



Trinity River Restoration Program

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NC-150

MEMORANDUM

To: TMC

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

Subject: Director's Report

Date: December 6, 2018

Major TRRP activities between September and December 2018 include: Multiple staff continued to work on environmental compliance, permitting, cost estimating, and contract development for both Dutch Creek and Chapman Ranch Phase A projects. A public meeting was held on the Chapman Ranch project with the issuance of the EA for the project for the public comment period. The work of developing and processing the Program's large workload of contracts, interagency agreements, grants, and tribal agreements is ongoing. Staff throughout the Program have been coordinating and working diligently on the various Program synthesis reports and most Workgroups have furthered their science metrics objectives and targets.

The IDT made important progress on leadership aspects of the science work of the Program. As ED I would like to extend appreciation to both Mike Dixon and Nick Som for their volunteerism and efforts in this realm during the Science Coordinator vacancy.

Organizational Updates

- Robert Franklin has retired from the Hoopa Valley Tribe. Robert came to the Trinity in 1978, first as a fly fisher and HSU student, then in 1986 as a private consultant pitching spawning channel designs to the Trinity Task Force. In 1989 he joined Hoopa Tribal Fisheries as a Hydrologist. Robert was part of the conceptualization of an expanded Flow Study that successfully brought fluvial geomorphology and adaptive management into view alongside other aspects of environmental flows. Together with scientists from academia as well as tribal, federal, and state agencies, they authored the Trinity River Flow Evaluation Study Final Report, then followed through with the NEPA process (EIS and ROD) and litigation.

Robert shared he is most proud to have served the Hoopa Valley Tribe in their fight to restore a healthy Klamath-Trinity river system and a meaningful exercise of their fishing rights. He says he is a better man for having worked alongside Hoopa Tribal leaders

including Mike Orcutt, and because of the spiritual values and wisdom imparted to him by individual tribal members and Hupa families.

Robert states: Something close to 30 years well spent.

Caryn states: I remain in awe of Robert's institutional knowledge and contributions that from the beginning, have helped shaped the Trinity River's restoration.

- TRRP Science Coordinator: DOI (Reclamation and FWS) are coordinating on discussions to fill the vacancy.
- Linsey Walker has been selected as the Program's Indian Self-Determination Specialist. Linsey has been working in the position in several details over the past year. She has done a tremendous job navigating 638 tribal agreements for tribal work with three Area Offices and the Regional Office of Native American Affairs (NAA) Program. Linsey has developed relationships with tribal staff who work with the Area Offices, as well as those that work with the Regional Office Program. Linsey will continue assisting with the TRRP budget. As ED I feel fortunate to have Linsey in a permanent position with our TRRP team and servicing the Region's NAA tribal agreements and coordination.
- The geomorphologist position that was held by Andreas Krause with the Yurok Tribe is in the second round of recruitment; it is anticipated a selection will be made soon.
- USFWS has a couple of vacant TRRP positions, however recently provided substantial additional Program support on Workgroup participation and has involved additional staff.

Science Update

During the interim until the Science Coordinator vacancy is filled, the following staff are covering some of the needed science duties: Nick Som will be filling in with Mike Dixon leading IDT, Eric Peterson and Nick Som will be coordinating Program report/study peer reviews, Caryn will be tracking Synthesis Reports and Workgroup TMC updates/reporting, Mike Dixon and Nick Som will be tracking TMC Workgroup metric objectives and targets updates/reporting, and Eric Peterson will be coordinating deliverables within the Program.

Workgroup (WG) Summaries *(Full briefing reports are located in Appendix I)*

Riparian and Aquatic Ecology (Lee): The newly established WG held its first-ever meeting and James Lee was selected as Coordinator. Dutch Creek and Chapman rehab project revegetation designs are nearing completion. Synthesis reports are ongoing. Modeling work is being done for prediction of cottonwood and willow recruitment for the hydrograph, targeting of selected surfaces to model recruitment in WY19, and Foothill yellow-legged frog production.

