



Trinity River Restoration Program

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NC-150

MEMORANDUM

To: TMC

From: Caryn Hunt DeCarlo, Executive Director
Trinity River Restoration Program

Subject: Director's Report

Date: December 6, 2017

Major TRRP activities between September and December 2017 focused on Program efforts to develop a draft technical white paper for winter variable flows and a proposed hydrograph. Another major Program activity included completion of the Sheridan Deep Gulch rehabilitation project construction, the largest rehabilitation project constructed in the Program to date. In addition, Program-wide interviews were held by the contractor for the Trinity River Restoration Program Refinements and a Final Summary Report of the interviews was completed. Extensive efforts occurred to identify Partner priority uses for FY18 funding that had not yet been designated. Details of these activities follow.

Organizational Updates

Civil Engineering Technician/Construction Manager: Dan Nordstrom, Construction Manager for TRRP, was selected for a promotion in Reclamation's Northern California Area Office (NCAO) in a Planner and Scheduler position. Dan has worked in the restoration Program since 2013 overseeing several rehabilitation construction projects. Some minor changes to the position description were requested and it is currently under review by HR. The position is expected to be flown in January.

Civil Engineer: TRRP is expecting to fill this position in 2018.

Secretary: Maggie James has accepted a promotion position in Reclamation's Regional Office in Sacramento. She has been a valuable asset to TRRP during her 6 month tenure. Recruitment for this position has initiated and the position will be flown in early January.

Hydraulic Engineer/Physical Scientist: A selection has been made and an offer is pending.

Volunteer: Kanta Kano, Japanese college intern, completed his three months tenure with TRRP mid-November. The Executive Director appreciates all who welcomed Kanta and spent significant personal time including him in a host of American activities that made his stay very welcome.

Science Update

The focus in the last quarter has been on development of a draft technical white paper for justification of the variable winter flows. Additionally, the Science Coordinator has worked with the Executive Director on budget discussions and science priorities within the Program in effort to assess the current science program through reporting, providing transparency, and integrating management actions and science.

Attachments

Appendix I: Technical Work Groups (WG) briefings

Appendix II: Timeline for synthesis reports which were approved for TMC FY18 budget.

Implementation Update

Junction City House: The small house at 391 River Acres Road which was discussed with the TMC previously is currently off market. There is likely some damage to infrastructure which needs to be repaired prior to relisting. If the TMC is interested in pursuing acquisition of the house, program staff will reinitiate contact with the realtor. The house remains the last major piece of infrastructure constraining releases of maximum fisheries flows. Flow modeling by Denver TSC is being undertaken to identify the flow rate at which the foundation of the house begins to be inundated; it is likely in the range of 18,000 cfs, so removing it would provide a potential for an additional 5,000 cfs to be released for geomorphic benefits if ROD releases coincide with a major spring storm.

Site enhancement (revisits): A subgroup of the Design WG has compiled a list of features and areas where relatively minor investment could result in significant habitat benefits for anadromous fish and riparian wildlife. The subgroup will reconvene in mid-December to begin developing a cost/benefit analysis framework for ranking potential revisit sites.

Bucktail Channel Rehabilitation Site: John Ivanish, a landowner where a portion of the Bucktail project was constructed in 2016, approached the TMC at the September meeting about his perception that a portion of his property was inundated longer this year, and that he believed this was a product of the construction of the side channel/wetland complex. This impedes access to feed his horses for a time, and he would like Reclamation to pursue a remedy. Upon consultation with the DOI Solicitor's Office, it was determined that the realty agreement with the landowner does provide for damages if in fact the channel rehabilitation work has caused harm to him. Program staff have worked with BLM and Mr. Ivanish to apply for a right-of-way across BLM land in order to access that side of his parcel as an interim solution. Mike Dixon is working with Reclamation geology staff out of the Mid Pacific Regional Office who are investigating the degree to which the longer duration of inundation is a product of solely of river stage because of the extremely wet year, of construction of the side channel complex, or some combination thereof to determine whether or not the TRRP is responsible for the problem. Staff from the HVT Design Team/McBain Associates (who designed the site) are assisting in this effort.

