



Trinity River Restoration Program

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MEMORANDUM

To: TMC

From: Mike Dixon, Acting Executive Director
Trinity River Restoration Program

Subject: Director's Report

Date: June 19, 2019

Major TRRP activities between April and June 2019 include:

Organizational Updates

- The solicitation for TRRP Executive Director closed on May 28. Reclamation HR is reviewing applications and a selection panel will be convened in the coming weeks.
- Logan Negherbon has completed his 60-day temporary promotion to TRRP Implementation Branch Chief and is being followed by Brandt Gutermuth in a 60-day temporary promotion.
- The TRRP Science Coordinator position description underwent final revisions and was submitted for classification in May. As of guidance released June 5, *new* Reclamation positions require Deputy Commissioner approval, so the timeline for advertising this position is unknown.
- The Program office geomorphologist position description (vice Dave Gaeuman) has been submitted for recruitment but will likely be vacant for several more months.
- Our land surveyor JD Lewis has accepted an initial offer for a promotion opportunity with USFS. This position had previously been classified as a civil engineering technician and the reclassification has not resulted in the anticipated fiscal savings to the Program, primarily because Reclamation's regional surveyor has misgivings about surveyors at field offices doing the legal filings associated with boundary surveys. It will likely be reclassified as a civil engineering technician and convert back to a construction management role.

Science Update

Science Coordinator duties continue to be performed by the following staff until the vacancy is filled by Reclamation:

- Nick Som and Mike Dixon leading IDT on science topics
- Eric Peterson tracking Synthesis and other Program reports, studies and deliverables
- Nick Som and Eric Peterson coordinating peer reviews including SAB coordination

- Executive Director tracking WG updates/reports for TMC meetings
- Nick Som is coordinating WG metric objectives/targets updates
- Several Program staff working through the Riparian and Aquatic Ecology WG are developing a Science Symposium focused on flows and ecology

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

Eric Peterson continues to track synthesis reports during the SC vacancy. Program staff and consultants are making progress on the reports.

See Appendix II

SAB Formulation:

Existing SAB members whose contracts have been extended into 2020 have continued to provide coordination of peer review. Future formulation of the SAB will likely be driven by ongoing work in the TRRP Refinements process with an active hand by the new Science Coordinator, when selected.

Program Science Metrics Objectives and Targets

Per agreement at a November 29 IDT meeting, the WGs continue to refine their objectives and targets and check in routinely with IDT. There are no indications to suggest that the planned demonstration of objectives assessment and work planning, currently scheduled for the September TMC meeting, will not be successful.

IDT Proposal Regarding Targeted Science Work Plan

The IDT discussed science needs to inform adaptive management of flows at their meeting on June 11 and ranked them by priority. They are part of a separate agenda topic at the June TMC meeting.

Implementation Update

Junction City House: Realty work at the Office of Solicitor has been transferred to a new attorney. He and Mike Dixon discussed the backstory on this initiative on June 12 and review/edits of the draft agreement are forthcoming.

Chapman Ranch Channel Rehabilitation Site: Surveying and initial staging began on June 2 and gravel processing, and clearing began on June 10. The final Right of Way and Free Use Permit were received from BLM and the floodplain development permit was received from Trinity County on June 11. Full mobilization and construction should start on July 1.

Dutch Creek Channel Rehabilitation Site: Agency comments were received on the final draft environmental assessment for the Dutch Creek project. It is being revised and a decision record and FONSI are expected by the end of June. A draft biological assessment was submitted for initial review by USFWS in May. The 80% design was released for internal review on June 14. The project appears poised for construction in summer of 2020.

Sky Ranch Channel Rehabilitation Site: A 60% design report for the site was submitted for internal review June 14. Cultural surveys and reporting are unfortunately lagging in the queue and may play a major factor in the constructability of the project as currently designed. The three-way land exchange which would transfer the parcel in the center of the project to BLM is

also hung up due to cultural resources reporting and SHPO consultation, though on a separate parcel not in the project area.

Oregon Gulch Channel Rehabilitation Site: A 60% design report for the site was submitted for internal review on June 14.

Upper Conner Creek Channel Rehabilitation Site: The HVT design group has begun working on an existing conditions report for this future project.

Other Compliance

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

Draft BAs for both fish and wildlife have been received from Hamer Environmental and are in internal review. Of note is that, with the expanded scope of the new BAs, we propose to provide programmatic ESA coverage for watershed restoration activities in the Trinity drainage down to and including the South Fork Trinity River. We will be in touch with the regulatory agencies very soon regarding a timeline to reinitiate consultation on TRRP's non-flow actions.

