



Trinity River Restoration Program

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NC-152

MEMORANDUM

To: Trinity Management Council (TMC)

From: Mike Dixon, Executive Director
Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP)

Subject: Director's Report

Date: September 12, 2025

Major TRRP activities between June 2025 and September 2025 include:

Civil construction is wrapping up at the Upper Conner Creek channel rehabilitation project. The Willow Creek and Tish Tang weirs are in place and fishing. Staff from across the program have pushed to develop content for the cooperating agency draft of the Trinity River Division (TRD) Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS).

Organizational Updates

- We remain in a hiring freeze through mid-October.
- Some positions at NCAO are being filled through the safety & security exemptions. We have also been asked to prioritize positions that are required to operate the project during flood operations, and one of our physical scientist positions was included in that list due to their role in flow scheduling coordination with CVO. However, none of the positions submitted for exemptions have moved forward. It remains to be seen if that position makes it high enough in the priorities at a national level to be advertised in the coming months.
- At present, the TRRP Office has the following vacancies: Physical Scientist (x2), Natural Resources Specialist (Data steward), Natural Resources Specialist (Compliance). The Grants and Agreements Technician (vice Deanna Jackson) was moved to DOI and is no longer on our org chart, so we will be unable to backfill that position.
- Kiana Abel continues to serve as the TRRP public affairs specialist despite being reassigned to the Department of the Interior Office of Communications as part of a broader consolidation of mission support/business services functions in the Department. We should know more in Q1 of FY26 about her future level of involvement with TRRP.
- Mike Dixon remains in an unofficial detail as acting Deputy Area Manager for NCAO in addition to his duties as TRRP ED.

Budget Updates/Adjustments:

CY25 AFAs for the Yurok and Hoopa Valley Tribes were finally funded in July and August, respectively. We spent out the FY25 budget very tightly, and had to hold off on adding funds to a couple partner agreements which both had some carryover funds; funding mods for those agreements should go through this fall if the funds are required

We have been told to expect a continuing resolution for the beginning of FY26 and expect a budget that is essentially flat with last year. However, the Water & Energy appropriation bill passed by the House of Representatives has a substantial (>30%) reduction in Water & Related Resources appropriations, which is the core of our budget; time will tell what the FY26 budget will look like but we are going to start the year on conservative spending footing.

Implementation Updates

Channel Rehabilitation Projects

- Sky Ranch Channel Rehabilitation Site: The design for this site remains at the 60% stage. This site remains a high priority for implementation; however, moving forward with NEPA and finalization of the design requires the finalization of the land transfer to USFS, which continues to see delays. It is unlikely that this project will be implemented in the near future.
- Evans Bar Channel Rehabilitation Site: The State/Yurok Design Group submitted a 30% design for Design Team Review in early September. A VE study is scheduled for October. Permitting is underway and (funds permitting) this project could be ready for implementation in 2026. A presentation on the 30% design alternatives will be delivered at the September 2025 TMC meeting.
- Sawmill Gravel Processing Site: Processing is scheduled to resume in late September. The channel rehabilitation project at the site is partially funded now and will occur in 2026. TRRP intends to fully fund the remaining channel rehabilitation work in the CY 2026 AFAs.
- Upper Conner Creek Channel Rehabilitation Site: As of this writing (11 Sept.), the civil portion of the project is expected to be completed before September 15. Minor work to the river access area will continue sporadically through early October, and revegetation will continue through Fall 2025. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is planned but not scheduled yet.
- Rush Creek Confluence: TRRP intends to pursue designs for this project (which includes both the Upper and Lower Rush Creek sites) in the CY 2026 AFA.

Watershed Programmatic Environmental Assessment FONSI were signed by all cooperating federal agencies this summer. The BA/BO is underway and is expected to be completed soon. A Supplemental EA template is being fine-tuned to streamline implementation.

Sediment and Wood Augmentation: The Implementation Branch submitted a conceptual plan for sediment and wood augmentation in the hatchery reach to the Physical Workgroup as a starting point for a 2026 augmentation project plan.

Watershed projects:

TMC Executive Director's Report June 17, 2025

- Deadwood Creek: (5 Cs) This project includes accelerated wood recruitment and rolling dips on roads. NEPA should be fast and BLM is heading NHPA portion. BLM has several projects ahead of it, but we are expecting permitting to be completed in the next several months, and implementation in 2026. Will be tiered to the Watershed PEA.
- Salt Creek: (WRTC) awaiting implementer's cultural resources report as part of the NEPA process. Will be tiered to Watershed PEA.
- East Branch of East Weaver fish passage: (5Cs/Trinity County) NEPA is completed. Potentially will be implemented next June.
- Brown's Creek Water Resiliency Phase II: (WRTC) may have a landowner who is willing to participate, if that falls through the remaining funding will be assigned to another WRTC watershed project.