Deep Gulch/Sheridan Creek Channel Rehabilitation Site: An exceptional level of worksite coordination and efficiency led to the project being completed in a single season. In-channel work was completed by our September 30 deadline following a 2-week extension due to the fire delay. Construction of the site is essentially complete as of 20 November including the bulk of revegetation. While not conducted without

hiccups, this was the largest channel rehabilitation site ever constructed by the TRRP. Numerous novel approaches were incorporated, including building large wood features around live trees and constructing infiltration galleries for off-channel habitat features to ensure hyporheic connectivity and function if the surface water connection were to be compromised by channel evolution. Program office staff conducted an After Action Review on 08 November and will schedule an additional review with involved partners following completion

Dutch Creek Channel Rehabilitation Site: DWR has updated their 30% report in response to comments received from the Design WG; we hope to have an 80% design early in CY18. Enough detail is present in the design to facilitate the development of most of the NEPA review, which is in process. The project is planned for construction in 2019.

Sky Ranch Channel Rehabilitation Site: The Design WG held a meeting to develop initial objectives and brainstorm conceptual designs for this site on 28 November. A conceptual design report is anticipated in mid-January. At present, the intent is to advance this design through a value engineering study by mid CY18 in tandem with the adjacent Oregon Gulch site.

Compliance

Deep Gulch and Sheridan Creek: The turbidity report for this project is being prepared for submission to the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board.

FEMA - Conditional Letters of Map Revision (CLOMRs)

Deep Gulch-Sheridan Creek (DG-SC): Trinity County received the DG-SC CLOMR on 14 August 2017 approximately 9 months after submittal.

FEMA - Letters of Map Revision (LOMRs)

Lower Junction City (LJC), Upper Douglas City (UDC), and Limekiln Gulch (LKG): Trinity County submitted the LJC Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) to FEMA on August 25, 2017 using the online Letter of Map Change tool. Notification that the LJC LOMR request was received arrived from FEMA on September 1, 2017. These LOMRs are denoted as “prior to map update” LOMRs. FEMA responded to the LJC submittal, essentially stating that the public notification procedures were inadequate per the requirements of flood map revision. Program and Trinity County staff responded that this is project that was completed prior to flood map revision and implementation of the new policies, but FEMA is holding firm. It is likely that additional notifications, potentially including a public meeting, will be required to notify the public of our changes in the flood map, in spite of the fact that it already happened.

Bucktail: The Bucktail project LOMR is the first TRRP Project to be constructed after adoption of the map update. The CLOMR was received from FEMA on September 17, 2016. TSC staff are completing HEC-RAS modeling on as-built survey data and are working with Trinity County and TRRP office staff to submit the LOMR application; it will likely be submitted prior to the end of 2017.

USFWS and NMFS Biological Assessment (BA) updates to reinitiate ESA Section 7

Reclamation Regional contracting staff determined that work on the Biological Assessments was out of the scope of the existing contract with our current environmental contractor. Work to address agency review comments on earlier draft BAs has been financially supported via collaboration with the County. Additional work required on these draft BAs will be contracted by Reclamation under a separate environmental services contract.

Public Outreach Update

Website

- *November 2017* – Interactive features continue to be developed for the TRRP website by Data Steward Eric Peterson

Publications and Education Materials

- *September 2017* – Provided an article for the Conservation Almanac Fall 2017 newsletter on the methodology and need for monitoring salmon populations in the Trinity River basin
- *September 2017* – Eureka Times-Standard article on the Deep Gulch and Sheridan Creek project
- *TRRP Annual Report*: The report is finalized and hard copies will be available by the end of the year.

Public Events and Environmental Education

- *September 20-22, 2017* – TRRP supported the Environmental Camp at Bar 717 where Weaverville students explored and learned about the natural world
- *October 14, 2017* – Salmon Festival – TRRP sponsored the annual fall salmon festival in Weaverville and provided information on Trinity River restoration
- *October 26, 2017* – TRRP Spawning Day at Trinity River Hatchery for students from Lewiston Elementary School
- *November 28, 2017* – TRRP Data Steward Eric Peterson gave presentations to the group Fly Fishers of Davis and to a group from California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Public and Informational Meetings

- *November 30, 2017* – Public information meeting on the proposed winter variable flow recommendations was held at the TRRP office

Landowner and One-on-one Meetings

- Throughout the construction process, TRRP staff met with local landowners in the office, on the construction site, and in their homes to answer questions and address concerns
- Prior to de-mobilization of the Deep Gulch and Sheridan Creek construction project, TRRP staff provided landowners an opportunity to tour the site and speak with project managers

Trinity River Restoration Program Refinements

Chad Smith and Bridget Barron of Headwaters Corporation have completed tasks 1-3 of the Refinements contract (Summarize Program Goals and Objectives and TRRP Interviews). Chad and Bridget attended the September TMC meeting and will be presenting at the December TMC meeting via phone. Chad held a Coordination Team Meeting teleconference November 27.

