



Trinity River Restoration Program

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NC-150

MEMORANDUM

TO: TMC Members

FROM: Robin Schrock, Executive Director
Trinity River Restoration Program

SUBJECT: Director's Report

DATE: March 28, 2012

This report provides updates on all major Program activities since the December 2011 meeting. The Flow Work Group has also provided the draft 2012 flow release schedule to you. Major program activities include the ongoing independent Phase 1 review and the final design and planning for 2012 projects. In addition to these implementation activities, science and adaptive environmental management specialists are working hard to finalize reports. All TRRP investigation plans and reports now undergo peer review. The 2011 annual report has been compiled and is in review. I commend all Program partners and their technical staff for their extra hard work over the last several months to facilitate the Phase 1 review and their continued efforts in 2012.

Flow Scheduling

The TRRP Flow Work Group, in consultation with the Physical Work Group, recommended that in the event of a Dry water year or a Critically Dry water year that the TRRP following the ROD hydrographs. On March 22, 2012 the Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group (TAMWG) recommended the TMC adopt the flow schedule as recommended by the TRRP Flow Workgroup (i.e., Record of Decision (ROD) flows in the case of a Dry or Critically Dry year). The volume of the Restoration release to the river in a Dry water year is 453,000 AF. The volume of the Restoration release to the river in a Critically Dry water year is 369,000 AF. The final release of the 2012 restoration flow schedule awaits the final water year determination in early April. Typical restoration releases by water year can be accessed at www.trrp.net under Restoration Actions/Flows/Typical Releases and the Current Flow Schedule will be posted as soon as it is available. (handout)

Fall Flows Criteria

The Fall Flows Subgroup of the TRRP Flow Work Group will investigate the need for flow augmentation during the late summer and fall of 2012 based on predicted Dry or Critically Dry conditions and the large projected run of Klamath Basin fall Chinook salmon. The process by which the Fall Flows Subgroup will

formulate flow management recommendations in 2012 is based on the 2010 and 2011 Fall Flow Criteria and Evaluation Process Memorandum of March 20, 2012. (handout)

Budget Update

The 2012 budget has been affected by extra costs of additional assessments needed to inform the Phase 1 and redesign of 2012 projects. However, all redistribution of implementation costs based on 2012 project redesign remains in the Rehabilitation and Implementation Group budget. The following assessments were modified to provide more detailed information for the Phase 1 review, for assessment of the high flow effects, and to inform 2012 projects designs.

- **USGS Geomorphic Assessment:** The interim report covering the first half of aerial photo mapping and cross section analysis is due on April 27. The USGS will orally present the interim report to the Physical Workgroup and the Phase 1 review team on May 1.
- **System-wide Bathymetric Mapping:** Sonar based topographic mapping of the river bottom has been completed for approximately 1/3 of the upper 40 miles. The remainder of the deep water pool areas will be mapped prior to the spring flow release. The shallow water areas will be mapped during the spring flow release. A final data report is due Sept. 15, 2012. The sonar bathymetry data will be used by TRRP to conduct the analysis of pool volume change. The sonar bathymetry data will also be combined with the 2011 terrestrial LIDAR data to produce a seamless system-wide topographic map. Production of the seamless topographic map is to be conducted in a separate contract currently out for solicitation.
- **Streamgaging:** Full funding has been restored for all 10 streamgages supported by TRRP. The transition of the Lewiston gage to its new location near the hatchery is complete. The new location is more hydraulically stable and will improve the accuracy of the stream flow record, especially during high flow release operations. In FY 2011, the TRRP funded operation of the old Lewiston gage for the purpose of correlating records between the old and new gage locations. The North Fork Trinity River gage is back in operation in its place.

The 2013 Outlook

The President's budget included \$16.1M for the Trinity River Restoration Program, however, we will need to plan conservatively based on current budget realities in Congress. Additionally, in preparation for Phase 1 results and anticipated redesigns, we recommend a return to the 2010 dispersal rates to administration, implementation and science.