Other

Smith Pit (HVT) TRRP committed to providing environmental compliance support to a project planned there, but there currently is a lack of funding to implement a project.

Bucktail BDA: HVT reinforced the BDA at Bucktail this summer and the feature is pooling water behind it as intended.

Public Outreach Update

Publications and Education Materials:



The riparian area at Oregon Gulch is coming to life just 18 months post rehabilitation, July 17, 2025. [Kiana Abel, Trinity River Restoration Program]

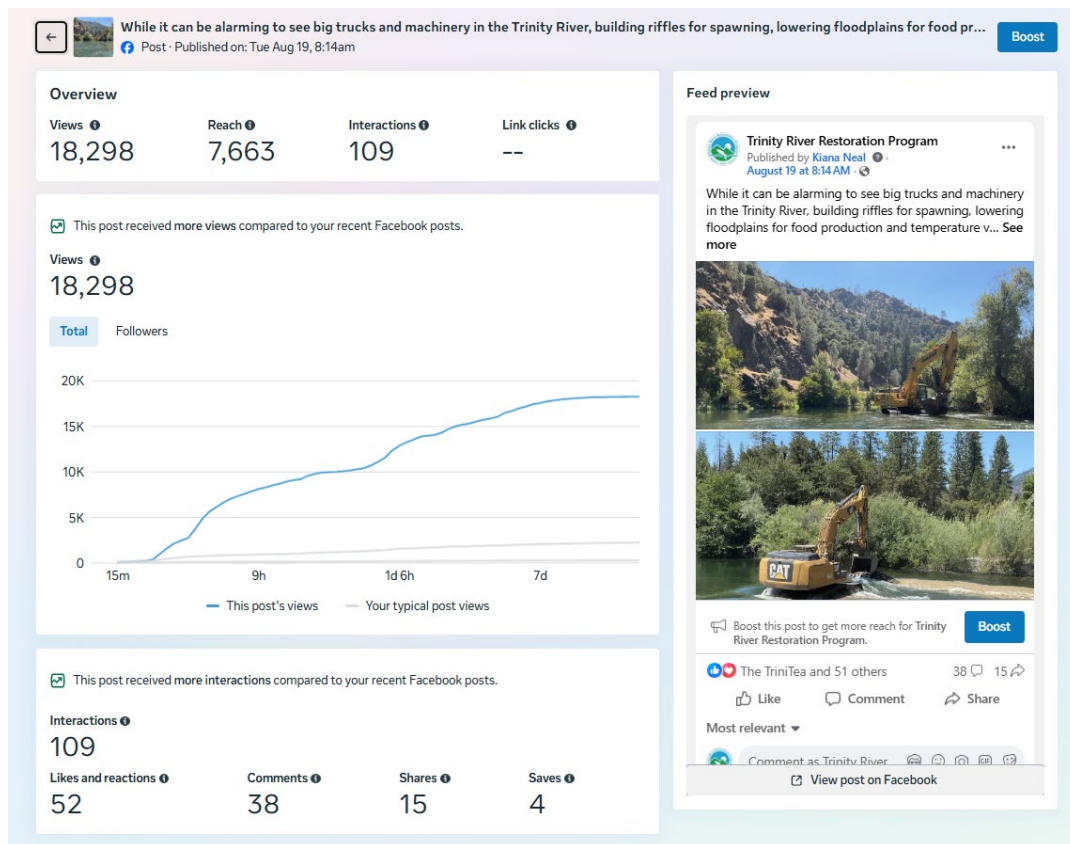
River Riffle: [July](#), [August](#), September

TMC Executive Director's Report June 17, 2025

- **Current Conditions:** KFHAT Health Map & meeting results, Pulse Flows & Biennial Ceremonial Release, Temperature & Flow Gauges, Fall Surveys.
- **Program Updates:** JC River Access partially opened & restoration update, [Trinity River Watershed Environmental Assessment complete – Finding of No Significant Impact](#)
- **Articles:** [C. shasta, A tiny parasite in the Klamath & Trinity River](#),
- **Spotlights:** [Mule's ears and arrowleaf balsamroot](#), [Poison Oak \(*Toxicodendron diversilobum*\)](#) and [Skunk Brush \(*Rhus trilobata*\)](#)
- **Upcoming Events**

Website Updates

The [TRRP Facebook Page](#) is up 58 followers since the last report (in March). We are currently at 1204 followers. Top post in the last 90 days was regarding a post about the in-river work period sharing mitigations the Program takes to be able to use big trucks in river restoration.



