



Trinity River Restoration Program

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MEMORANDUM

To: TMC

From: Mike Dixon, Executive Director
Trinity River Restoration Program

Subject: Director's Report

Date: December 4, 2019

Major TRRP activities between September 2019 and December 2019 include:

The TMC met twice to discuss TRRP Refinements and has adopted program purpose and goal statements. The Chapman Ranch Phase A Channel Rehabilitation Project has been completed. A TRRP Office remodel is largely completed; we now have a lobby with a security door, two branch chief offices, and brand-new window graphics.

Organizational Updates

- An offer was made for the program's Science Coordinator position and an announcement is pending.
- Logan Negherbon, our Civil Engineer, has accepted a promotion opportunity with NMFS in Portland and will be departing after the holidays. He brought a strong engineering and project management skillset to our program and will be greatly missed.
- The Implementation Branch Chief position is next in our vacancy queue; we are seeking a long term detailee in the interim.
- The remaining vacancies (physical scientist, engineer, civil engineering technicians) are anticipated to be vacant for much of this fiscal year

Science Update

Science Coordinator duties continue to be performed by the following staff until the new Science Coordinator is on board:

- Eric Peterson and Mike Dixon leading IDT on science topics
- Eric Peterson and Mike Dixon coordinating proposals for flow variability questions
- 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

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 with four currently in peer review. (See Appendix II)

Program Science Metrics Objectives and Targets

Workgroups are continuing to make progress on our objectives and associated targets. It has shifted to a routine business item along with other agenda topics. The status of the effort will be the subject of a separate presentation later in this meeting. Workgroup coordinators also met by phone on November 25 to discuss matching objectives to the newly approved Program Goal.

IDT Proposal Regarding Targeted Science Work Plan

We have received preproposals for six research questions which were identified as high priorities by the IDT, plus a proposal for a new synthesis report on flows. The preproposals are in internal and external review and will be the subject of a separate presentation later in the meeting.

Implementation Update

Junction City House: There has not been any progress on this topic since the September meeting.

Chapman Ranch Phase A Channel Rehabilitation Site: Chapman Ranch Phase A has been successfully completed. The project will result in up to 500% more juvenile rearing habitat at a range of flows. It was designed to evolve and will likely look quite different following high flow events. A presentation on the project will occur later in this meeting.

Dutch Creek Channel Rehabilitation Site: An objection was received by the USFS on the proposed decision. The issues raised in the objection were addressed in the EA and we anticipate a decision from the Regional Forester's office before January. Signing of the BLM/Reclamation FONSI is delayed awaiting approval from DC because the process exceeded the mandated 180 day NEPA period for an EA. The project is scheduled for construction next year. Some initial site road maintenance and clearing work on the access route will be conducted over the winter but the majority of the work will occur during our in-channel work window.

Chapman Ranch Phase B Channel Rehabilitation Site: Some field surveys to update vegetation data were conducted by our NEPA contractor in early November. The HVT design team is working on minor design revisions and will be re-running hydraulic models once Phase A as-built data is received in order to confirm that the project will perform as initially designed. The initial project schedule has the NEPA and permits for the project being largely complete by the end of this FY; it is slated for construction in FY21.

Sky Ranch Channel Rehabilitation Site: There has been some positive progress on a three-way land exchange (not involving the Program) which is required to build the project, and the design is advancing. A 90% design is expected later this year. Historical surveys and outreach to interested parties are under way. A draft NEPA document is planned for development over the latter part of this FY.

Oregon Gulch Channel Rehabilitation Site: The design for this project continues to advance and a 90% report is expected mid-winter.

Evans Bar Channel Rehabilitation Site: This project is slated for design development this year but there is no progress to report.

Upper Conner Creek Channel Rehabilitation Site: This project is slated for design development this year but there is no progress to report.

