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Trinity River Restoration Program

NC-150

MEMORANDUM

TO: TMC Members

FROM: Robin Schrock, Executive Director
Trinity River Restoration Program

SUBJECT: Director's Report

DATE: January 10, 2013

This report provides updates on all major Program activities since the October 2012 meeting. The most significant TRRP activities since the October meeting are completion of the Upper Junction City and Lower Steiner Flat rehabilitation projects, ongoing redesign of proposed 2013 rehabilitation projects, and the public meeting, January 7, 2013 and the Science Symposium, January 8, 2012 to explore the Science behind the Phase 1 Review. The Scientific Advisory Board and their support contractors are providing overviews of preliminary analyses, conclusions and recommendations.

Budget Update – The CR continues through March 27, 2013 and Congress has deferred budget decisions for two months, so there is no change in Program funding projections.

Implementation Update

- Rehabilitation Projects – Full designs are expected for presentation to the TMC at the January 16-17, 2013 meeting in Weaverville. A Design Team meeting with stakeholder participation was held November 14, 2012 to incorporate program goals and design objectives into consideration of alternative designs for each 2013 project site. Presentation: DJ Bandrowski
- Watershed Projects – The workgroup received 8 proposals requesting a total of \$1.2M however, the projected budget limited selections of 2013 watershed projects to ~\$0.5M. Through an iterative process the workgroup prioritized projects. Recommendations were made to fund fully or in part, with recommendations for funding all projects if the Program sees increased funding for watershed projects in 2013. Presentation: Kent Steffens

- Secretary of Agriculture Vilsack's visit to Trinity County was followed by a request, through NRCS, to provide a list of unfunded needs in the county. The proposed projects were submitted for full funding through the cooperating organizations for consideration as unfunded needs.
- Bucktail Bridge – At the October 23-24, 2012 the TMC accepted the Design Team recommendation for the Bucktail Bridge, to support the County in seeking funding, and to tie the project to the Dark Gulch feasibility study opportunities.

Science Update –

- 2013 Physical Workgroup Coarse Sediment Augmentation Recommendation developed by the Physical Workgroup, November 12, 2012 (handout)
- Design Team Technical and Policy Guidance Request to the TMC and IDT, December 12, 2012 (handout)

Organizational Update – Transition to the new Bison Connect email system is final and to receive future notifications please email info@trrp.net to sign up for our new distribution list.

Public Outreach –

- The TRRP Design Team held a joint meeting on November 14, 2012 with landowners whose property may be directly affected by proposed 2013 rehabilitation projects and other stakeholders to explore three proposed design alternatives for each potential 2013 project. Through a decision tool that described different eleven design objectives each with a range of potential improvements in the objectives, participants were given the opportunity to weigh/rate the different alternatives to provide guidance for further design refinements of selected alternatives to help achieve a balance of benefits.
- A public town hall was held on December 11, 2012 to preview the 2013 designs to the community.
- Videographer, Thomas Dunklin, is developing a Trinity River flyover, TRRP project specific footage, and onsite views of juvenile and adult salmon and steelhead at many of our project sites.
- Fish of the Trinity River were featured in the TCRCD Winter 2012 Conservation Almanac.
- A January 7, 2013 Public Meeting provided a short overview of the TRRP. Michael Merigliano of the TRRP Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) described the approach, status, and ongoing analyses and syntheses that comprise the Phase 1 Review of TRRP rehabilitation projects from 2005-2010.
- The 2013 Science Symposium on January 8, 2013 included a series of seminars by TRRP SAB members and scientific support contractors that described analyses, reviews, and syntheses of TRRP data and reports that provided preliminary conclusions and recommendations to the audience.