



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 16, 2020

Major TRRP activities between September and December 2020 include:

Dutch Creek Channel Rehabilitation Project has been completed. A FONSI was signed on the Chapman Ranch Phase B Channel Rehabilitation Project. The program office remains in a maximize telework status.

Organizational Updates

- We are moving forward with filling our fish biologist vacancy (formerly a physical scientist position) through a MOA with the Yurok Tribe, similar to what has been done with riparian ecology through a MOA with the Hoopa Valley Tribe. Discussions on this topic are ongoing.
- A civil engineering technician position remains vacant.

Implementation Update

Dutch Creek Channel Rehabilitation Site: Construction of this restoration project was completed in early October with revegetation work completed on October 13. A presentation on the completed project is planned for the December TMC meeting.

Chapman Ranch Phase B Channel Rehabilitation Site: An Environmental Assessment/Initial Study has been completed and a FONSI was signed by Reclamation and BLM on October 8. A FONSI has not yet been signed by the USFS due to a delay in their posting of the EA to start their objection period. Permitting is underway and this project is planned for implementation in 2021; some vegetation clearing and out of channel excavation could start as early as February of 2021. The CLOMR application has been submitted but FEMA review could impact construction timeline.

Sky Ranch Channel Rehabilitation Site: Design development has been paused pending progress on a portion of the project being public land following a multi-party land exchange. This land exchange is now scheduled for early 2022. Minor changes to the design in response to reviewer comments and private landowner concerns need to be completed prior to moving the design forward. There is an active mining claim within the footprint which could impact the design as well.

Oregon Gulch Channel Rehabilitation Site: A draft environmental assessment will be released for comment on December 24. Unfortunately, the Yurok Tribe's Fisheries Restoration Grant Program application for a portion of this project was not funded. Since that funding will not be supplementing the cost, this project is scheduled for construction, most likely over a 3 year period, starting in 2022. Floodplain modeling for this CLOMR is just beginning. An environmental assessment is scheduled to be released for public comment on January 15.

Evans Bar Channel Rehabilitation Site: Design development for this project by the joint State/Yurok Tribe design group has been paused to allow for focus on design development for the close-out of the Sawmill gravel processing site.

Sawmill Gravel Processing Site: Recurring gravel processing for up-river coarse sediment augmentation is close to the 100-year floodplain. In order to analyze flood impacts of further excavation, a design for an end state needs to be developed and modeled. The design will likely be akin to a channel rehabilitation project, though the bulk of the excavation will be taken off site for augmentation rather than spoiled in upland piles. A design will be developed in the coming months by a joint State/Yurok Tribe design group. Survey work occurred with a joint DWR-TRRP crew the week of December 7.

Upper Conner Creek Channel Rehabilitation Site: A 30% design report is anticipated this winter. It is important to ascertain landowner cooperation before investing in further iterations of design.

Other Compliance

Wetland delineations: The program is working to complete wetland reporting that is required by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board in our Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan by the end of December.

Public Outreach Update

Publications and Education Materials

- Completed an up-to-date TRRP Overview brochure
<https://www.trrp.net/library/document/?id=2478>
- Completed video on Dutch Creek project – awaiting final review
- Updating TRRP 7-minute overview video
- Articles on fisheries monitoring and the Dutch Creek project submitted to local publications

Public Events and Environmental Education

- Provided resources for an informational booth at the Weaverville Farmer's Market
- Oct. 18: Sponsored physically distanced Trinity River clean up event with USFS and BLM
- Sponsored and participated in virtual Salmon Season event with local agencies

Landowner and Stakeholder Meetings

- Nov. 5: Virtual public scoping meeting for Oregon Gulch project
- Continued working with private landowners for access at proposed project sites in Junction City

Upcoming

- Jan. 15: Participation in Shasta County/North State virtual STEM Career Day
- Jan. – March: Trinity River survey to be distributed electronically beginning

- Working with Riparian and Aquatic Ecology WG on virtual science symposium - Spring '21

FY21 Budget Update Adjustments since September TMC Meeting:

Some surplus funding was determined to exist due to a combination of TRRP-caused spreadsheet errors with CDFW costs (discussed at September TMC meeting) and ongoing vacancies. In accordance with TMC's budget motion from July 2020, those funds have been distributed to making the top ranked monitoring projects whole at the originally proposed level of effort. This includes the Chinook Coded Wire Tagging, Fall Run Scale Aging, and Outmigrant Monitoring projects.

Approximately \$175k of watershed restoration funding which had been awarded to the USFS remained unspent at the expiration of the interagency agreement in September. We successfully retained those funds and they will be applied to watershed funding in FY21 in order to maximize on-the-ground sub-grant availability.

