

December 8, 2010

To: Ernie Clarke, TRRP Science Coordinator  
From: Joe Polos, TRRP Fish WG Coordinator  
Subject: Policy clarification concerning the adult fish health/disease monitoring project on the lower Klamath River.

At the TRRP Fish Work Group (FWG) meeting held on December 12, 2010, the FWG members were tasked with prioritizing the fish population and fish habitat assessments and PITAs to assist in the development of the FY2012 work plan. During the discussion of the adult fish health/disease monitoring assessment one of the FWG members objected to the TRRP supporting this project because it was outside of the scope of the Trinity River Mainstem Fishery Restoration EIS/R Record of Decision (ROD).

Since the fall of 2003, the TRRP has supported the adult fish health/disease monitoring on the lower Klamath River conducted by the Yurok Tribe with support from the USFWS California-Nevada Fish Health Center. There was some discussion of how the information from this project is used as an indicator for fall flow management to address disease/mortality issues in the lower Klamath River. It was also stated that this was not part of the ROD because the adult fish-kill occurred in 2002 after the ROD was signed and that this issue is a new aspect of resource management that the TRRP has incorporated into its program. It was also stated that the conditions that led to the fish-kill were not due to TRRP or Trinity water management actions and the TRRP should not be responsible for supporting this monitoring.

The FWG is seeking policy guidance on the following question:

*Should the FWG consider incorporating the adult fish health/disease monitoring in the lower Klamath River into the prioritized list of assessments and PITAs for the FY2012 work plan process?*