2024 Annual Report Story Map – 98% complete

Public Events and Environmental Education

July 9: CalPoly Humbolt Klamath Basin Field Course - Trinity River Restoration Tour



July 15: Stewarts Fork Ecology Education with the Weaverville Summer Day Camp



*July 19: Trinity River Clean Up
September 10-11: 6th Grade Environmental Camp @ Bar 717 – 25th year*

Landowner and Stakeholder Notifications

Sawmill Neighborhood Mailing – notification of gravel processing.

TMC Executive Director's Report June 17, 2025

Continued communications with the Upper Conner Creek Neighborhood

Upcoming

September 24: Science on Tap, Nathan Libal, CDFW “California Grey Wolves”

October 4: Salmon Meets Harvest Festival – Highland Art Center Meadow

October 15: Riparian Ecology Lesson at Junction City Elementary School and on-site at Upper Conner Creek

October 22: Science on Tap, Michael Kauffman: “The Bigfoot Trail: Exploring and Protecting the Biodiversity of the Klamath Mountains”

Science Update

- **Limiting Factors Analysis (LFA).** Phase 2 (implementing the study plan) contract spans Aug. 2024 – Aug. 2026 with Cramer Fish Sciences (CFS). The IDT and SAB met with CFS on September 10th. CFS reviewed the life cycle model and transition points, listing the data received and how it informs the transition. Most TRRP data has been received; we now have most transitions covered with local Trinity data and CFS has identified potential data from literature for the remaining transitions. CFS also reviewed the model interface, future identification of limiting factors, and building scenarios. A request for scenarios is being generated and the Science Coordinator will collate these for CFS.
- **FY26 Science Priorities.** The IDT brought two project proposals to the TMC’s June meeting with requests for funding. Given uncertainty over the FY26 budget, the TMC was reluctant to approve funding until more is known. These remain outstanding. However, the Science Coordinator has adapted one of the proposals (S3 Consumption; \$__) to Reclamation’s Science and Technology RFP. Results of this attempt for funding are pending.
- **FY27 Science Priorities.** The Science Plan provides a standard process for the IDT to develop Science Priorities and request funding from the TMC. Following that process, the IDT met in July to initiate discussion of FY27 priorities. While many ideas were discussed, the group recognized that the Environmental Flow Evaluation (below) may identify data needs and would be a top priority. Secondly, we have recognized that the Monitoring and Modeling Review (below) may also result in priorities for FY27. There has been further discussion of unfunded FY26 proposals being forwarded to FY27. Lastly, our typical 5-year cycle for topography models will come around again in FY27. Therefore, we appear to have abundant needs for FY27 science planning and we do not expect to have an RFP like we did for FY26.
- **Monitoring and Modeling Reviews.** Following the Science Plan’s requirement of a review of long-term monitoring projects, combined with a request from the Flow Workgroup to review our DSS, the IDT and workgroups have been developing reviews of TRRP monitoring and modeling projects. These reviews are now about 2/3 drafted. The IDT is targeting completion this fall, with a round of internal review, followed by SAB review. We intend for these reviews to inform the FY27 science budget at the TMC meeting next June.
- **Environmental Flow Evaluation.** Following AEAM concepts, the IDT has called for a study plan for an Environmental Flow Evaluation (aka winter flow evaluation). This was also included in the HVT stipulations for recommending winter flows in WY25-27. The IDT identified a

subgroup to complete a draft study plan. This group is currently working through a process to prioritize hypotheses, expected to be completed in October. Methods to assess these hypotheses will be developed through the fall with a draft study plan available for review in winter. Although most involved feel that the breadth of data from our existing monitoring projects should cover most needs of this study, the challenge will be the short time period of study (currently presumed as 3 years of environmental flows).

In Review or Final Edits

- Lindke, K. T., **Video monitoring of fish passage at Willow Creek weir: feasibility of validating mark-recapture run size estimates.** [Final edits]
- Bridegum, J., D. Goodman, T. Daley, R. Smit, J. Boyce, O. Black, J. Alvarez, and K. De Juilio. **The Effects of Restoration Actions on Juvenile Salmonid Rearing Habitat in the Trinity River Restoration Reach at an Index Streamflow, 2009 to 2017.** [Final edits]
- Martel, C. J. Alvare, Z. Reinstein, and K. T. Lindke, Fall Chinook Redd Environmental Conditions and Egg Survival to Emergence in the Trinity River. [Peer Review]

Final Publications and Reports

- Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP), U. S. Bureau of Land Management (USBLM), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). 2025. [Trinity River Watershed Restoration Environmental Assessment](#). August, 2025. CGB-ED-2025-034. Bureau of Reclamation - Trinity River Restoration Program Office, Weaverville, California.
- Troxel, D. 2025. Annual Report 2023-2024 [Angler Creel Surveys in the Lower Klamath River](#). Report for the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP). California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Arcata, California.