Other Compliance (ESA)

USFWS (wildlife) and NMFS (aquatic) Biological Assessments (BA) updates to start ESA Section 7 consultation: Current BAs remain in force until they are updated with new Biological Opinions (BOs). The Action Area for restoration is the full watershed of the Trinity River from Lewiston Dam to the Klamath River including the S. Fork Trinity River. TRRP staff are editing the Draft aquatic BA with USFS, BLM, and USFWS participating agency partners. TRRP office of Reclamation is to submit the NMFS BA in early December 2019 to start formal consultation. Participating Agencies submit letters to NMFS in mid-December to receive ESA coverage as Partner Agencies under the completed BOs.

Draft wildlife BA planned for submittal to the USFWS, to start informal consultation, in December. Partner agencies will include BLM and USFS.

Public Outreach Update

Publications and Education Materials

- November 2019: TRRP brief 4-page update and overview prepared for printing

Public Events and Environmental Education

- September 14: TRRP sponsorship and staff participated in USFS River Clean-Up.
- September 18-19: TRRP supported the Environmental Camp at Bar 717 to provide watershed education and stewardship to area youth.
- October 14: TRRP sponsored the annual Salmon Festival in Weaverville and provided information on Trinity River restoration.
- October 23: River Days environmental education event with students from Trinity Center and Coffee Creek schools with activities on salmon life cycle and aquatic invertebrates.
- November 7: Participated in environmental education at the Hyampom Salmon Gathering for 4th and 5th grade students.

Landowner and One-On-One Meetings

- TRRP staff continue to meet both in the field and in the office with private property owners located on or near proposed channel rehabilitation projects in the Junction City area, as well as with members of the public seeking information on the current projects.

Upcoming

- December 1: TRRP plans to host a River Science Night in Lewiston to discuss restoration results and work.
- January/February: Public meeting on the proposed channel rehabilitation projects planned in the Junction City area.

FY20 Budget Update Adjustments since September TMC Meeting:

Funds are available in the amount of **\$12,178,000.00**. Currently there are **\$908,691.50** in remaining funds that have not been approved by TMC for a specific purpose.

<u>TRRP Program Activity</u>	<u>Current 2020 Budget</u>
Program Administration	\$2,376,007.19
Program Implementation	\$5,674,423.51
Science Program	\$3,308,877.76
Total	\$11,269,308.50

<u>Fund Sources</u>	<u>Current 2020 Available Funding</u>
USBR Water and Related	\$9,991,000.00
USBR CVPIA	\$1,500,000.00
FWS	\$687,000.00
Total Available	\$12,178,000.00

In Peer Review or Final Edits

- Gaeuman, D. **WY2017-2017 Trinity River gravel augmentation monitoring**. Facilitator: Nick Som / Eric Peterson.
- Bair, J., S. Loya, and J. Lee. **Vegetation encroachment synthesis for the Trinity River**. Facilitator: Eric Peterson
- Gast, T. **Analysis and Model Evaluation of Long Term Data Collected at the Willow Creek Outmigrant Trap [synthesis]**. Facilitator: Eric Peterson
- Lee, J. and J. Bair. **Riparian vegetation monitoring (FY2017)**. *Review complete, awaiting finalization.*
- Loya, S., A. Hamilton, J. Bair, and J. Lee. **Cottonwood Seed Dispersal on the Trinity River [synthesis]**. *Review complete, awaiting finalization.*
- Hales, G. and S. McBain. **Statistical evaluation of Trinity River point bar bed mobility and bed scour during annual spring ROD release for WY 2009-2013 [synthesis]**. Facilitator: Eric Peterson

Final Publications and Reports

- Stephens, J. L. and S. M Rockwell. 2019. **Short-term riparian restoration success measured by territory density and reproductive success of three songbirds along the Trinity River, California**. [Completed under prior work for the Trinity River Restoration Program] The Condor nd:1-12. DOI: 10.1093/condor/duz043.

- TRRP (Trinity River Restoration Program). 2019. **TRRP 2018 Annual Report**. Report. TRRP, Weaverville, California. Available: <http://www.trrp.net/library/document?id=2442>.
- Kier, M. C., J. Hileman, and K. Lindke. 2019. **Chinook Salmon and Coho Salmon and fall-run steelhead run-size estimates using mark-recapture methods, 2018-19 season**. Report for the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP). California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Redding, California. Available: <http://www.trrp.net/library/document?id=2450>.