Science Update

In Peer Review

The draft synthesis report, "History of fine sediment and its impacts on physical processes and biological populations in the restoration reach of the Trinity River, California" (Todd Buxton) is still in peer review with comments due by 31 January 2021.

The effectiveness monitoring report, "Sheridan Creek/Deep Gulch Rehabilitation Effectiveness Monitoring Report, WY 2018-2020 (D. Gaeuman, K. DeJuilio, A. Martin, D. Bandrowski) was submitted to TRRP and internal peer review comments were received.

In Final Edits

Bair, J., S. Loya, and J. Lee. Vegetation encroachment synthesis for the Trinity River.

Final Publications and Reports

None submitted since September quarterly meeting

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

TRRP staff have created a web page for linking synthesis reports as they are completed. It incorporates additional reports that have had a synthesis intent but were not specifically funded by the FY2018 effort. The page is live at <https://www.trrp.net/restoration/adaptive-management/synthesis-reports/>.

Program Science Metrics Objectives and Targets

Workgroups are on track to provide write-ups of finalized objectives and targets January 1, 2021.

Final Data Packages

N/A

Appendix I: Technical Workgroup Briefings December 2020

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 work group met once in the last quarter, on 26 October. There are two outstanding targets expected to be completed for the current effort: juvenile outmigration temperatures at Weitchpec and minimizing competition and predation of juvenile hatchery salmonids on wild salmonids. A subgroup is actively working on the outmigration temperature target. Members of the fish work group will collaborate with the hatchery technical review group (non-TRRP) to develop a competition/predation target because this group is already tasked with doing so. Development of three additional targets will be deferred to a later time for reasons detailed in the meeting summary: adult holding habitat and harvest targets for adult Coho and steelhead. Three fish-related synthesis reports are outstanding. A draft of the adult synthesis report should be expected for peer review very soon, but no specific delivery date was provided. The cohort reconstruction project is moving along, although slowly and no delivery date was provided. Some data errors in the juvenile synthesis report were recently corrected, though the change did not affect conclusions. USFWS has outsourced some work on the report, so it is moving along. No specific delivery date was provided. Recommendations from a joint session with the Physical work group and other relevant parties on future management of Hamilton Ponds were to stop dredging and allow the sediment supply from Grass Valley Creek to reconnect with the mainstem Trinity River to alleviate what has now become a fine sediment deficit in that section of river. In addition, information gathering was recommended to inform future management decisions in the area, which included 1) letting the ponds fill and naturally reconnect with the mainstem, 2) letting the ponds fill and actively restoring the section between the ponds and the mainstem, and 3) letting the ponds fill and routing the connection through Lowden Meadows to create a meandering wetland. Further discussion will be had at the upcoming IDT meeting.

Key agenda items: Status of objectives/targets exercise, Synthesis reports update, plans or recommendations included in completed synthesis reports

Workgroup: Design

Coordinator: Justin Alvarez

The design workgroup had a meeting on November 10th. We reviewed the list of sites that are left to visit and discussed the possibility of revisiting Vitzum Gulch. An edited list has been circulated to the other workgroups for comment. The development of the Sky Ranch restoration site is on hold pending a land transfer. We discussed the possibility of having the federal design team start on Rush Creek in lieu of Sky Ranch. The other noteworthy discussion was a presentation by Dave Gaeuman. He walked the workgroup through a 2D temperature model at Oregon Gulch. He highlighted the results of the analysis and the group discussed the potential for this sort of information to be used as part of site design evaluation.

Workgroup: Flow

Coordinator: Seth Naman

The flow work group met on November 18 to 1) discuss a strategy for WY 2021 flow planning, 2) see a presentation from Jasmine Shen, a graduate student at HSU on invertebrate sampling results during Trinity River pulse flow events in 2020, and 3) get project and synthesis report updates. The flow work group generally agreed that a previously developed hydrograph, or an iteration of one, could be used for WY2021 in order to free up work group time to focus on other flow related projects. Also given the inability to release water prior to April 15, the group acknowledged that differences in model results

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between different proposed hydrographs has in the past been shown to be minimal. We also discussed models to be utilized for WY 2021 and other matters to prepare for a flow recommendation. The presentation from Jasmine Shen was well received. Her preliminary data appear to show a positive relationship between invertebrate biomass concentration and pulse flow events in the Trinity River. This will be useful information for informing recommendations on flow events during the winter months. Next steps for the flow work group include meeting after the new year approximately three times prior to the March TMC meeting to prepare a recommendation for WY 2021 spring flow event. Depending on the outcome of discussions at higher levels regarding the peak flow synchronization memo, the work group may begin analysis of alternatives for that effort.

