



Trinity River Restoration Program

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NC-150

MEMORANDUM

TO: TMC and TAMWG Members

FROM: Robin Schrock, Executive Director
Trinity River Restoration Program

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report

DATE: April 1, 2013

This report provides updates on all major Program activities since the January 2013 meeting. The most significant Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) activities since the January meeting are the reviews and updates to the Lorenz Gulch and Douglas City rehabilitation designs and the release of the Draft Environmental Assessment/Initial Study for those sites on March 12, 2013 for the required 30 day public review period. The Flow Workgroup has also developed the restoration release proposal for 2013, for what is anticipated to be a dry water year.

Budget Update – The CR continues through the end of the fiscal year. Congress has not passed a federal budget, however a sequestration of 5% affects all government programs including the TRRP and a hiring freeze and travel restrictions remain in place. An additional 1% decrease has been suggested for DOI agencies. This 6% decrease in program funding is being absorbed by funding remaining in 2012 agreements that span fiscal years, through vacancies, efficiencies in the administration of the program (travel, printing, materials, meeting room costs) and potential phasing of 2013 projects.

Organizational Update – TRRP partner technical staff have begun their technical review of the SAB approved draft technical appendices for the Phase 1 review report with the release of the DSS draft on March 25, 2013 with a 30 day technical review period.

Implementation Update –

- Comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment/Initial Study on the Trinity River 2013 Channel Rehabilitation Sites must be received by Friday, April 12, and should be mailed to Brandt Gutermuth, Trinity River Restoration Program, P.O. Box 1300, Weaverville, CA 96093, or emailed to bgutermuth@usbr.gov. To view the document online go to: http://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa_projdetails.cfm?Project_ID=12570 or the TRRP website at <http://www.trrp.net/>. The document may also be viewed in Weaverville at the Trinity County Library, 211 Main Street; the TRRP office, 1313 S Main Street; and the Trinity County Resource Conservation District at Horseshoe Square. The document may

also be viewed at the Bureau of Land Management office, 355 Hemsted Drive, Redding, CA. For additional information or to request a copy of the document, please contact Brandt Gutermuth at 530-623-1806.

- The Well Grant Program encourages all landowners wanting to participate in the program to complete and submit their applications for eligibility as soon as possible.

Science Update – The fiscal year 2014 preliminary science workplan is under development. To continue integration between the implementation and science programs, science workgroups are engaging more directly in the channel rehabilitation design process. The Flow and Temperature workgroups have developed flow release alternatives for water year 2013. Implementation scenarios for the Decision Support System, a key recommendation of the Scientific Advisory Board, are being developed with input from Program technical experts. A fish production model is a key element of the DSS. The Fish workgroup held a workshop to scope development scenarios for that piece that would build on work being on the Klamath River. The Physical workgroup is developing a plan to review and possibly update the long-term gravel augmentation recommendations. Program riparian ecologists have developed a draft revegetation compliance strategy and a report entitled “Tools and Concepts for Defining Desired Future Riparian Conditions”. The above represents some recent activities. Additional details are included in the March 2013 TRRP Technical Workgroup Summary.

Public Outreach –

- The Outreach Coordinator coordinated the Science Symposium including video documentation of the event. TRRP was featured in the Fall 2012, Winter 2012-2013, and Spring 2013 Conservation Almanacs. Two more information bulletins, one on the fish of the Trinity River and the other on fine sediment in the Trinity River are in development.
- The interpretive signs at Sven Oberson have been installed.
- Aerials photographs of the entire 40 mile restoration reach were conducted in November. The images are part of the permanent record of the changes in the river over time.
- An evidentiary video was begun to aid in describing the complexity of TRRP projects to an Administrative Law Judge. The video was so far advanced at the time the BLM hearing was delayed, that the draft video provided a strong foundation for a full video describing the status of TRRP rehabilitation and restoration activities. Participants in the 2013 Science Symposium had seen early footage and since then adult and juvenile fish footage are being added.
- The visit by two international sediment scientists to the Trinity River, related to the post doctoral research by Dr. Giyoung Ock and Dr. Matt Kondolf of Berkley, was used as the opportunity to begin a series of science seminars in the community. NPR highlighted the research project that is being funded through a Reclamation Science and Technology grant in a podcast with a quick reference to the TRRP.
http://trinityriver.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/kcho_interview_March2013.wav
- TRRP staff met with landowners and other public stakeholders at an open house held Wednesday, March 20, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Douglas City School, 100 School Road, Douglas City, CA 96024 to answer questions about the Draft Environmental Assessment/Initial Study on the Trinity River 2013 Channel Rehabilitation Sites that was released for 30 day public review on March 12, 2013. At the same meeting the designs for the two proposed rehabilitation projects, Lorenz Gulch and Douglas City were presented, providing the public with the opportunity to ask questions about specific design features.
- Upcoming educational outreach events include the Salmon Festival, Day at the Wetlands and Salmon classes, WSDC Field Trips, the Trinity County Fair, and the Environmental Camp.