Following are contract Tasks and status of each.

Tasks 1-2: Review of Key TRRP Documents - COMPLETED

Deliverable: Summarize Program Goals and Objectives

Status: Final Report complete and submitted to Reclamation Contract Officer

Task 3: TRRP Interviews – COMPLETED

Deliverable: Summary of Interview Responses

Status: Held face-to-face interviews for September 19-27 as well as phone interviews. Review Draft of report to Coordination Team in October 2017, prepared Final Summary Report of TRRP Interviews.

Task 4: Summarize Strengths and Weaknesses of TRRP Organizational Structure

Deliverable: Strengths and Weaknesses Summary

Status: December 2017 and January 2018

Task 5: Present Strengths & Weaknesses Document to Coordination Team and Develop Actionable Recommendations for Program Refinements

Deliverables: Draft Report with Actionable Items and Summary Power Point Presentation

Status: January 2018

Task 6: Facilitate Discussion among TMC, TAMWG, and TRRP on Actionable Items/Power Point Presentation/Final Report

Deliverable: Final Report

Status: February-May 2018, including meeting with TRRP for one-day workshop in Weaverville (to be scheduled) to facilitate discussion on Program refinement recommendations

Task 7: Remain Available to Assist with Oversight & Implementation of Recommendations

Deliverables: Quarterly Status Reviews and meetings minutes, final presentation on status of recommended Program refinements

Status: June 2018-May 2019, including quarterly conference calls/webinars with the Coordination Team and final presentation to TRRP in May 2019

TRRP Budget

The Executive Director, Science Coordinator and Implementation Branch Chief met with all 8 Program Partners to determine highest priority and budget strategies for the remaining FY18 TRRP budget funding not yet designated by TMC for specific use. A ranked priority list was developed to be presented at the December TMC meeting for a vote to allocate the remaining funds.

The Program's GMA contract for geomorphic tasks is a five year contract set to expire in August 2019. The remaining funds on the contract exceed \$500,000. This contract covers the sediment monitoring that has been implemented throughout the years in the Program. Sediment monitoring was included in the FY17 Science Work Plan proposals, and did not score high enough to be funded with FY17 funds. In hindsight, because this contract and funding was already in place, the sediment monitoring should likely not have been included in the FY17 Science Work Plan. However, there was value to having the proposal go through internal and external reviews which identified suggested revisions to strengthen the proposal. The Executive Director has decided that in order for the Program not to lose the remaining

funding on the grant through deobligation of unspent funds that the sediment monitoring should occur in FY18 and FY19 if the recommended hydrographs warrant it. Additionally, the Science Coordinator will coordinate the revision of the proposal to meet TRRP priorities and objectives through the work group process.

Publications and Reports:

- CDFW (California Department of Fish and Wildlife). 2017. [Klamath River basin fall chinook salmon spawner escapement, in-river harvest and run-size estimates, 1978-2016](#). CDFW, Arcata, California.
- Peterson, E. B. 2017. **Aerial Photography from 1960 Orthorectified and a Digital Surface Model Derived with Structure-from-Motion Photogrammetry**. Report for the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP). TRRP, Weaverville, California.
Available: <http://www.trrp.net/library/document?id=2327>.
- Pryor, C. 2017. **2017 Trinity River focal reach 4-band orthophotography report**. Report for the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) under U.S. Bureau of Reclamation contract R14PC00122. GMA Hydrology, Arcata, California.
Available: <http://www.trrp.net/library/document?id=2328>.