Workgroup: Watershed

Coordinator: Chad Abel

The Watershed Workgroup last met on 09 November. They selected Chad Abel as the coordinator. The WG was informed of a new grant proposal evaluation process with a third-party administrator. They were also informed of the status of FY 20 funding (still forthcoming).

Workgroup: Physical

Coordinator: Conor Shea

The Physical Workgroup met on 30 November. They are working on metrics and are on track to provide a summary to the IDT in January. They developed a list of new gravel augmentation sites and submitted it to the Implementation Branch and at the IB's request, began the process to prioritize these sites. In collaboration with TRRP staff Jeannie McSloy and Eric Peterson, they have made substantial progress in determining a workflow sequence to delineate the effective valley width of the TRRP restoration reach. The effective valley width is a component of several of the Workgroup's recommended targets.

Workgroup: Riparian and Aquatic Ecology

Coordinator: Chris Laskodi

We have finalized four new objectives with targets and metrics. We have divided the four objectives into subgroups and are planning on submitting a memo to the IDT justifying the objective. I have attached the objectives in a simple Excel file which I am comfortable sharing with the IDT.

We also have planning a science symposium for 2021. We have developed several options to propose to the IDT for how we would like to proceed with the symposia. Here is the list that I would like to propose to the IDT during the 11 December meeting:

1. Virtual session approximately 2-3 days (March 16-18)
2. Sessions that last 2-3 hours weekly for several weeks (Every Friday, 12-2 PM, start March 19)
3. In-person some time during the fall (October 26-28, November 2-4, November 8-10), include one day for field visits
4. Some combination of the above

Workgroup: Interdisciplinary Team

Coordinator: James Lee

The Interdisciplinary Team met twice last quarter: 15 October and 11 December. Meeting topics included Objectives and Targets Refinement, Hamilton Ponds dredging, WY 21 Flow Scheduling, the upcoming science symposium, FY 22 Science Workplanning, and interactions with the Science Advisory Board. Discussion of the science symposium led the RAE to pursue developing a unique schedule: a series of short (2 hour) virtual seminars over a period of weeks this spring that focuses on the synthesis reports, followed by an in-person meeting in the fall (COVID-dependent). The IDT is currently working on a FY 22 science work planning process that will support the refinements process and a recommendation to the TMC on future dredging at Hamilton Pond. The IDT is also anticipating the receipt from technical

workgroups summaries and descriptions of their proposed objectives, targets, and metrics in January 2021.

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	FY21 q1	Notes
TRRP-2018-002	Tributary Delta	<i>Program Office (POC: Todd Buxton, TRRP)</i>	March 2019				*					incorporating WY19 and 20
TRRP-2018-003	Fish Habitat	<i>HVT, USFWS, YT, USBR TSC (POC: Damon Goodman, USFWS)</i>	2 nd Q 2019		*			PR done		Posted		FINAL POSTED!
TRRP-2018-007	Juvenile Chinook Production	<i>USFWS, YT, HVT (POC: Bill Pinnix, USFWS)</i>	July 2017	*		YT		PR done				
TRRP-2018-009	Cohort Reconstruction	<i>HVT, USFWS, CDFW (POC: Ken Lindke, CDFW)</i>	2 nd Q 2019							*		
TRRP-2018-011	Adult Salmon Spawning	<i>USFWS, HVT, YT, CDFW (POC: Steve Gough, USFWS)</i>	2 nd Q 2019		*							"PR draft to be ready in April"
TRRP-2018-018	Bed Mobility and Scour	<i>HVT, USFWS (POC: Geoff Hales & Scott McBain, McBain Associates)</i>	2 nd Q 2018		*			Posted				FINAL POSTED!
TRRP-2018-019	Cottonwood Seed Dispersal	<i>HVT (POC: John Bair, McBain Associates)</i>	3 rd Q 2018		*			Posted				FINAL POSTED!
TRRP-2018-021	Riparian Encroachment	<i>HVT (POC: John Bair, McBain Associates)</i>	4 th Q 2018		*			PR done				
TRRP-2018-022	Sediment Storage	<i>HVT, USFWS (POC: Geoff Hales & Scott McBain, McBain Associates)</i>	4 th Q 2018		*							"submitted to Program March"
TRRP-2018-025	Channel Complexity	<i>HVT, USFWS (POC: Smokey Pittman & Scott McBain, McBain Associates)</i>	August 2019			*						Delayed-uncertain timeline
TRRP-2018-027	Fine Sediment	<i>Program Office, NMFS, HVT (POC: Todd Buxton, TRRP)</i>	July 2020							*In PR		
TRRP-2018-032	Water Temperature	<i>YT, USFWS, HVT, USBR, NMFS (POC: Eli Asarian, Riverbend Sciences)</i>	May 2019					*				Expected completion date: 9/2/20
TRRP-2018-033	Large Wood Management	<i>NMFS, YT, HVT (POC: Scott McBain)</i>	April 2018			*						Internal review
NA	Flow Synthesis	<i>HVT et al. (POC: Justin Alvarez)</i>	Mid FY 22									