Public Outreach Update

Publications and Education Materials

- April 2019: coordinated public notification for the 2019 ROD flow release
- TRRP 2018 Annual Report expected Fall 2019

Community Events and Education

- April 11, 2019: Staff discussed Trinity River restoration with students from Humboldt State University
- May 8, 2019: Hosted 4th and 5th grade students from Weaverville Elementary School for an environmental education event
- May 9, 2019: Staff provided environmental education activities at Day at the Wetlands event for 4th graders from Weaverville Elementary School
- May 10, 2019: Participated in the Klamath-Trinity School District's Fish Fair and presented on watershed health to middle schoolers from surrounding schools
- May 22, 2019: TRRP booth at the STEM event at Weaverville Elementary School

Landowner and Public Interactions

- TRRP continued to meet with landowners and residents who live near proposed channel rehabilitation projects
- Finalized private landowner agreements for temporary access and construction activities at the Chapman Ranch Phase A project

Public and Informational Meetings

- April 11, 2019: Public informational meeting on the 2019 recommended flow release schedule and gravel augmentation plans

Upcoming Events

- June 24, 2019 (tentatively planned): Chapman Ranch Phase A pre-construction meeting with residents near the project site

- June 28, 2019: Participating in an informational river float with the Weaverville Community Services District
- July 10, 2019 (tentatively planned): Public informational river float past restoration sites
- July 17, 2019 (tentatively planned): Informational river float trip in Lewiston and Douglas City
- July 2019: Sponsorship and participation in the Weaverville Environmental Summer Day Camp
- Sept. 2019: Trinity River Clean-up

FY19 Budget Update Adjustments since April TMC Meeting:

TMC approved Task	TMC Approved Amount	Proposed New Amount	Difference
Construction	\$4,000,000	\$4,191,084.02	+\$191,084.02
Large Wood	\$200,000	\$100,000	-\$100,000
Coarse Sediment	\$100,000	\$0	-\$100,000
Geophysical Support	\$0	\$31,000	+\$31,000
Facilitator	\$10,035	\$38,852.36	+\$28,817.36
TOTALS	\$4,310,035.00	\$4,360,936.38	\$50,901.38

Trinity River Restoration Program Refinements

After many delays, an initial workshop to discuss the way ahead with the TRRP refinements recommendations was held on May 6. Notes from that meeting are available as a handout. The TMC agencies agreed to work toward the creation of a new foundational Program document and an adaptive management plan. Additional meetings are scheduled for July 9 in Weaverville and August 1-2 in Eureka. Contracting documents to secure the services of Kearns and West to facilitate those meetings have been submitted.

Publications and Reports

- Gaeuman, D. and R. Stewart. 2019. **WY2015 Trinity River Gravel Augmentation Implementation Monitoring Report**. Report TR-TRRP-2019-2 for the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP). Weaverville, California. Available: <http://www.trrp.net/library/document?id=2421>.
- USBR (U.S. Bureau of Reclamation). 2019. **River Restoration**. Knowledge Stream April 2019. Available: <http://www.trrp.net/library/document?id=2420>.
 - This Reclamation bulletin is focused on river restoration across USBR, including TRRP: Radio-Frequency Gravel Tracking for Assessing Gravel Augmentations and Sediment Transport (Nate Bradley and Dave Gaeuman) and Improved Numerical Modeling Techniques for Understanding Flows around Large Wood Structures (Dave Gaeuman and DJ Bandrowski)

Data Packages

- Not a data package, per se, but the TRRP website has an initial collection of tabular data on completed projects in a ‘restoration action database’: <http://www.trrp.net/dataport/rad/>

Appendix I: Technical Workgroup Briefings September 2018

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

Workgroup: Fish

Coordinator: Ken Lindke

The Fish WG met once this quarter, on May 2nd. Ken Lindke (CDFW) was re-elected coordinator for the upcoming year. The primary topic of discussion was targets refinement. Four subgroups were formed and tasked with developing targets for four objectives, three for juvenile salmonid habitat and one for harvest of fall Chinook Salmon. Each subgroup was given specific guidance on what should and should not be considered during the development of their respective targets, and subgroups were tasked with presenting their candidate targets to the WG at the next meeting. Once these targets have been finished, new subgroups will be formed to work on the remaining targets that are yet to be defined. The group also discussed road-side spraying of herbicides by CalTrans but was unable to develop a recommendation to TMC due to the lack of information provided by CalTrans. Bill Pinnix (USFWS) provided a presentation on preliminary results of stock-recruit analyses for the juvenile synthesis report, and the group provided feedback to Bill on the best adult data to use for their analysis. Fish WG members continue to work on synthesis reports. A draft juvenile synthesis report is expected in June or July, and a draft adult synthesis report was circulated among co-authors in early June. The next meeting is expected to occur in late June or early July.

Workgroup: Design

Coordinator: Logan Negherbon

Yurok Tribe and Federal design teams are preparing 60% design report deliverables for Oregon Gulch and Sky Ranch projects, respectively. The State design team has prepared the 80% design report deliverable for Dutch Creek. These will be submitted for review June 14th to the Design WG. The Hoopa Valley Tribe design team will be starting initial work on Upper Conner Creek project and is providing support to Chapman Ranch Phase A implementation.