Remaining Synthesis Reports:

- Cohort Reconstruction – last substantive adjustments to the new model are being completed.
- Large Wood Management – in draft, engaged group between McBain Associates (ARS) and the Riparian Aquatic Ecology Workgroup
- Flow Synthesis – draft in process, eta near the end of the calendar year
- Channel Complexity – draft in process

Post-Implementation Reports

Final Data Packages

- Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) and GMA Hydrology, Inc. (GMA). 2025. [Detrended Digital Elevation Model \(DtDEM\) Derived from the 2014 Trinity River Downriver Digital Terrain](#). Data Package. TRRP, Weaverville, California.

Appendix I: Technical Workgroup Briefings September 2025

Updates have been prepared for the Trinity Management Council by the Trinity River Restoration Program Technical Workgroup (WG) Coordinators.

Workgroup: Fish

Coordinator: Chris Laskodi

The Fish Workgroup had an abbreviated meeting on August 19th. The workgroup lost several members in the past few months and many of their tasks will need to be reassigned. We received updates on ongoing monitoring projects as well as the status of the EFM study plan. The main topic of this meeting was receiving updates and assigning new people to complete the core monitoring reviews. Several more reviews were completed in the last quarter and the fish workgroup hopes to have them completely finished by the end of the year.

Workgroup: Communications

Coordinator: Kiana Abel

The Communications workgroup met on Aug. 18 to elect a workgroup coordinator and heard a presentation from TRRP Public Affairs Specialist, Kiana Abel regarding the TRRP annual communications calendar along with assets and channels available to the Program (newsletter, FB, website, ecetera). The group will meet again in the Fall to discuss the 2026 Communications Calendar.

Workgroup: Design

Coordinator: Oliver Rogers

The Design Team met on August 28th for a quarterly meeting and received a presentation from the State of California-Yurok Tribe Design Team. The presentation covered design features of the two alternatives from the Draft 30% design of the Evans Bar Channel Rehabilitation project. The TRRP Design Team will review the Draft 30% Design and provide comments and feedback to the State of California-Yurok Tribe Design Team. The Final 30% design is scheduled to undergo a Value Engineering Study in October 2025.

Workgroup: Flow

Coordinator: Patrick Flynn

Flow WG met August 11 to make a flow recommendation for WY2026 (as required by the WFV FONSI). The WG decided to recommend the Winter Flow project be implemented in full as described in the EA and approved by the FONSI

The workgroup elected Patrick Flynn to continue as coordinator for FY26.

Workgroup: Watershed

Coordinator: Justin Alvarez

No meetings.

Workgroup: Physical

Coordinator: Smokey Pittman

The Physical Work Group met on July 13, 2025, to:

1. Re-engage monitoring and modeling subgroups and help them get moving toward completion
2. Provide TRRP with ideas for FY2027 Science recommendations

Monitoring and modeling sub group reviews:

TMC Executive Director's Report June 17, 2025

1. SRH 2D 40 mile model – draft complete, ready for workgroup review
2. Detrending DEM – done
3. Grain Size Facies Map – under development by R. Smit
4. Active Bar Monitoring – done
5. Sediment Transport (Hydrophones) – draft complete, ready for workgroup review
6. DSS Model - Total bedload transport at Douglas City - draft complete, ready for workgroup review
7. Stream gaging (with FWG) – done
8. (New topic) Unmet sediment related needs – under development by S. Pittman

The group reviewed an extensive list of ideas for FY2027 Science Proposals and moved forward the suggestion for: Revisiting the tracer gravel studies near Lewiston.

The next meeting has been schedule for October 10, 2025

The workgroup elected Smokey Pittman to continue as coordinator for FY26.

