



## 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:** December 15, 2014

This report provides updates on all major Program activities since the September 2014 Trinity Management Council meeting. Five scientific reports and two remote sensing products were completed and posted on the Online Data Portal. Completion of the Lower Junction City site civil construction was directed by the Yurok Tribe. Revegetation of the construction site was completed with plans for revegetation of river left at in the vicinity of Hocker Flat for early 2015. Significant public outreach occurred with a public river float to various sites along the river where TRRP staff from across the partnership provided science briefs specific to the location. Detailed work group updates are included in the attached quarterly work group reports.

### Budget Update

The TRRP FY2015 budget projection has changed since the June 2015 proposed budget. Restoration funding is limited this year across the Mid-Pacific Region, however, \$980,000 was secured to fund the planned Limekiln project. A combination of very late assurance of 2014 Restoration Funds (RF) in April, and late award of the Douglas City civil construction contract resulted the need to separately fund the revegetation and irrigation components in 2015. A request was made for the balance of the 2014 funding to cover this effort.

A request for information regarding the use of Restoration Funds for activities beyond rehabilitation site construction was made to the RF Program Manager. RF are used to address adverse effects of the Central Valley Project. TRRP requests would have to outweigh other potential uses and justify why existing resources cannot address the need.

## Organizational Updates

- Robert Stewart joined the TRRP Weaverville staff on September 22, 2014 as the new physical scientist, hydraulic engineer, and is coordinating the Flow Work Group. He has been trained and will continue the monitoring of flows and temperatures related to water year projections.
- Linsey Walker assumed the TRRP Grants and Agreements Technician position on November 16, 2014 and is being trained in the complex array of funding agreements and contracts for the TRRP to expedite processing of 2015 agreements and contracts under the new Financial Business and Management System.
- Michele Gallagher will assume additional program level outreach responsibilities. This comes at an ideal time to accommodate the increased requests for TRRP outreach events.
- The TRRP fish biologist position was re-advertised and around 100 applications were received.

## Science Updates

- See handout of work group reports for science efforts.
- Landscape scaled climate assessments:
  - West-Wide Climate Risk Assessment  
Sacramento and San Joaquin Basins  
Climate Impact Assessment  
<http://www.usbr.gov/WaterSMART/wcra/docs/ssjbia/ssjbia.pdf>
  - Downscaled CMIP3 and CMIP5  
Climate and Hydrology Projections  
[http://gdo-dcp.ucllnl.org/downscaled\\_cmip\\_projections/](http://gdo-dcp.ucllnl.org/downscaled_cmip_projections/)

## Implementation Update

- TRRP staff are assisting Trinity County Transportation Department staff to develop a Federal Lands Access Program grant that will provide enhanced access to public lands for recreational purposes through the proposed single span bridge. The design of the new bridge would improve mitigation of Extremely Wet Year, Record of Decision Flows and also benefit the site design for the Bucktail Restoration Project.
- TRRP staff provided the California Water Quality Control Board (WQCB) and Army COE regulators with a review of the environmental analyses and measures TRRP takes to mitigate to less than significant effects on rivers, wetlands and riparian areas affected by the program's restoration activities. The Santa Rosa, California November 21, 2014 meeting discussed renewal of three 401 water quality certifications. The three permits will cover TRRP channel rehabilitation project construction activities, coarse sediment augmentation, and fine sediment management. Discharges of fill and dredged material are regulated under the Clean Water Act Section 401 and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act.