* = due date for TRRP Peer Review process according to status assessment in December 2018. Green= on time, blue= complete, orange=delayed.

Appendix III: Current working budget

Annual Costs Summary by TRRP Program Activity	2019 Approved	2020 Approved	2021 Approved
Program Administration	\$ 3,707,219.18	\$ 2,790,245.91	\$ 2,596,684.30
Rehabilitation Implementation	\$ 6,661,513.58	\$ 6,101,824.80	\$ 5,293,711.66
Science Program- <i>includes FWS tribal funds transferred to TRRP/USBR</i>	\$ 4,237,448.25	\$ 3,801,346.14	\$ 4,190,256.40
TOTAL <i>(doesn't include FWS salary/ops funds retained at FWS)</i>	\$ 14,606,181.01	\$ 12,693,416.85	\$ 12,080,652.36

TMC TRRP Annual Funding <i>(doesn't include FWS salaries/operations funds retained at FWS):</i>	2019	2020	2021
USBR (Water & Related A30 funds) <i>Any recovered funds are included here</i>	\$ 11,911,000.00	\$ 9,991,000.00	\$ 9,991,000.00
USBR (CVPIA H37 funds)	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00
FWS* - annual transfer to TRRP/USBR for specific tribal projects	\$ 749,392.00	\$ 687,000.00	\$ 645,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 14,160,392.00	\$ 12,178,000.00	\$ 12,136,000.00

*FWS annual funds transferred to TRRP/USBR for Tribal monitoring/survey projects: Monitor Redds, Outmigrant Monitor, and Channel Rehab Effectiveness monitoring. Obligated with FWS prior FY end-of-year remaining funds.

FWS* TRRP Annual Funding (outside of TMC TRRP)	2019	2020	2021
Fisheries & Aquatic Conservation Program-Science salary and ops	\$ 1,224,428.00	\$ 1,242,051.00	\$ 1,261,846.00

*FWS funds retained at FWS annually; not part of expenditures approved by TMC, therefore shown separately from about funding.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION		2019 Approved	2020 Approved	2021 Approved (Initial)	2021 Working
TRRP Administration Personnel					
TRRP Program Office Personnel <i>ED, Secretary, Indian Self-Determination Specialist, Grants and Agreements Specialist</i>		\$ 613,908.97	\$ 616,237.80	\$ 603,273.00	603,273.00
	Subtotal	\$ 613,908.97	\$ 616,237.80	\$ 603,273.00	603,273.00
TRRP Administration					
TRRP Program Office Operations <i>(TRRP office rent, vehicles, utilities, supplies, RO contracting, NCAO)</i>		\$ 792,250.86	\$ 534,237.80	\$ 550,264.93	\$ 550,264.93
TRRP Annual Report <i>(BOR Denver TSC)</i>		\$ 25,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TMC Notetaker - <i>TRRP contract</i>		\$ 17,140.20	\$ 17,529.60	\$ 17,918.40	\$ 17,918.40
Public Education and Outreach/Website - TCRCD <i>Work expands community knowledge of Program and educates schoolchildren, promoting environmental stewardship with a goal of improving support/success of restoration efforts.</i>		\$ 264,424.74	\$ -	\$ 102,858.52	\$ 102,858.52
	Subtotal	\$ 1,098,815.80	\$ 551,767.40	\$ 671,041.85	\$ 671,041.85
Trinity Management Council					
NOAA Fisheries - IA		\$ 48,500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Forest Service - IA		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Hoopa Valley Tribe - AFA		\$ 150,785.00	\$ 159,773.59	\$ 131,653.44	\$131,653.44
Yurok Tribe - AFA		\$ 134,389.27	\$ 107,215.20	\$ 107,215.20	\$107,215.20
CA Dept of Fish & Wildlife - FA		\$ 173,035.17	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
CA Dept of Water Resources - FA		\$ 64,600.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Trinity County -FA		\$ 7,112.11	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Subtotal	\$ 578,421.55	\$ 266,988.79	\$ 238,868.64	\$ 238,868.64
Technical Assistance					
Hoopa Valley Tribe -AFA		\$ 425,934.00	\$ 490,825.66	\$ 404,440.34	\$404,440.34
Yurok Tribe-AFA		\$ 417,640.90	\$ 457,485.26	\$ 382,457.68	\$382,457.68
CA Dept of Fish & Wildlife - FA		\$ 402,447.50	\$ -	\$ 320,248.00	\$240,602.79
NOAA Fisheries - IA		\$ 94,332.16	\$ 77,000.00	\$ 56,000.00	\$56,000.00
Trinity County Technical Assistance <i>(TRRP grant, floodplain development permit, FEMA)</i>		\$ 35,683.30	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00
Refinements Facilitator <i>TRRP Reclamation Contract</i>		\$ 40,035.00	\$ 329,941.00	\$ -	\$0.00
	Subtotal	\$ 1,416,072.86	\$ 1,355,251.92	\$ 1,163,146.02	\$ 1,083,500.81
TOTAL PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION					\$ 2,596,684.30