Data Packages:

- GMA (GMA Hydrology, Inc.). 2017. **2017 Trinity River focal reach 4-band orthophotography**. Data Package for the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) under U.S. Bureau of Reclamation contract R14PC00122. GMA Hydrology, Arcata, California.
Available: <http://www.trrp.net/library/data?id=103>.
- Peterson, E. B. 2017. **Aerial photography from 1960 orthorectified with Structure-from-Motion photogrammetry**. Data Package for the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) Trinity River Restoration Program, Weaverville, California.
Available: <http://www.trrp.net/library/data?id=102>.
- Peterson, E. B. 2017. **Digital Surface Model (DSM) from 1960 aerial photography processed with Structure-from-Motion photogrammetry (TIFF format)**. Data Package for the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) TRRP, Weaverville, California.
Available: <http://www.trrp.net/library/data?id=101>.

Appendix I: Technical Workgroup Briefings

December 2017

Updates have been prepared by the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) technical workgroup (WG) coordinators for the Trinity Management Council.

Workgroup: Design

Coordinator: Mike Dixon

The Design WG met on October 11 and discussed a broad suite of topics. Significant conversation occurred regarding clarifying the process for design development, and on refining the metrics that are used to develop design objectives, compare alternatives, and evaluate features; ad hoc subgroups will be further exploring and making recommendations on both of those topics. The State team shared an update on how comments on the Dutch Creek 30% design report were addressed. The HVT team provided an overview of how they have assessed the contribution of features in the current design to meeting biological and geomorphic objectives, and presented a novel phased approach to implementing that project in light of cost, land ownership, and construction constraints. The concept of "revisits" was discussed, and a subgroup will be developing criteria to evaluate limited-scope proposals that will improve or repair existing features. The Federal team presented a detailed conceptual design for the Sky Ranch, which prompted extensive discussion. A Design WG meeting is planned for November 28 to develop objectives and additional conceptual designs for Sky Ranch.

Workgroup: Flow

Coordinator: Andreas Krause

The Flow Workgroup has drafted a white paper to support the Supplemental Information Report (SIR) under development by Reclamation regarding potential flow releases above winter baseflows between February and April. A technical recommendation for WY18 flow releases during the February to April time period has also been developed for consideration by the TMC at the December meetings.

Workgroup: Watershed

Coordinator: Eric Wiseman

The Watershed WG met on October 26. A new coordinator, Eric Wiseman, was selected. There was a brief discussion of the importance of prescribed fire and fuels management in watershed health, and the remainder of the meeting was devoted to revisions to the funding opportunity announcement (FOA) for FY18 watershed projects. Mike Dixon presented the watershed priorities talk that he gave to TMC in September to kick off the discussion. Several adjustments were made to each category of points allocation in the project rankings to make point allocations less subjective and to help ensure that the WG is receiving proposals that are likely to actually benefit anadromous fish. The WG also quickly reached consensus on 3 priorities which have access to 10/100 points for project ranking: projects to benefit either habitat connectivity or sediment management in the Weaver Creek or Browns Creek basins, and projects that will improve summer/fall low flows. The revised FOA is now in review with Reclamation.

Workgroups that did not meet in last quarter:

Physical
Wildlife/Riparian
Fish

Coordinator: Wes Smith
Coordinator: James Lee
Coordinator: Todd Buxton

Appendix II:
Timeline for Synthesis Reports
(TMC Approved in FY18)

Project	Brief Title	Proposed Completion Date
TRRP-2018-007	Juvenile Chinook Production	FY17
TRRP-2018-018	Bed Mobility and Scour	FY18: 3 rd Quarter
TRRP-2018-022	Sediment Storage	FY18: 4 th Quarter
TRRP-2018-033	Large Wood Management	FY18: 4 th Quarter
TRRP-2018-019	Cottonwood Seed Dispersal	FY18: 4 th Quarter
TRRP-2018-021	Riparian Encroachment	FY18: 4 th Quarter
TRRP-2018-011	Adult Salmon Spawning	FY19: 2 nd Quarter
TRRP-2018-002	Tributary Delta	FY19: 2 nd Quarter
TRRP-2018-003	Fish Habitat	FY19: 2 nd Quarter
TRRP-2018-009	Cohort Reconstruction	FY19: 2 nd Quarter
TRRP-2018-025	Channel Complexity	FY19: 2 nd Quarter
TRRP-2018-032	Water Temperature	FY20: 1 st Quarter
TRRP-2018-027	Fine Sediment	FY20: 4 th Quarter