



TRINITY RIVER RESTORATION PROGRAM

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Technical Workgroup Summary September 2012

Updates have been prepared by the Trinity River Restoration Program technical workgroup coordinators at the request of the Trinity Management Council and the Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group. The quarterly Technical Workgroup Summaries will also be posted at: http://www.trrp.net/?page_id=1762 (update of webpage in progress). Workgroup meeting summaries are also posted on trrp.net (see: http://www.trrp.net/?page_id=70)

Workgroup: Flow

Coordinator: Tim Hayden

- The Water Year 2011 flow implementation report is available on the ODP.
- The Fall flow sub-workgroup provided the Bureau of Reclamation with technical input to help protect a possible record-breaking run of adult Chinook salmon from disease outbreak and mortality. Reclamation used the group's input and other pertinent information to prepare an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. Reclamation began making releases from Lewiston Dam on August 13. These supplementary releases will end during the last week of September.
- The Flow & Temperature workgroups are jointly assessing implications of constant base flows and real-time management of summer flows.
- Planning is underway for WY2013 flow scheduling.
- Eric Peterson will coordinate the Flow workgroup for next fiscal year. Rod Wittler will lead flow scheduling efforts.

Workgroup: Temperature

Coordinator: Rod Wittler

- The Lewiston reservoir special study is on track for a September 2012 completion. The study is being managed by Dr. Shelly McGinnis of Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region Division of Planning in consultation with the TRRP temperature workgroup. The study will investigate structural and/or operational alternatives and provide recommendations for improving the transmission of cold water through Lewiston reservoir. The special study surpasses the analysis needed for an Appraisal Study. A future Initial Alternatives Information Report (IAIR) and then a Feasibility Study may build on this study.
- Trinity reservoir carryover storage analysis to determine the optimal range of end-of-September carryover storage volume for Trinity Reservoir is also on track for a September 2012 completion. The analysis is being conducted by experts from Reclamation's Technical Services Center in consultation with the TRRP temperature workgroup.

Workgroup: Interdisciplinary

Coordinators: Ernie Clarke / DJ Bandrowski

The Interdisciplinary team holds brief monthly teleconferences. The group's current focus is developing answers to the "TRRP Big Questions" based on current knowledge.

Workgroup: Design

Coordinator: DJ Bandrowski

- Peter Wilcock and Jock Conyngham conducted a workshop in August on the "Stream Project" – Alternative Analysis Framework that will be used as part of the future design process.
- Lorenz Gulch and Douglas City will be re-designed between September and December 2012 using a revised design process and coordinating closely with the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) and the pending recommendations from the Phase I Review.
- Upper Junction City (UJC) and Lower Steiner Flat (LSF) rehabilitation projects civil implementation work is complete.
- Revegetation designs are being implemented at UJC and LSF and are scheduled for completion by end of November 2012.
- Indian Creek Bank Naturalization Project is currently on-hold waiting direction from TMC.
- Bucktail Bridge Cost Benefit Analysis underway, completion planned for mid - October 2012, with anticipation moving toward full design in 2013 and potential bridge replacement by Trinity County in 2014.
- Design Team meetings are scheduled for November 5th and a Joint Stakeholder/Design Team meeting on November 14th

Workgroup: Fish

Coordinator: Joe Polos

The Fish workgroup last met on August 10. The primary topics of discussion were: (1) fish-related performance measures, (2) sub-workgroup efforts, (3) juvenile salmonid outmigration timing in relation to Spring/Summer flow management, (4) potential habitat PITA (priority issues to address), and (5) Fall flow monitoring activities.