Fish (Lindke): Good progress has been made on the WG objectives/targets, including a Nick Som presentation on habitat modeling generating a productive discussion on the juvenile salmonid habitat objective and target. The WG will start coordinating with the TRRP habitat team and the Physical WG to discuss various overlapping objectives and metrics/targets. WG members continue to work on TRRP field projects and synthesis reports.

Design (Dixon): The Design Team was presented updates from each design group with good progress being made by individual groups for Chapman Ranch, Dutch Creek, Sky Ranch, and Oregon Gulch projects. The team reviewed and identified feedback of a draft design report outline which has a goal of common expectations for all design groups on what information is included and on which milestones. Discussion identified insights on how the Habitat Team project work can better inform design development and evaluation.

Flow (Buxton): Technical concepts were finalized in a memo and submitted to Reclamation CVO for suggested changes to how reservoir Safety of Dams releases could be scheduled to increase benefits to the Trinity River ecosystem. Considerations were discussed for scheduling diurnal flow variability and specific hydrograph components in the WY19 flow release and the associated modeling table was updated.

Watershed (Wiseman): The Watershed WG is awaiting the watershed grant solicitation process. The Watershed Restoration Funding Opportunity Announcement was scheduled to open for proposals in early October, but is delayed by new DOI processes. It is possible this solicitation won't be able to be implemented this year and the Program will need to re-program the \$500k in TMC-approved funding.

Physical (Smith/Shea): Conor Shea of FWS has been selected as the new coordinator. The WG worked on gravel augmentation, sediment monitoring, habitat modeling inputs from the SRH-2D model, and objectives and metrics/targets.

Synthesis Reports (*Appendix II: Synthesis Reports Tracking and Estimated Completion Dates*)

As ED taking over the tracking of synthesis reports during SC vacancy, I'd like to report Program staff and consultants are doing a tremendous amount of work and coordination on the reports.

Changes in proposed completion dates of reports appear valid. Original plan proposals in several cases assumed much earlier start dates than when funding became available. For example, tribal AFA funding was significantly delayed for both Tribes with proposals submitted in early 2017 not receiving funding until May/June 2018, nearly a year and a half after schedule estimates were developed. Changes in Principal Investigator staff leaving their positions, combined with several long-term ongoing vacancies and associated staff unavailability, also affected timelines.

Reporting indicates pending improvement on the staffing issues that affect timelines. Approximately 75% of the reports will be finalized within less than 9 months of the original early proposed schedules. Positive progress is occurring on all reports and is expected to continue.

SAB Formulation:

To further develop the roles and responsibilities of SAB members and based on the initial input provided by current SAB members, a survey was sent to all TRRP Workgroup and IDT members. There were 21 respondents to the survey with 17 questions. IDT has requested to assess the results of this survey and develop Program recommendations for TMC. Jenny Norris will continue to facilitate this process, as well as reach out to TMC members for their input, and provide the Program's recommendations at the April TMC meeting.

To provide SAB coverage in the interim while a new SAB is being established, the Executive Director has extended 2 of the 3 current SAB member contracts and is hoping to be able to extend the third. Funding previously approved for new SAB members for FY19 will be reprogrammed for in FY19 and will be added to the FY20 budget for the new SAB agreements.

Program Science Metrics Objectives and Targets

As discussed in the WG updates, various Program Workgroups have continued to work on development of their resource area's objectives and targets. An IDT meeting led by Mike Dixon was held in October and during which WG Coordinators and Program staff worked through development of a cohesive Program-wide approach for this effort. Mike issued a memorandum documenting the agreements. Further discussion occurred in a second IDT meeting on November 29 coordinated by Mike and Nick Som. At that meeting, the relative progress of different Workgroups to refining their objectives was discussed. It was decided that, by the end of the second quarter of FY19, all Workgroups would a) have identified and justified recommendations of objectives to be dropped; b) have settled on revised objectives and targets for those metrics on which there is agreement; and c) have triaged and identified highest priorities of objectives for which targets need to be identified through consensus, and identified those objectives for which we do not yet have the science to justify specific targets.

It was also decided that the list of targets for which status measurements are available will be brought to TMC in September as a demonstration of objectives assessment and work planning.