## Public Outreach

- **Science along the River:** The Collaborative Adaptive Management Network (CAMNet) and local host the Trinity River Restoration Program convened the sixth Rendezvous in Weaverville, California October 6-8, 2014. The event was made possible with support from the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program, ESSA Technologies Ltd., the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) Science and Technology Program, and participant registration fees. Participants came from British Columbia, California, Colorado, Florida, Missouri, Nebraska, Oregon, and Utah, and included adaptive management and collaboration practitioners, scientists, academics, students, natural resource managers, and policy makers from state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, universities, and the private sector. The river science float on October 7 was closely coordinated with a public float sponsored by the TRRP and organized by the RCD on October 7. Short technical presentations by technical experts conducting scientific monitoring and restoration implementation for the program were held at relevant locations along the river.
- <http://adaptivemanagement.net/content/camnet-rendezvous-2014>



- **Middle School Field Day:** TRRP technical staff from the Yurok Tribe, Hoopa Valley Tribe and Reclamation instructed middle school students from Douglas City School in restoration methods used for river channel, fish and wildlife, and riparian habitat enhancement during a field day at the newly completed Lower Junction City restoration site.
- **Channel Rehabilitation Workshop:** Trinity Management Council partners, their technical staff and the Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group (FACA committee) participated in a public workshop to review the current status of channel rehabilitation project planning, design and implementation. Workshop sessions include a review of Record of Decision tenets, how habitat assessments inform design, how and why design concepts have changed over time, and riparian corridor responses to changing revegetation methods. The workshop ended with next steps in implementation of the Scientific Advisory Board recommendations for development of the Fish Production Model as the keystone of the TRRP Decision Support System.

- Boy Scout Acorn Planting; TRRP staff with volunteers from Trinity County Boy and Girl Scout troops planted native vegetation at the Lorenz Gulch restoration site (mentioned above). More than a dozen scouts along with family members planted Oregon white oak acorns in an upland area roughly one acre in size. The acorns were collected locally by AmeriCorps Hoopa Tribal CCC members and scouts earned a conservation badge. Planted acorns were flagged to allow TRRP staff to track the success of the planting.

## **Publications and Reports**

Seven new TRRP and associated Trinity River items were posted on <http://odp.trrp.net/>

De Juilio, K., A. Martin, J. Alvarez, and D. H. Goodman. 2014. Age-0 Chinook and Coho salmon rearing habitat assessment: Sawmill rehabilitation site, three years after construction at winter base flow, upper Trinity River. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Arcata Fish and Wildlife Office, Arcata Fisheries Data Series Report Number DS 2014-37, Arcata, California.

Gaeuman, D. 2014. Analyses to support gravel augmentation recommendations for the Trinity River, California. Technical Report TR-TRRP-2014-1. Trinity River Restoration Program, Weaverville, CA.

Hoopa Valley Tribal Fisheries Department (HVTFD) and McBain Associates (MA). 2014. Water year 2013 Trinity River Restoration Program geomorphic and riparian monitoring report. Report including appendices. Hoopa Valley Tribal Fisheries Department, Hoopa, CA.

Petros, P., A. D. Heacock, and W. D. Pinnix. 2014. Juvenile salmonid monitoring on the mainstem Trinity River, California, 2013. Hoopa Valley Tribal Fisheries Department, Yurok Tribal Fisheries Program, and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arcata Fish and Wildlife Office. Arcata Fisheries Data Series Report Number DS 2014-38, Arcata, California.

Wheeler, C. A., J. B. Bettaso, D. T. Ashton, and H. H. Welsh Jr. 2014. Effects of water temperature on breeding phenology, growth, and metamorphosis of Foothill Yellow-legged Frogs (*Rana boylei*): a case study of the regulated mainstem and unregulated tributaries of California's Trinity River. Published online in Wiley Online Library: River Research and Applications, DOI: 10.1002/rra.2820.

Woolpert. 2014. Image acquisition [July 2014], Trinity River restoration project. Technical Project Report to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Trinity River Restoration Program. Woolpert, Englewood, CO.

Woolpert. 2014. Trinity River bathymetry, airborne laser data and photogrammetric DTM site specific update. Report to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP). Woolpert, Inc., Englewood, CO.

## **Save the Date**

- Trinity Management Council meeting dates for 2015 will be determined during the December 17-18, 2014 meeting: You can view upcoming events on the homepage calendar. <http://www.trrp.net/calendar/>