Workgroup: Riparian and Aquatic Ecology

Coordinator: Brad Nissen

The Riparian and Aquatic Ecology Workgroup (RAEWG) met on June 23, 2025. At the meeting the group worked to:

- Recap a recent field visit by the work group to BOR-owned parcels, specifically the Yellow House property near Douglas City and another site (Green House?) near Junction City and discuss possible next steps for these locations. A memo on this field visit is still being drafted and can be circulated to other work groups for input once complete.
- Discuss a revised version of a proposed temperature target for turtles. We are still working on revising the memo for this, then it will be ready to present to the IDT again after a final WG review.
- Review the Wood Management Strategy document writing; the process is on-going.
- Listen to and discuss a presentation given by John Bair and Simone Groves on Evaluating of Berm condition, as a consideration for a key uncertainty to investigate in FY27.
- Brainstorm ideas for FY27 Science Needs, and these were reported to Eric ahead of the July IDT meeting.

Workgroup: Interdisciplinary Team

Coordinator: Eric Peterson

Appendix II: Report and Data Tracker

This indicates the most recent reports data received for active long-term projects, or their ETA for short-term projects. When submitting final reports and data, please include the Science Coordinator or Implementation Branch Chief, with cc to the Data Steward. See [TRRP 2012](#) for details, with particular note to Appendix C.

Long-Term Monitoring

Topic	Frequency	Last Report For	Last Data For
Streamgaging (discharge, temperature at gages)	Continual	Not applicable	Realtime online
Reservoir Ops	Annual	Not applicable	WY2015 online WY2022 @TRRP
Flow Report	Annual	WY2024	[see above]
Aerial Photography (64 km)	Annual	WY2024	WY2024
Topography (64 km)	~5 year	WY2022	WY2022
Hydrology (64 km SRH2D) and Juvenile Capacity	~5 year, new in process	WY2016	WY2016 WY2022 @TRRP
Height Above River and Wetted Areas	~5 year, new in process	WY2016 @TRRP	WY2016 @TRRP
Grain Size Facies	~5 year, new in process	Not applicable	WY2014
Active Bar Monitoring (5yr)	~5 year	WY2023	WY2023
Riparian Vegetation	~5 year, new in process	WY2019	WY2019
Aerial Photography (as-built)	~Annual	2024 OG	2024 OG
Topography (as-built)	~Annual	2024 OG	2024 OG
Post Implementation Report	~Annual	Oregon Gulch	-
LWD Surveys	Annual		WY2016
Temperature Monitoring (USFWS)	Annual	WY2014 (?)	WY2009 @TRRP
Sediment Transport (Hydrophones)	Annual	WY2017	
Sediment Transport (bedload)	Not active	WY2019	WY2019
Outmigrant (Willow Ck) – separate report not required	Annual	-	-
Outmigrant (Pear Tree) – separate report not required	Annual	WY2023	-
Outmigrant (Population)	Annual	WY2018	WY2009 @TRRP
Redd/Carcass Distribution	Annual	WY2019	WY2024
Chinook Run Size Estimate	Annual	Run 2022	-
Fall Run Scale Age	Annual	? PFMC?	? PFMC?
YT Harvest (Lower Klamath)	Annual	2022	2022
HVT Harvest (Lower Trinity)	Annual	2023	2013
Lower Klamath Creel Survey	Annual	2024	-
Sport Harvest / Trinity Creel	Annual	2004	2013

Short-Term Projects

Items will be retained for at least one TMC meeting after completion.

Initiated	Topic	ETA Report	ETA Data/Model
FY18	Synth: Cohort Reconstruction	2025 (Spring?)	2025 (Winter?)
FY18	Synth: Adult Salmonid Spawning	Pending 508	<i>overdue</i>
FY18	Synth: Channel Complexity	<i>overdue</i>	<i>overdue</i>
FY18	Synth: Large Wood Management	Late 2025?	<i>overdue</i>
FY18	Video Weir	In peer review	
FY19	Synth: Flows	<i>overdue</i>	<i>overdue</i>
2020	Periphyton (single-year)	Posted: 2022	
2020	Periphyton (multi-year)	2025	2025
	Pool Stratification (analysis 2 pools)	Posted: 2022	tbd
	Pool Stratification (model)	Posted: 2022	-
	Pool Stratification (numerous pools, 3d flows and HECRAS 1d temp)	1D temp: 2025 , more in future	tbd
	Hyporheic Flow	2025?	2025?
	Lewiston Reservoir Temperatures	2026?	2026?
	Updated RBM10 (merging Trinity with Klamath)	Trinity: _	tbd
FY24	Limiting Factors Analysis	2026 (August)	2026 (August)
FY25	Inundation/Scour Model	2025 (Spring)	2025 (Winter)
FY25	BMI sampling	2026 (Dec)	tbd
FY25	Riparian Response	2026 (June)	2026 (June)