IDT Proposal Regarding Targeted Science Work Plan

Many people in the TRRP believe that the scientific evidence over the last 18 years indicates that continuing to apply channel rehabilitation, gravel augmentation, and tributary restoration will not be sufficient to restore salmon numbers to pre-dam levels under the status-quo flow regime; please note, at a minimum, HVT does not agree with this statement, per George Kautsky. An enormous amount of effort and conversation has gone into justifying changes to flow management, particularly emphasizing fall/winter/early spring flows. For example:

- Literature suggests that winter/early spring flow variability would increase drift forage feeding opportunities. Analysis of a first year study is ongoing; a second year has been proposed.

- Modeling supports increased juvenile chinook capacity if flow volumes increase in winter
- Increased base flow in fall would add spawning area and potentially decrease superimposition.

Additionally, some have hypothesized that the above-natural summer flows adversely impact salmonids from a variety of angles, including:

- Long duration of cool temperatures prolongs in-river time and may result in outmigration at a time of year when lower Klamath conditions are hostile to smolts.
- High, cold flows in summer may reduce growth rates of juveniles.
- Persistent high, cold flows likely cause shifts in invertebrate assemblages with unknown consequences for stream ecology.
- Existing flow and temperature targets may adversely impact spring chinook by encouraging them to hold and spawn lower in the river where they hybridize with fall chinook.

If our Program is to someday propose a policy change to our flow management (regardless of water source) and subject it to NEPA analysis, we need to make a robust scientific argument that will stand up to intense scrutiny. So, the Workgroups propose to prioritize determining:

- What key data needs are necessary to decide if/how to modify our flow release schedule: i.e. whether to add fall/winter baseflow, increase flow variability, or change our summer flow patterns and temperature targets;
- Which of those data needs are being addressed through ongoing work (current research, synthesis reporting, etc.); and
- What is outstanding.

To the TMC: Upon a review of the three last bullet items: *Shall the Workgroups, through IDT, propose a targeted science work plan aimed at soliciting proposals to answer the outstanding flow management questions?* Such proposals could be solicited, reviewed, and shelved to be ready for implementation upon availability of funding. **TMC Decision Item.**

Implementation Update

Junction City House: A draft agreement to fund potential improvements to the house at 391 River Acres Road to remove it from the fisheries flow inundation line is in the queue for Solicitor review.

Hamilton Pond Dredging: A biological opinion was received from NMFS on September. 20. Damon Goodman (USFWS) and Stewart Reid (Western Fishes) worked during the week of September 24 to implement their strategy of manipulating pond elevations to encourage lamprey ammocoetes to vacate the sand flats that they were inhabiting. After several attempts, it was apparent that the lamprey were not interested in leaving. Staff from the TRRP office, DWR, and the Yurok Tribe met with Damon and Stewart on site on September 27 to discuss options and

agreed upon a possible strategy to relocate the lamprey; if that did not work, only the area of exposed sand would be excavated. However, after further internal discussion, USFWS determined that there was no way to mitigate lamprey mortality to an acceptable level and sent a memo to TMC requesting to suspend dredging of the Hamilton Ponds. After extensive discussion, the ED determined to forego dredging of the pond this fall.

Chapman Ranch Channel Rehabilitation Site: The Chapman Ranch Phase A environmental assessment opened for public comment on November 20. An open house format public meeting was held on November 28 in Junction City to cover the design, timeline, and process for comment. Some or all of the project is planned for implementation in 2019.

Dutch Creek Channel Rehabilitation Site: The administrative draft Environmental Assessment is in agency review. A public draft is expected to be released for comment on December 21. The project was discussed at the November 28 public meeting in Junction City.

TRRP staff met with BLM, USFS, and Reclamation archaeologists recently to discuss slightly expanding the river right spoils area at Dutch Creek; the agencies had no concerns. This will allow us to spoil all excavated material on river right, saving an enormous number of river crossings and substantially reducing the impacts on mature forest on river left.

It is hoped that the project will clear compliance hurdles in time for implementation in summer of 2019; otherwise it will be built in 2020.