Final Data Packages

- GMA (GMA Hydrology, Inc.). 2019. **2019 Trinity River focal reach 4-band orthophotography**. Data Package for the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) GMA Hydrology, Inc., Arcata, California. Available: <http://www.trrp.net/library/data?id=126>.

Appendix I: Technical Workgroup Briefings September 2019

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 Workgroup met once this quarter, on 10 October. Half the meeting was again dedicated to objectives/targets refinement. Updates to three of four new targets presented at our July meeting were presented and discussed. Subgroup leads for these three targets were instructed to make minor modifications and provide a final write-up to the workgroup coordinator. The fourth target needs further work. Three new subgroups were formed to develop or refine three additional targets. We also discussed the pre-proposals for flow management questions and confirmed that a pre-proposal would be submitted for all fish-centric topics. We developed list of topics we intend to work on over the remainder of the fiscal year for review by the IDT. Lastly, at the request of IDT, we developed a list of examples of changes to management in response to learning that occurred since implementation of the ROD, which is intended to inform future development of an adaptive management plan. The next meeting is planned for January. Workgroup members continue to work on synthesis reports.

Workgroup: Design

Coordinator: Logan Negherbon

Chapman Ranch Phase A has completed the civil construction effort and has implemented a significant component of the revegetation effort. Recommended acknowledgement of the HVT design team and the joint YT and HVT tribal implementation efforts in executing the effort through the 2019 construction season.

The Design WG has completed 60% reviews for Oregon Gulch and Sky Ranch projects, respective design teams moving forward with edits and response to comments. Oregon Gulch is slated for 90% reviews at the end of January 2020. Sky Ranch may achieve similar timeline if additional resources are found for the Federal design team. Coordination and completion is underway for Dutch Creek 100% designs which is proposed for implementation in the summer of 2020. Completion of Chapman Ranch Phase B 100% designs are being coordinated for proposed implementation in Summer of 2021. Evans Bar and Upper Conner Creek existing conditions and concept level designs are still proposed within FY20.

A Design WG meeting was held Nov. 20, 2019 and a subsequent meeting is proposed for scheduling in early February of 2020. Among topics was the schedule of design projects listed above. Other topics included the Sawmill Gravel sourcing site, scope of the uncertainties description for future design reports, recommended level of detail in revegetation design specific to site access, and TRRP staffing.

The Sawmill Gravel sourcing site is nearing excavation into the 100-year floodplain (likely to occur within 3 years at present rates). Once excavating within the 100-year floodplain additional permitting is required to continue sourcing there. It is proposed that the sourcing site be developed as a restoration site design to facilitate meeting the floodplain development requirements and develop a long-term closeout strategy. The Yurok Tribe requested consideration to lead that design. Within this effort, consideration of the long-term state the right bank Sawmill side channel will be taken.

The operating design report template includes subsections for uncertainties in feature performance and evolution. In light of project performance under recent significant flow events and response to public comments, additional discussion and framework for the uncertainties descriptions in future design reports was requested. The Design WG elected to move forward with a stand-alone meeting to outline that potential scope of uncertainty description.

The level of detail in revegetation design was also discussed. It was recommended that sites with access for revegetation limited to the same window as civil construction receive revegetation design integrated and matching the same detail as the civil designs. For sites where access for revegetation is not limited, it was recommended that full revegetation design be delayed until civil construction is completed to account for site construction modifications or uncertainties in groundwater interactions that may be revealed through construction. This may also be prudent for sites that take multiple seasons for civil construction implementation.

TRRP staffing was discussed in relation to the Design WG. Significant shortfalls in TRRP implementation staffing will require additional attention to coordination of design submittals and topics ensuring substantive reviews for compliance and implementation feasibility.

Workgroup: Flow

Coordinator: Todd Buxton

The Flow Workgroup met in a conference call on October 24 to discuss work priorities for the current fiscal year. Workgroup recommendations that accepted by the IDT were for the group to focus on flow scheduling and incorporating synthesis report results into this process. Otherwise, work is ongoing by Daryl Van Dyke on a potential flow scheduling tool and Todd Buxton is continuing to track Trinity River flows and temperatures to verify implementation of scheduled flows and monitor progress meeting temperature targets on the river.

