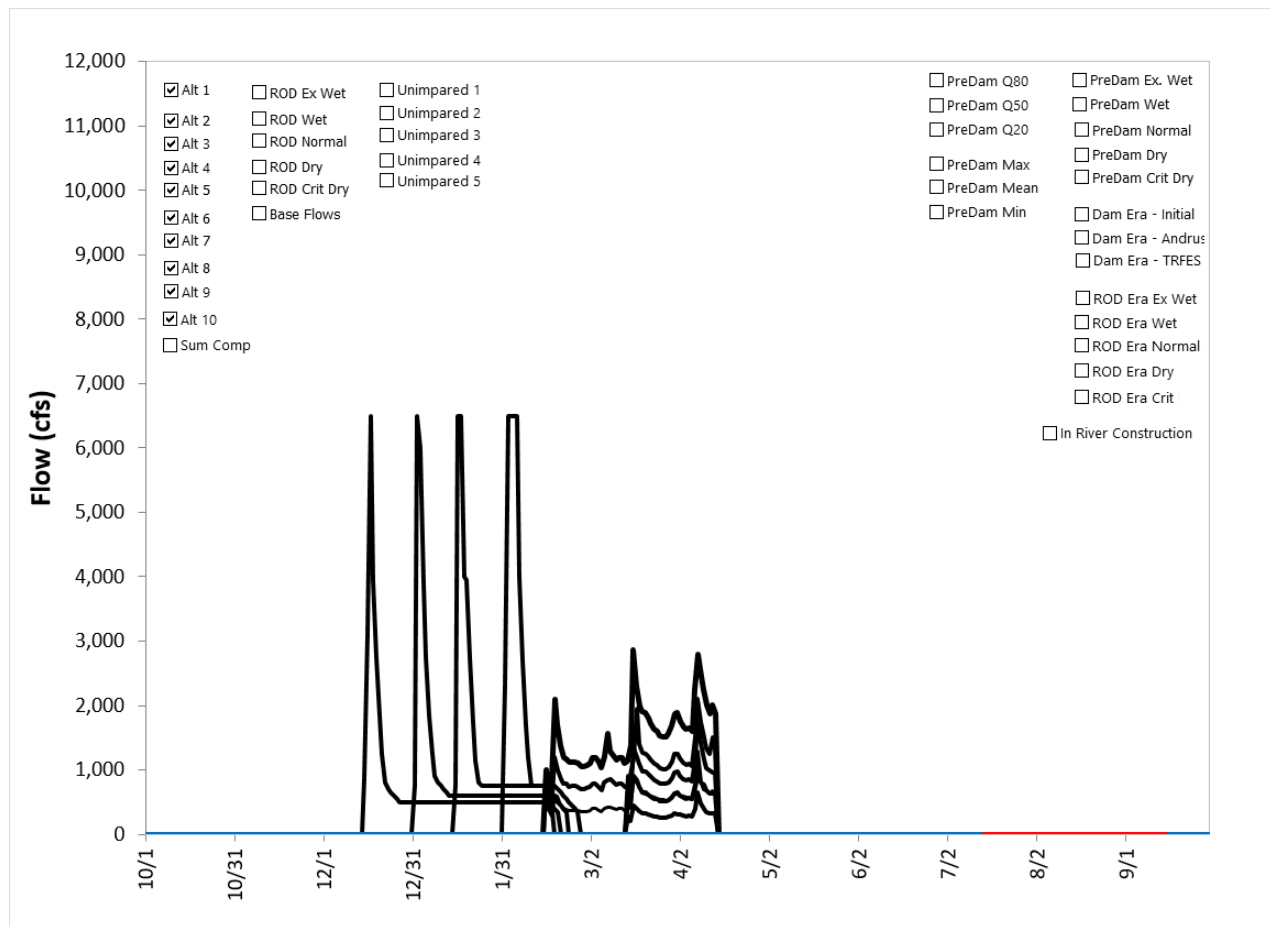
During the 22 FWG July meeting, the FWG developed a set of questions to be presented to Trinity County to clarify and refine the introduced constraints. As a result, Trinity County presented a revised proposal by the 9 August deadline, as follows:

Trinity County proposes the following for recommendations or conditions for WY 2025 flows between 01 Oct and 15 April. The county can support elevated flows during the period between 01 Oct and 15 April if the following conditions are met:

1. Losses of a max of 10 boat fishing days during the flow synchronization period (Dec 15-Feb 14) as defined by the 2000 EIS. The County requests effective and robust community outreach if a flow synchronization event occurs, providing the specific flows to the public with an much advanced notice as possible, minimum of 4 days.
2. The flow synchronization period (Dec.-Feb.) is supported, provided that only one flow synchronization event occurs.
3. Trinity County requests that receding limbs of any peak flows are minimized.
4. Trinity County requests that effective and robust outreach is undertaken in the event that the month of March will see fishable days lost in excess of 10 days.

During the 19 August meeting, the FWG reviewed the revised proposal and reached consensus to move forward with recommending the full implementation of the Winter Flow Variability (WV) project as described in the Winter Flow Variability EA and Winter Flow Variability Report, with accommodations made to meet the requests presented by Trinity County. It should be noted that the full implementation (i.e. release of volumes as described in the aforementioned reports) of the WV is possible while accommodating Trinity County's requests. As such, there are no constraints placed on the elevated baseflow period. Implementation of the flow synchronization period is limited to a loss of 10 boat fishable days over the whole of the sync period (Dec-Feb).

The FWG established a subcommittee consisting of a representative from Trinity County, Yurok Tribe, and TRRP/USBR to develop a set of alternative synchronization peaks tailored to 2-week periods that could be implemented during the flow synchronization period, depending on the timing of the synchronization event. These were presented to the full FWG on 28 August with a request for comment; no comments were received. Elevated baseflow components were also altered to move the peaks away from weekends, to better accommodate weekend fishing and recreation. These are presented here:



The alternative synchronization peaks have been designed with receding limbs that overlap partially into the elevated baseflow period, between 15 February and 26 February. Trinity County leadership has reviewed these alternative synchronization peaks and communicated via email that they were acceptable.

In conclusion, the FWG recommendations are as follows for WY2025:

1. Implementation of the Winter Flow Variability (WV) project as described in the Winter Flow Variability EA and Winter Flow Variability Report with accommodations made to meet Trinity County's requests
 - a. Implementation of the WV should match the alternative synchronization peaks as shown in the hydrograph above (and associated flow scheduler)
2. Implementation of a spring snowmelt hydrograph beginning in April with the remaining water volume, to be decided during typical annual FWG meetings in March

Regards,

Patrick Flynn
TRRP Flow Work Group Coordinator