Sky Ranch Channel Rehabilitation Site: Design development has continued; a 60% design report is anticipated in late January. Program staff met with BLM recreation staff in November to discuss their guidance on how/where to replace the boat launch at that location and how to leave an area out of the floodplain for the construction of additional public facilities. NEPA for this project, likely analyzed together with Oregon Gulch, may begin in 2019.

Oregon Gulch Channel Rehabilitation Site: Same status as Sky Ranch; see above.

Other Compliance

FEMA

A CLOMR for Chapman Ranch Phase A should be filed on December 20.

It was determined in a discussion with TSC, Program Office staff, and Trinity County's floodplain administrator that, because the Dutch Creek Project will be entirely on federal land and will not impact any structures, a county floodplain development permit will not be required and thus the CLOMR for that project is not time sensitive. It will likely be submitted in late January after the close of the public draft EA.

There are no significant updates to report regarding filing of Letters of Map Revision with FEMA during this quarter.

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

A contract was awarded to Hamer Environmental for the completion of draft biological assessments that will cover all program activities excluding flows. The Project Manager for the Program's new fish and wildlife biological assessments (BAs) visited Weaverville for some overview presentations and field tours of gravel augmentation and processing sites, past channel rehab sites, and past and future watershed project sites. We should be formally submitting BAs to USFWS and NMFS by this time next year.

Public Outreach Update

Publications and Education Materials

- September 2018: Article published in Trinity County Fall *Conservation Almanac* Fall newsletter on Trinity River fish monitoring methods
- TRRP Annual Report: The 2017 report is finalized and available on the TRRP website

Public Events and Environmental Education

- September 12-13, 2018: TRRP supported the Environmental Camp at Bar 717 to provide watershed education and stewardship to area youth
- September 22, 2018: TRRP staff participation and support in the USFS River Clean-Up
- October 13, 2018: TRRP sponsored the annual fall Salmon Festival in Weaverville and provided information on Trinity River restoration
- October 16, 2018: TRRP River Days environmental education event with students from Trinity Center and Coffee Creek schools
- December 1, 2018: TRRP sponsored River Restoration booth at Weaverville Art Cruise

Public Informational Meetings

- November 28, 2018: Public meeting on the proposed channel rehabilitation projects planned in the Junction City area

Landowner and Other Public One-on-One Meetings

- TRRP staff continue to meet with local landowners near proposed future projects to answer questions, address concerns and develop agreements

Upcoming

- TRRP is coordinating with Program agency partners to announce the draft EA/IS on the proposed Dutch Creek project

TRRP Budget

In the March 2018 TMC quarterly meeting it was agreed that the Executive Director would present any changes to the approved budgets at each quarterly meeting and new items would require TMC approval.

FY19 Budget Updated: Budget changes since the September 2018 TMC meeting include:

Program Administration FY19 Budget

- \$50,000 placeholder estimate for Refinements facilitator contract. Amount will depend upon how many meeting TMC decides to hold.

Implementation and Watershed FY19 Budget

- Increase in BA contract for FY19 from \$0 to \$39,157. The contract came in at this amount higher than the FY18 \$75,000 estimate and must be fully funded at the bid award amount.
- Funds available for construction projects changed from \$4,500,000 to \$4,240,228. The change includes moving funds out of construction to other line items as approved in the September TMC meeting, and addition of funds from line items no longer being funded.