Winter storm events and restoration flow releases have incurred several notable dynamic responses in-river and on floodplains. WG members will be evaluating collected data from these affected areas within the Deep Gulch-Sheridan Creek project as restoration flows recede and additional in-river responses become evident. These evaluations will inform subsequent designs and implementation actions.

Workgroup: Flow

Coordinator: Todd Buxton

The Flow WG met on April 16th to discuss restrictions on Trinity River flows that occur between spring flow releases, debrief the WY19 flow scheduling process, and tour Lewiston Dam. The WG also met in conference calls on May 1 and May 8 to discuss changes to the flow release caused by hollow jet valve failure at Trinity Dam and the resulting oil spill on Lewiston Lake. The Flow WG Coordinator was in close contact with CVO as Lewiston Dam releases were adjusted in response to these factors. The Coordinator additionally provided CVO with multiple flow release schedules that accommodated the evolving constraints imposed by the valve repair and oil cleanup. An additional hydrograph was then developed by the Coordinator in response to the May 21 failure of an electric motor that controls one of the radial arm gates at Lewiston Dam, which required diurnal fluctuations in discharge be curtailed for the remainder of the spring flow release.

Workgroup: Watershed

Coordinator: Eric Wiseman

The Watershed WG has not met in the last quarter and is awaiting word on when the FY20 Funding Opportunity Announcement will open. A past project field visit may be scheduled for late summer.

Workgroup: Physical

Coordinator: Conor Shea

The Physical WG has a meeting scheduled for July 11. Topics of discussion will include metrics, gravel augmentation planning and permitting.

Workgroup: Riparian and Aquatic Ecology

Coordinator: James Lee

The Riparian and Aquatic Ecology WG met twice recently - our regular quarterly meeting was April 17 and we followed that up with a phone meeting on May 16 specifically to work towards refining our objectives and targets.

The WG:

- identified four new objectives and associated targets, which will cover many existing IAP objectives;
- made progress in planning the next science symposium and pushed the timeline back to FY20;
- initiated a discussion on flow planning metrics and is on-track to complete this exercise by September 2019; and
- plans to meet again in June to determine which IAP objectives to recommend for replacement/removal and add targets to the remaining IAP objectives.

WG members worked individually or in small groups on:

- Chapman Ranch revegetation planning;
- BLM and USFS policy on the use of wheat as an adjunct in native grass plantings; and
- Riparian encroachment and black cottonwood seed dispersal synthesis reports.

Synthesis Reports											
Due dates as reported Dec. 2018, with delays noted.											
Project No.	Brief Title	Involved Entities	FY19 q1	FY19 q2	FY19 q3	FY19 q4	FY20 q1	FY20 q2	FY20 q3	FY20 q4	Notes
TRRP-2018-002	Tributary Delta	<i>Program Office</i> (POC: Todd Buxton, TRRP)					PR				
TRRP-2018-003	Fish Habitat	<i>HVT, USFWS, YT, USBR TSC</i> (POC: Damon Goodman, USFWS)		PR		→					Govt shutdown delayed, now "by the end of August"
TRRP-2018-007	Juvenile Chinook Production	<i>USFWS, YT, HVT</i> (POC: Bill Pinnix, USFWS)		PR	→						Govt shutdown delayed
TRRP-2018-009	Cohort Reconstruction	<i>HVT, USFWS, CDFW</i> (POC: Ken Lindke, CDFW)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Due dates pending training on model
TRRP-2018-011	Adult Salmon Spawning	<i>USFWS, HVT, YT, CDFW</i> (POC: Steve Gough, USFWS)			PR	→					Govt shutdown delayed
TRRP-2018-018	Bed Mobility and Scour	<i>HVT, USFWS</i> (POC: Andrea Hilton, McBain Assoc.)			PR						
TRRP-2018-019	Cottonwood Seed Dispersal	<i>HVT</i> (POC: Andrea Hilton, McBain Associates)			PR						
TRRP-2018-021	Riparian Encroachment	<i>HVT</i> (POC: Andrea Hilton, McBain Associates)			PR						
TRRP-2018-022	Sediment Storage	<i>HVT, USFWS</i> (POC: Andrea Hilton, McBain Associates)			PR						
TRRP-2018-025	Channel Complexity	<i>HVT, USFWS</i> (POC: Andrea Hilton, McBain Associates)				PR					
TRRP-2018-027	Fine Sediment	<i>Program Office, NMFS, HVT</i> (POC: Todd Buxton, TRRP)								PR	
TRRP-2018-032	Water Temperature	<i>YT, USFWS, HVT, USBR, NMFS</i> (POC: Eli Asarian, Riverbend Sciences)						PR			
TRRP-2018-033	Large Wood Management	<i>NMFS, YT, HVT</i> (POC: Wes Smith -> Scott McBain)				PR					