

# Trinity River Restoration Program: Adaptive Management Feedback Survey

The Trinity Management Council is seeking feedback from vested stakeholders in order to refine and improve how the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) integrates adaptive management into its structure and decision making.

## *Adaptive Management within the Trinity River Restoration Program*

The Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) incorporates the adaptive management cycle into its decision-making structure to adjust in the face of uncertainties as outcomes from management actions and other events become better understood.

Careful monitoring of restoration actions both advances scientific understanding and helps adjust management actions or operations as part of an iterative learning process. Adaptive management also recognizes the importance of natural variability in process and emphasizes learning in action. Successful adaptive management leads to an increase in knowledge and management ability, accompanied by physical process modeling and an evaluation program to monitor the physical and biological responses.

Adaptive management is a means to more effective decisions and enhanced benefits. The implementation plan for the Trinity River Restoration Program called for adaptive management for integration of design, management, and monitoring to systematically test assumptions in order to adapt and learn.

The concept can be expanded as follows:

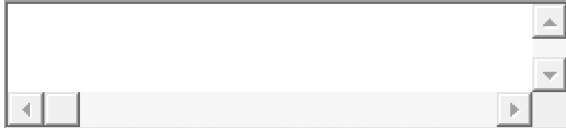
- 1) Testing assumptions is about systematically trying different actions to achieve a desired outcome. It is not a random trial-and-error process. The key is to develop an understanding of not only which actions do and do not work, but also why.
- 2) Adaptive management is about taking action to achieve the expected results. Adaptation involves changing assumptions and your interventions to respond to the new information obtained through monitoring efforts.
- 3) Learning is about systematically documenting the process that the program has gone through and the results achieved to avoid previous mistakes and enable other people in river restoration to benefit from program work.

The Adaptive Management cycle includes the following steps:

- Assess the problem
- Plan management actions and monitoring
- Implement actions
- Monitor actions
- Evaluate and learn
- Adjust (revise objectives, actions, and monitoring)

Please take a moment to complete the survey and provide comments on the adaptive management process within the TRRP. This survey is voluntary and you may select to keep your name or other identifying information confidential. Your detailed feedback will be a valuable resource to help successfully engage in adaptive management.

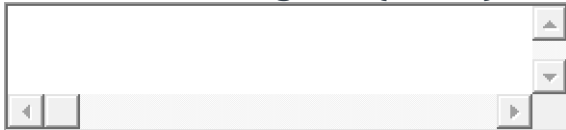
\*1. Please describe your level of knowledge or experience with adaptive management.

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\*2. How would you describe your interests as a stakeholder in the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP)?

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\*3. Please describe your level of involvement with the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP)?

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\*4. Please evaluate the following statement: The TRRP has demonstrated a commitment to effectively practice adaptive management.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Not sure

Please explain:

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5. Please evaluate the following statement: The TRRP's approach to adaptive management is a collaborative multi-stakeholder process that includes participation from affected parties (e.g. relevant partner and cooperating agencies, land-managers, and property owners).

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree

- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Not sure

Please explain:

6. Please evaluate the following statement: In general, TRRP's adaptive management approach is informed by relevant science.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Not sure

Please explain:

7. The adaptive management cycle entails designing and revising plans so as to allow knowledge collection that informs decision making. In your experience, please select all the phases that TRRP routinely incorporates into its adaptive management process.

- ☐ Assess the problem
- ☐ Plan management actions and monitoring
- ☐ Implement
- ☐ Monitor implementation actions
- ☐ Evaluate and share learning
- ☐ Adjust (revise objectives, actions, and monitoring)

Please explain:

8. In your experience, please select a single phase in the adaptive management cycle that the TRRP most successfully incorporates into its adaptive management process.

- ☐ Assess the problem

- ☐ Plan management actions and monitoring
- ☐ Implement
- ☐ Monitor implementation actions
- ☐ Evaluate and share learning
- ☐ Adjust (revise objectives, actions, and monitoring)

Please explain:

9. In your experience, please select a single phase in the adaptive management cycle that the TRRP is least successful at incorporating into its adaptive management process.

- ☐ Assess the problem
- ☐ Plan management actions and monitoring
- ☐ Implement
- ☐ Monitor implementation actions
- ☐ Evaluate and share learning
- ☐ Adjust (revise objectives, actions, and monitoring)

Please explain:

10. Can you provide specific example(s) where the full adaptive management cycle was successfully implemented by the TRRP, where learning lead to re-assessing a problem and management actions were adjusted?

11. Can you provide specific example(s) where a learning opportunity was missed because the full adaptive management cycle was not successfully completed, or the adaptive management cycle could have been improved?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Not sure

- Please explain:

13. Please evaluate the following statement: In your experience, the TRRP implementation plan includes the flexibility necessary to engage in adaptive management.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Not sure

14. Please evaluate the following statement: In your experience, the TRRP implementation plan includes the flexibility necessary to engage stakeholders and program partners in adaptive management.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Not sure

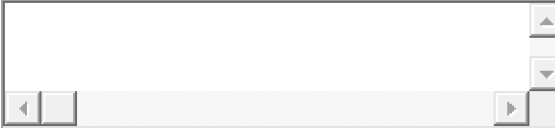
Please explain:

15. Please evaluate the following statement: Laws and other administrative and regulatory requirements constrain TRRP efforts to engage in adaptive management.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Not sure

Please list any specific examples that constrain the TRRP from engaging in

adaptive management:



16. Please evaluate the following statement: Changes could be made to the existing legal or regulatory requirements to make adaptive management more successful.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Not sure

Can you suggest any changes to existing requirements that would facilitate

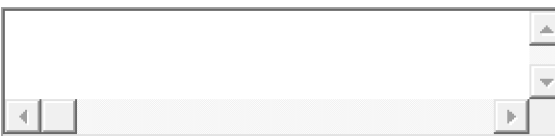
adaptive management?



17. Please evaluate the following statement: Monitoring and assessment results are integrated into the adaptive management process.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Not sure

Please explain:

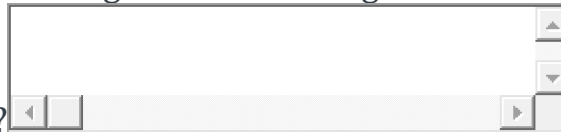


18. Please evaluate the following statement: The TRRP Work Group structure is designed and utilized to successfully facilitate adaptive management.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Not sure

Can you suggest specific changes to the existing structure that would facilitate

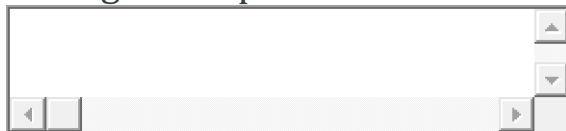
adaptive management?



19. How frequently do you attend Trinity Management Council meetings?

- ☐ Sometimes (1 time per year)
- ☐ Seldom (less than 1 time per year)
- ☐ Often (2 - 4 times per year)
- ☐ Never

20. Please provide any recommendations on how the TRRP could better inform and engage with affected stakeholders in the adaptive management process?



21. How many years of have you been involved with or observed Trinity River management?

Pease share any additional comments or suggestions.