- The plan to update the performance measure documents was briefly discussed and workgroup members will be reviewing these over the next month.
- The efforts of the sub-workgroups were discussed. Sub-workgroup leads were asked to develop a schedule for their efforts so that these can be coordinated and, if necessary, any efforts that need additional support can be incorporated into the annual work plan process.
- The draft scope of the outmigrant timing and flow analysis that was requested by the Flow workgroup was discussed. The discussion led to a focusing of the effort in an attempt to get the product completed for the flow scheduling process next year. The new draft plan is being reviewed prior to work being initiated.
- The task of the Potential Habitat sub-workgroup was discussed as this group will soon initiate its efforts to address the questions of habitat potential building off of the report written by Beechie and Pess. Efforts will commence sometime this fall.
- The groups discussed the potential adverse consequences of the fall flows that were identified in the TRRP 2012 fall flow memorandum. It appears that some of the existing monitoring may provide information to address the level of redd dewatering (red survey), pre-mature outmigration of lamprey ammocoetes (extending some of the outmigrant

trapping efforts) and increased potential for hybridization of spring and fall Chinook salmon based on changes in run timing (Willow Creek weir).

Other Fish Related Efforts:

- Cohort sub-workgroup met and discussed potential methods on conducting this analysis.
- Many Fish workgroup members were involved in the updating of the fall flow plan, updating the criteria that would trigger an emergency release.
- Fish workgroup developed a plan on how the various recommendations of the Adult Salmonid Monitoring Review will be addressed. This document will be provided to Dr. Mike Bradford, the primary reviewer, for review and feedback.

Workgroup: Physical

Coordinator: Andrea Hilton

The Physical workgroup last met on July 17. The meeting included updates on the following projects: (1) USGS Geomorphic Assessment, (2) cross section database, and (3) gravel implementation monitoring. There was also a group discussion of channel form as it relates to interdisciplinary needs of the Wildlife and Riparian workgroup as well as the Fish workgroup. The next Physical workgroup meeting will be held on September 18th in Weaverville.

Workgroup: Wildlife and Riparian

Coordinator: Andrew Jensen

The Wildlife and Riparian Wildlife workgroup last met on August 28. The meeting included a field visit to the Upper Junction City channel rehabilitation site to meet with Riparian Replanting Contractor. Recent or ongoing workgroup efforts include:

- Providing technical input on the proposed Indian Creek Naturalization Project and the draft revegetation report prepared by North Wind.
- Working on PITA's 1 and 2.
- Had a workgroup meeting on August 28, 2012 - conducted a field visit to the Upper Junction City Rehab Site to meet with Riparian Replanting Contractor.
- Elected the WRWG Coordinator for 2013 to be James Lee, with Andrew Jensen as alternate - will likely switch yearly.

Workgroup: Watershed

Coordinator: Kent Steffens

- Watershed implementation contract for Mainstem Sediment Reduction, Conner Creek and Sidney Gulch feasibility studies, LiDAR surveys, and Lower East Weaver Creek are still moving through the federal contracting process and anticipated award has slipped from June to September.
- 2012 Watershed Assessment Summary:
 - TMC conditionally approved a watershed assessment for Fiscal Year 2012.
 - Watershed workgroup developed a statement of work for the assessment.
 - Contract advertised in August on GSA.
 - Submitted proposals were rated on 3 criteria: technical merit, qualifications and experience of key personnel, and past performance.
 - No budget information is provided with the proposals. The contracting office is the arbiter of value to the government.
 - All proposals were submitted by teams composed of a wide range of physical and biological sciences expertise and experience.

- One proposal proposed work far exceeding the revised statement of work, did not focus on the use of existing information, and proposed extensive field work. It received the lowest overall rating.
 - One proposal addressed all tasks from the statement of work in general terms but did not provide enough information about how each task would be carried out to determine its potential success. It received an intermediate rating.
 - One proposal addressed all tasks and provided detailed descriptions of how tasks would be accomplished with the added inclusion of assessments of the efficacy, effort, and cost benefit of existing and potential watershed. It received the highest overall rating.
- Recommendation from the technical proposal evaluation committee (TPEC) was made to the TMC to move forward with contract and award. The TMC decided not to move forward with award since members were not able to evaluate the proposals.