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.

Workgroup: Physical

Coordinator: Conor Shea

The Physical Workgroup met on Nov. 22. Development and testing is continuing on habitat complexity metrics by individual workgroup members. These metrics focus on singular aspects of channel complexity, rather than a global assessment. They are useful for guiding decision making on channel rehabilitation and gravel augmentation, but do not approach a global metric that represents overall channel complexity.

In the coming year, the Physical Work expects to receive several synthesis reports (coarse sediment, fine sediment, channel complexity) that will support development of broader, global objectives and targets. Accordingly, we plan to hold off on development of objectives and targets until summer 2020 and focus our efforts on updating/refining gravel augmentation strategies and associated permitting.

Workgroup: Riparian and Aquatic Ecology

Coordinator: James Lee

The Riparian and Aquatic Ecology Workgroup has not met since the last TMC meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for December 13.

Workgroup members have been working independently on the revegetation project at Chapman Ranch, synthesis reports (black cottonwood seed dispersal and riparian encroachment), and evaluating riparian hardwood seedling establishment.

Objectives/targets refinement status:

% completed: 75%

New targets developed: 4, which were designed to absorb the existing Level 1 wildlife and riparian IAP objectives that are within TRRP's scope.

How much work is left: the workgroup needs to settle on a few outstanding questions, which should take a couple meetings (over the next few months). Then, we need to write up a 5-10 page document that explains our process and recommendations.

Support needed to finish: Meeting attendance (so far it has been good); we will likely request that TRRP partners support writing the final document.

Appendix II: Synthesis Reports Tracking and Estimated Completion Dates

Synthesis Reports											
Project No.	Brief Title	Involved Entities	Proposed Due	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)	March 2019				*				
TRRP-2018-003	Fish Habitat	<i>HVT, USFWS, YT, USBR TSC</i> (POC: Damon Goodman, USFWS)	2 nd Q 2019		*						Immanent
TRRP-2018-007	Juvenile Chinook Production	<i>USFWS, YT, HVT</i> (POC: Bill Pinnix, USFWS)	July 2017	*		YT					"anticipated end of January 2020"
TRRP-2018-009	Cohort Reconstruction	<i>HVT, USFWS, CDFW</i> (POC: Ken Lindke, CDFW)	2 nd Q 2019							*	
TRRP-2018-011	Adult Salmon Spawning	<i>USFWS, HVT, YT, CDFW</i> (POC: Steve Gough, USFWS)	2 nd Q 2019		*						"anticipated in January 2020"
TRRP-2018-018	Bed Mobility and Scour	<i>HVT, USFWS</i> (POC: Geoff Hales & Scott McBain, McBain Associates)	2 nd Q 2018		*						
TRRP-2018-019	Cottonwood Seed Dispersal	<i>HVT</i> (POC: John Bair, McBain Associates)	3 rd Q 2018		*						PR complete!
TRRP-2018-021	Riparian Encroachment	<i>HVT</i> (POC: John Bair, McBain Associates)	4 th Q 2018		*						
TRRP-2018-022	Sediment Storage	<i>HVT, USFWS</i> (POC: Geoff Hales & Scott McBain, McBain Associates)	4 th Q 2018		*						"by the end of the year"
TRRP-2018-025	Channel Complexity	<i>HVT, USFWS</i> (POC: Smokey Pittman & Scott McBain, McBain Associates)	August 2019			*					
TRRP-2018-027	Fine Sediment	<i>Program Office, NMFS, HVT</i> (POC: Todd Buxton, TRRP)	July 2020							*	
TRRP-2018-032	Water Temperature	<i>YT, USFWS, HVT, USBR, NMFS</i> (POC: Eli Asarian, Riverbend Sciences)	May 2019					*			
TRRP-2018-033	Large Wood Management	<i>NMFS, YT, HVT</i> (POC: Scott McBain)	April 2018			*					Immanent

* = due date for TRRP Peer Review process according to status assessment in December 2018.