Science FY19 Budget

- It was planned, and funding approved by TMC in the amount of \$115,000, for 5 new SAB agreements in FY19. Jenny Norris is leading efforts to facilitate a Program recommendation for SAB roles and responsibilities. Thus far SAB have provided their input and a Program-wide survey was implemented. Next steps are TMC input and IDT development of recommendations to be provided to TMC in April. These steps can't be accomplished in time for FY19 funding obligation, so SAB will be funded in FY20 and the \$115,000 has been removed from the FY19 budget.
- Due to fairly significant changes in Indirect rates of entities being funded for Science project **Monitor Redd Distribution**, the actual amount of funding for this project has changed from \$205,605 to \$225,518.
- An additional \$36,000 has been added to the Science project **Channel Rehab Effectiveness Monitoring - habitat**. This funding was targeted in the Investigation Plan for the Reclamation Denver Technical Service Center (TSC) and listed as a FWS contract. The funds were not obligated in FY18 due, I believe, to confusion between FWS and Reclamation on which one was funding it with TSC. The work is required to be done for the project to be completed, and as ED am recommending adding it to the FY19 budget.
- Two science projects approve by TMC in the September TMC meeting pending IDT approval have been added to the Science budget as placeholders pending peer reviews. This includes **Channel Rehab Effectiveness Monitoring – habitat** at \$175,000 and **Macroinvertebrate Drift** at \$174,885.

Potential Need for Reprogramming FY19 Approved Funds:

Several approved funding items remain uncertain whether they will be able to be funded in FY 19. At a minimum, this includes \$500,000 watershed funds that may not be able to be obligated due to new DOI procedures that may prevent obligation of funds by the end of the FY. The Junction City House \$200,000 is expected to be approved by the Solicitor, but it is uncertain. The combination of Rehab Projects - Dutch Creek and part of Chapman Phase A or Chapman Phase A only - could affect the amount of construction funds to be expended. There are never assurances that all proposed contracts and agreements will be executed. The ED has prepared a list of potential options for TMC approval for reprogramming funds if it becomes necessary.

FY2020 Budget formulation: Mike, Caryn, and Linsey will develop the proposed 2020 budget and plan to meet with each TMC entity to discuss prior to the April 2019 TMC meeting.

Trinity River Restoration Program Refinements

The planned first meeting of the Refinements recommendations implementation discussions was set for December 5, 2018 in Redding. However, on December 1 an executive order was issued declaring a National Day of Mourning and closing the government on December 5. The meeting was cancelled and will be rescheduled for TMC and the contract facilitator, Mike Harty.

Chad Smith and Bridget Barron of Headwaters Corporation have completed tasks 1-6 of the Refinements contract. Chad provided the Final Report TRRP Refinements November 28, 2018.

Following are Refinement 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 September 19-27 as well as phone interviews. Review Draft report to Coordination Team October 2017, prepared Final TRRP Interviews Summary Report.

Task 4: Summarize Strengths / Weaknesses of TRRP Organizational Structure – **COMPLETED**

Deliverable: Strengths and Weaknesses Summary Review Draft prepared and provided to Coordination Team for comments.

Task 5: Present Strengths & Weaknesses Report to Coordination Team and Develop Actionable Recommendations for Program Refinements – **COMPLETED**

Deliverables: Draft Report with Actionable Items and Summary PowerPoint Presentation

Status: Summer 2018

- Deliver Strengths & Weaknesses report to Coordination Team – Done (Review Draft)
- One-day webinar with Coordination Team–Call held 6/7 and followed up w/ August 15 webinar.
- Draft report on Refinements – First be delivered to/discussed with Coordination Team on August 15 and then presented to TMC on August 29.
- Summary table for Governance and AM components/subcomponents – Done, included in Strengths & Weaknesses report.
- PowerPoint presentation – Done: prepared for TMC meeting held August 29.

Task 6: Facilitate Discussion among TMC and TRRP on Actionable Items/Power Point Presentation/Final Report - **COMPLETED**

Deliverable: Final Report – Final report with responses to comments and indication of majority consensus and plan for implementation estimated for October/November 2018

Status: PowerPoint presentation and Refinements report presented to TRRP in one-day facilitated workshop – held August 29, 2018

Task 7: Remain Available to Assist with Oversight & Implementation of Recommendations – **ONGOING.** Begins after delivery of Final Report in Task 6.