Organizational Update

Website: NEW! Items are posted on the homepage. A mini calendar with scheduled meetings for the month is available on the homepage, you can select a full sized calendar, and also sign up for monthly emails. Hover your mouse pointer over these to get a pop-up of meeting details including location, time, and point of contact. If meeting details do not pop up when you hover your mouse over the calendar, then you have disabled your JavaScript.

The Calendar and Meetings menu will lead you to the detailed calendar, and a list of meeting materials and notes for the TMC and TRRP work groups. There is a link to the TAMWG website on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website.

- **Technical Work Groups:** Processes have now been standardized in a draft Workgroup Information Management plan. The pilot implementation of the plan has worked very well with standardized agendas and meeting notes that are posted on the website about 2 weeks after each meeting. (handout)
- **TMC Action Tracker:** Will be added to the Calendar and Meetings menu.
- **Riparian Ecologist:** reports this week!

Save the Date

- **2013 Trinity River Restoration Program Science Symposium**

The third Trinity River Restoration Program Science Symposium will be held in Weaverville, California, during the week of January 7, 2013. The event will be a forum for strategic planning for the Trinity River based on the outcomes of the Phase I Review and other timely results from 2012 studies.

Implementation Update

- **Channel Rehabilitation Projects:**

- o Phase I Review underway by Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) and support contractor Anchor QEA/Stillwater Sciences.
 - Completion of draft final report schedule for end of July 2012.
- o TMC approved implementation for Upper Junction City (UJC) and Lower Steiner Flat (LSF) for summer 2012.
- o Final design package for UJC and LSF being developed and vetted through the TRRP Design Team.
 - Final completion date is planned for May 31st, 2012.
- o Revegetation designs for UJC and LSF being developed by the Hoopa Valley Tribe and their design group.
 - Final completion date is planned for June 2012.
- o Conceptual designs for Indian Creek revegetation and bank naturalization project being developed in coordination with Design Team.
- o Construction of UJC and LSF scheduled to start mid June/early July 2012 through December 2012.

- **Environmental Compliance (Lower Steiner Flat and Upper Junction City):**

- o 30 day open comment period closed March 20th, 2012.
- o Formal responses will be developed over the next several weeks in conjunction with State Water Quality Control Board and BLM.

- **Infrastructure Related Projects:**

- o Bucktail Bridge Cost-Benefit Analysis under way by CH2M Hill in coordination with Design Team and Trinity County DOT.
- o Well Grant Program underway - 13 applicants have been received.
- o FEMA 100 yr. flood study underway by DWR/FEMA for the Trinity River; approximate release scheduled for fall 2012.

- **Gravel Augmentation: (handout)**

- o TMC approved based on recommendation from Physical Workgroup for no high flow gravel injection during 2012 flow release.

- **Watershed Projects:**

- o Five cooperative projects are being implemented in 2012.
- o TRRP Watershed Contributions, FY 2008-2012: \$1,934,000
- o Leveraged funds, FY 2008-2012: \$2,019,500

- **Phase 1 Review:**

- o Status, current timeline, and pending products.

Science Update

- Phase 1 review:
 - External technical review panel.
 - Onsite meeting for data requests.
- Sediment Monitoring: The final sediment monitoring report for water year 2011 is nearly complete. No sediment monitoring will occur in 2012 if it is a critically dry year. Very limited sediment monitoring is planned in 2012 if it is a dry year.
- Adult Salmonid Monitoring Review: an independent evaluation of the existing adult salmonid assessments is nearing completion.
- Performance Measures: 13 measures tracking aspects of the Trinity River, its ecology, and our restoration efforts have been posted on the TRRP website.
- Data Management and Utility Plan: the data team has produced a final draft document describing procedures for data infrastructure and sharing.
- Fiscal Year 2013 Science Work Plan: Investigation plans have been submitted for FY 2013.
 - 2013 projects – ongoing and new proposals
 - Success of proposal review process
- Sampling Design Workshop: Led to the refinement of existing assessments and the development of a comprehensive mechanical channel rehabilitation assessment.
- Peer Review: Four investigation plans and two draft reports are currently undergoing external peer review. A number of draft reports have been reviewed over the past six months and are now being revised.