



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: March 17, 2014

This report provides updates on all major Program activities since the December 2013 meeting. The most significant Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) activity since the December meeting was providing responses to the Water Quality Control Board on public comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment/Initial Study for the Trinity River 2014 Channel Rehabilitation Project sites.

Budget Update – The CR continued through January 15, 2014 but was extended for a short period until an omnibus bill was passed. The final TRRP budget corresponds to the projected budget approved by the TMC in September. Reclamation is migrating to the new DOI Financial and Budget Management System (FBMS) and we appreciate all partner and cooperator patience as we work with the new system. <http://www.doi.gov/pmb/fbms/overview/index.cfm>

Organizational Update

- The hiring freeze is still in effect but all waivers for TRRP vacancies have been approved.
- Logan Negherbon has joined the TRRP as the Civil Engineer for rehabilitation designs. He comes to us from the USACE WallaWalla District.
- A local college student has volunteered through the USFWS and Reclamation to fulfill a graduation requirement of 30 hours of drafting experience while benefitting the Program.
- The Interdisciplinary Team is meeting to help coordinate across technical work groups to meet specific information needs. With initiation of the Fish Production Model effort and upcoming implementation of the Phase 1 review recommendations, the IDT will be serving a new role. TMC partners are asked to consider who will represent them to augment and support the work group coordinators who comprise the IDT in this important effort.

Implementation Update

- 2014 Implementation is planned for Douglas City (upstream phase) and Lower Junction City Channel Rehabilitation Project Sites
- Phase II Planning/Analysis Quantitative Prioritization of Future Designs is Moving Forward - Coordination/Integration with Habitat Team and IDT
- Lower Junction City Design Completed Feb 2014 by Federal Design Group - Out for Bid Through the Yurok Tribe Watershed Department
- Bucktail Channel Rehabilitation Design at 90% by HVT Design Group - Project On-Hold - Pending Re-Design Based on Internal/External Comments
- Lower Junction City and Bucktail Projects Pending NEPA Environmental Clearance Before Moving Forward (In-Review by Water Quality Control Board)
- Dutch Creek Channel Rehabilitation Project at 30% Design Phase by State Design Group - Anticipated Implementation for 2015
- Hatchery Channel Rehabilitation Project at Conceptual Design Phase by Yurok Tribe Design Group - Anticipated Implementation for 2015
- Limekiln Gulch Channel Rehabilitation Project Removed from "On-Hold" 90% Status - Federal Design Group Working on Updating Analyses - Anticipated Implementation for 2015
- Bucktail Bridge NEPA Environmental Compliance Moving Forward - Trinity County DOT Looking for Funding Opportunities and Performing Right-of-Way Coordination
- Lorenz Gulch and Douglas City (downstream) Channel Rehab Projects Complete Including Revegetation (summer revegetation water maintenance is planned)

Science Update

- The Scientific Advisory Board is completing the *Review of Channel Rehabilitation Strategy, Phase 1*. The report presents initial data review and analyses compiled from information provided by the TRRP for Phase 1 projects only (2005-2010). The report and appendices were provided as drafts to the TRRP over the past 18 months to ensure that the SAB had not overlooked or misinterpreted information provided. The completed SAB review with recommendations for proceeding forward during Phase 2 will be released to the public shortly.
- The flow scheduling process has been adapted this year. In planning for water year 2014, the flow workgroup first assembled a portfolio of previously developed hydrograph alternatives. This portfolio includes the hydrographs that have been implemented since water year 2004 plus some flow schedules that were previously evaluated but not enacted. Concurrently, flow workgroup members developed new hydrographs options, in each case specifying the following: purpose; rationale; hypothesis / predicted response; effect on management targets; recommended modeling and technical analyses; monitoring; uncertainties / potential risks / confounding variables; and other constraints and management considerations. The portfolio of previously developed hydrographs and the newly developed options were combined to form an initial array of 24 alternatives considered for water year 2014.
- The gravel augmentation workgroup has been occupied with three related tasks: (1) developing 2014 gravel augmentation recommendation; (2) providing information to support a 5-year permit for period 2015-2020; (3) and refining/revising a long term

sediment plan. The 2014 recommendations will be shared later in the meeting. The other tasks will be reported on in the near future.

- In response to a SAB recommendation and technical staff requests, the Program is looking to streamline the internal review process of Program reports to disseminate findings more rapidly.

Public Outreach

- Website updates: <http://www.trrp.net/>

New! New River Access Point Now Open on Trinity River.

Video! Restoring – Adapting – Improving / TRRP Program Overview – 2013: [Click here to stream online](#) **OR** [here to download the full resolution to view on computer](#).

Current Info! You may subscribe to Automated Flow Release Notifications ([click here](#)).

- DSS demonstrations were held for the technical workgroups and the TMC/TAMWG on January 28 and 29, 2014. USGS DSS developers demonstrated the beta version of a functional DSS to allow TRRP technical staff the opportunity to ask questions about the development process, functionality, applications and compatibility of the DSS with other model modules that could include a fish production model.
- TRRP continues to fund development and printing of the Conservation Almanac.
- TRRP volunteers participated in the Water Conservation Workshop at Young Family Ranch on March 8, 2014. Outreach materials included a series of handouts for students that describe the concepts of water years, hydrographs, the importance of restorations flows to fish and riparian plant life histories, and the role of gravel and wood in promoting healthy fish populations. The formal information bulletins with technical details about water releases, gravel, and rehabilitation sites construction are available as hard copies in our office or online at <http://www.trrp.net/> though a Repository (ODP) search.

Save the Date

Monthly Coordination e-Mail: If you would like to be added to the TRRP e-mail list to receive this monthly update, please contact Deanna Jackson: dljackson@usbr.gov; 530-623-1800.

Calendar reminder: You can view upcoming events on the homepage or the calendar. <http://www.trrp.net/calendar/>