Deliverables: Quarterly Status Reviews
Status: December 2018-November 2019

Publications and Reports:

- Perry, R. W., E. C Jones, J. M Plumb, N. A Som, T. B Hardy, J. Polos, A. Martin, J. Alvarez, and K. De Julio. 2018. [Application of the Stream Salmonid Simulator \(S3\) to the restoration reach of the Trinity River, California - parameterization and calibration.](#) USGS Open-File Report 2018-1174 for the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP). U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, Virginia. DOI: 10.3133/ofr20181174.
- TRRP (Trinity River Restoration Program). 2018. [TRRP 2017 Annual Report.](#) TRRP, Weaverville, California.
- USBR (U.S. Bureau of Reclamation), North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, USBLM (U. S. Bureau of Land Management), USBR (U.S. Bureau of Reclamation), and USBLM (U. S. Bureau of Land Management). 2018. [Trinity River channel rehabilitation site: Chapman Ranch Phase A \(river mile 82.8-83.8\) environmental assessment/initial study \[draft\].](#) Report DOI-BLM-CA-NO60-2019-0004-EA and TR-EA0118 for the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP). Trinity River Restoration Program, Weaverville, California.

Data Packages:

- GMA (GMA Hydrology, Inc.). 2018. [2018 Trinity River Focal Reach Orthophotography.](#) Data Package for the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) under U.S. Bureau of Reclamation contract R14PC00122. GMA Hydrology, Arcata, California.
- TRRP (Trinity River Restoration Program). 2018. [TRRP Environmental Study Limit \(ESL\) Boundaries,](#) Version 2018-11-28. Data Package for the Trinity River Restoration Program., TRRP, Weaverville, California.

Appendix I: Technical Workgroup Briefings September 2018

Updates have been prepared by the Trinity River Restoration Program technical Workgroup (WG) Coordinators for the Trinity Management Council.

Workgroup: Fish

Coordinator: Ken Lindke

The Fish WG met once in the last quarter. During that meeting the WG enjoyed a presentation by Nick Som on habitat modeling, which was followed by a productive discussion on the juvenile salmonid habitat objective and target. The discussion generated action items and is ongoing. The WG will actively engage the TRRP habitat team in future meetings. The WG also recognized overlap of the habitat objective/target with objectives/targets of the physical WG, and a joint meeting is planned for December to work on these issues. The WG reached consensus on recommendations for five additional objectives/targets. The next Fish WG meeting is planned to be held in conjunction with the Physical WG in December, and another meeting is planned for January with the Habitat Team. WG members continue to work on TRRP field projects and synthesis reports.

Workgroup: Design

Coordinator: Mike Dixon

The Design Team met on October 02 in Weaverville. After updates from each design group, the meeting focused on reviewing a draft design report outline prepared by Program office staff, primarily Logan Negherbon. The feedback is being incorporated and this effort will result in common expectations for what information is included and milestones will have been reached by all design groups.

The team met again for a one-hour call on November 28 to discuss the Habitat Team project and provide them with insight on how the work can better inform design development and evaluation.

Work by individual design groups was ongoing in this quarter. The Hoopa Valley Tribe group produced a 90% report for Chapman Ranch. The state group produced an 80% report for Dutch Creek. The federal and state teams are working to refine the surfaces and model the Sky Ranch and Oregon Gulch projects, respectively; 60% design reports for those projects are expected by the end of January.

Workgroup: Flow

Coordinator: Todd Buxton

Flow WG meetings summary:

September 19, HVT Fisheries, Hoopa, CA

- Draft outlines for a flow release portfolio and hydrograph component review were derived by the WG
- The WG discussed technical concepts in a memo detailing suggested changes to how reservoir storage management releases and Safety of Dams releases (collectively RSM releases) could be scheduled to increase benefits to the Trinity River ecosystem.

October 1, Conference Call

- Lack of recent progress on the environmental flow requirements white paper was discussed, and it was agreed the paper should be completed outside the Flow WG since WG members are already busy with other things.
- Use of 15-minute discharges versus daily average flows in deriving suggested ramp rates in the RSM release memo were discussed.

- Meetings for WY19 flow scheduling were set.

November 7, TRRP, Weaverville, CA

- The RSM memo was finalized and submitted by the Executive Director to CVO.

