



Trinity River Restoration Program

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NC-152

MEMORANDUM

TO: TMC Chair and Members

FROM: Jennifer Faler, Acting Executive Director
Trinity River Restoration Program

SUBJECT: Director's Report

DATE: May 25, 2011

This report discusses the major activities that have occurred in the Program since the April 2011 meeting. The Program office was focused almost entirely on implementation of the 2011 high flow releases.

Budget Update and Process

- Due to the number and duration of the 2011 continuing resolutions, several 2011 projects could not be implemented. These funds are available pre-fund some 2012 activities. The following projects are recommended for funding in 2012:
 - o Outmigrant monitoring (rotary screw traps)
 - o Geomorphic assessment (element of the Phase 2 plan)
 - o Wildlife monitoring
 - o Large wood and/or gravel supply

Science and Monitoring Update

We have continued to focus on executing independent reviews of Trinity River Restoration Program scientific study plans, technical reports and program areas.

The plan is to have study plans reviewed by independent experts before funding decisions are made. As a demonstration of this, 25 independent experts reviewed Fiscal Year 2012 investigation plans. Plans will be revised based on reviewer input.

Technical reports will also be reviewed by independent experts. An internal review will occur simultaneously. Following the review period an author will respond to comments and revise their report accordingly. As an example of this parallel external / internal review process, a draft report titled “2010 Bed-material Sediment Budget Update, Trinity River, Lewiston Dam to Douglas City, California” was just evaluated by an outside expert and physical work group members. The author will now respond to comments and update the report. It is anticipated that some reports will not require external review. For instance, the draft report titled “Photographic Monitoring of Channel Rehabilitation Sites on the Trinity River, California, 2007-2010” involves a simple approach and will simply be reviewed internally. Such proposed exemptions will be announced.

Upcoming reviews:

- DRAFT Temporal and Spatial Distribution of Chinook Salmon Redds in the Mainstem Trinity River 2002 to 2010
- Sub-program review: Adult Salmonid Monitoring Evaluation
 - o Goal: Determine the efficacy of the current extent/scope; field methodologies and statistical analyses used in the adult salmonid assessments in meeting the information needs of the Program.
 - o Elements: Run Size and harvest (Junction City and Willow Ck Weirs and Hatchery recovery project), Harvest (Hoopa, Yurok, Lower Klamath recreational, Lower Trinity recreational), Age Composition, Redd/Carcass Survey, Coded Wire Tagging, CWT recovery/decoding, Adult fish health.
 - o Lead reviewer: Mike Bradford, Fisheries and Oceans Canada.
 - o Support: Dave Hankin, Humboldt State University.

Implementation Update

- Successfully released 11,000 cfs
- New RIG Branch Chief!
- Minimal progress on Phase 1 review and Phase 2 planning
- Construction of Wheel Gulch Rehabilitation Site this summer
- Planning/Design on Upper Junction City, Lower Steiner Flat, and Hocker Flat ELJ
- Implementing 2011 watershed projects, planning 2012 watershed projects
- Designing and permitting Buckhorn Dam/Grass Valley Creek project for NCAO