November 15, CDFW, Arcata, CA

- Bill Trush gave a presentation on how rating curves relating flow and water depths on riffle crests may be used in flow scheduling to help meet biological demands in river ecosystems.
- The WG discussed considerations for scheduling diurnal flow variability and specific hydrograph components in the WY19 flow release.
- The modeling results table for summarizing hydrograph effects on juvenile fish production, water temperatures, foothill yellow-legged frogs, bedload transport, lamprey migration, riparian germination, and impacts to instream construction was updated and personnel for running models to populate the table were identified.
- WG members chose to forego further progress on the flow release portfolio and hydrograph component review, citing lack of time for these efforts. Instead, an outline for a flow synthesis report that will address topics in the aforementioned papers will be developed in April 2019 for presentation to the IDT.

Workgroup: Watershed

Coordinator: Eric Wiseman

The Watershed WG did not meet during the past quarter while they await movement through the watershed grant solicitation process. The Watershed Restoration Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA), which had been scheduled to open for proposals in early October, has a new requirement for Secretarial review that has added additional months to the process. The FOA was submitted and returned from the review with mostly stylistic editorial comments requested. These have been incorporated and the FOA has been resubmitted for approval.

It appears increasingly unlikely that projects will be able to be funded this year with FY19 funds given the following requirements: Project solicitation once Secretarial approval of the FOA is received, followed by review and ranking by the Program Watershed WG and IDT, presentation to TMC for approval, with ensuing development of the financial assistance project packages. Each of these packages will also require submittal for review/approval by DOI in addition to regular Regional and Denver Office reviews and approvals.

Known potential applicants have been made aware of the delay in the solicitation. The Program may recommend to TMC to utilize or swap FY19 approved \$500,000 watershed projects for other Program FY19/FY20 needs. The plan would then be to implement \$1 million of watershed projects in the FOA for FY20 which could be accomplished with the extra time provided by this plan. There are some large project proposals in the works which could leverage funding of that magnitude.

Workgroup: Physical

Coordinator: Wes Smith

The Physical WG had a meeting on November 8 and discussed gravel Augmentation, sediment monitoring, habitat modeling inputs from the SRH-2D model, and objectives and metrics/targets.

- The WG discussed potential gravel augmentation options including monitoring updates and future augmentation needs, rates and locations.
- Dave Gaeuman provided some recent modeling results that identify issues with habitat modelling based on depth, velocity, and cover.

- Sediment Monitoring: Dave Gauman provided a brief review on how sediment transport data is used to assess the outcome of management actions and address scientific uncertainties. The WG noted that some recommendations regarding how the sediment transport monitoring program might be modified to improve efficiency were not communicated to the IDT this fall due a suspension in the WG Coordinator's contract. The WG also agreed that many questions regarding sediment monitoring can be answered by Program scientists, so it would be helpful if the questions that an external review needs to have addressed could be identified.
- The WG spent a short amount of time on objectives and metrics/targets refinement. Ken Lindke later proposed a joint meeting between the Habitat Team, Fish WG, and Physical WG to discuss various overlapping objectives and metrics/targets.

Workgroup: Riparian and Aquatic Ecology

Coordinator: James Lee

The Riparian and Aquatic Ecology WG had its first-ever meeting on November 1, 2018 (13 in attendance). Agenda items included review of the WG charter, interactions with IDT and TMC, coordinator selection, objectives/metrics, FY19 work plan, and FY19 meeting dates. James Lee was selected by the group to be the coordinator.

Implementation riparian and aquatic ecology:

- Chapman Ranch Revegetation Design is at 90%
- Dutch Creek Revegetation Design is at ~80%
- Plant and seed orders for upcoming channel rehab projects were placed through Stantec

Science riparian and aquatic ecology:

- Synthesis reports are ongoing (riparian encroachment and cottonwood seed dispersal)
- We are expecting an updated, TARGETS model (predicts cottonwood and willow recruitment on a cross section as a function of the hydrograph) by January. The prior version no longer runs on modern computers.

Flow Riparian and aquatic ecology:

- RAE members are targeting selected surfaces to model recruitment in WY 2019 (depending on water year class outcome)
- Foothill yellow-legged frog production will be modeled this year using FYFAM