Partial or full 2-year funding, FY18 and FY19

Yellow Highlight are Changes from last TMC meeting

IMPLEMENTATION & WATERSHED BUDGET		2019 Approved	2020 Approved	2021 Approved (initial)	2021 Working
Implementation Personnel					
TRRP Program Office Personnel (Implementation Branch Chief, Outreach Coordinator, Civil Engineer, CE Tech (1), Senior Natural Resource Specialist)		\$ 774,219.06	\$ 648,292.00	\$ 949,706.40	\$ 949,706.40
	Subtotal	\$ 774,219.06	\$ 648,292.00	\$ 949,706.40	\$ 949,706.40
Miscellaneous					
FEMA/Flood Compliance Updates - Denver TSC		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
Junction City House (estimate for elevation)		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Realty Acquisitions (Easements, material storage)		\$ 50,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
	Subtotal	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 70,000.00
Planning					
NEPA/CEQA Compliance/Permits/ (TRRP contract, wetland delineation, bird surveys, native seed, cultural res		\$ 301,655.00	\$ 306,739.00	\$ 315,941.00	\$ 315,941.00
BAs Development (TRRP contract, spotted owl/coho/watershed wide)		\$ 39,157.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
BLM Technical Assistance - IA (NEPA, permits)		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 64,000.00	\$ 64,000.00
Geo-Phys Support Services (Aerial photography, boundary surveys, bathymetry and lidar, topography)		\$ -	\$ 86,956.64	\$ 651,075.34	\$ 551,846.00
	Subtotal	\$ 340,812.00	\$ 413,695.64	\$ 1,031,016.34	\$ 931,787.00
Design and Support Services					
Hoopa Valley Tribe Support Services		\$ 183,742.00	\$ 157,191.23	\$ 169,932.00	\$ 169,932.00
Yurok Tribe Support Services		\$ 282,246.94	\$ 215,228.12	\$ 56,695.27	\$ 88,462.26
DWR Support Services		\$ 85,400.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
USFS Technical Assistance Design, lg. wood/NEPA		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TSC Design Support		\$ -	\$ -		
	Subtotal	\$ 551,388.94	\$ 372,419.35	\$ 226,627.27	\$ 258,394.26
Construction					
Construction Projects - available funding		\$ 4,261,084.02	\$ 2,966,148.52	\$ 2,500,000.00	\$ 2,500,000.00
Construction Large Wood Supply YT		\$ 200,000.00	\$ 400,044.89	\$ -	\$ -
Construction Inspector		\$ -	\$ 100,610.00	\$ -	\$ -
Value Engineering Study - Reclamation requirement		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 42,000.00
Sky Ranch and Sawmill road repair construction co		\$ 68,511.00	\$ 135,368.14	\$ -	\$ -
High Flow Gravel Augmentation YT		\$ 119,814.93	\$ 123,432.02	\$ -	\$ -
Coarse Sediment Processing/Placement YT		\$ 100,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
Revegetation Maintenance/Irrigation-HVT 3-year cycle for planning irrigation/maintenance, this is for sites planted during the previous 3 years. In FY 18 maintaining 3		\$ 72,061.63	\$ 75,304.40	\$ 41,824.00	\$ 41,824.00
Systemic Riparian Mapping Project HVT (Funded Every 5 Years)		\$ 123,622.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Subtotal	\$ 4,945,093.58	\$ 4,100,907.97	\$ 2,583,824.00	\$ 2,583,824.00
Watershed Implementation					
Watershed Grants*		\$ -	\$ 536,509.84	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 500,000.00
	Subtotal	\$ -	\$ 536,509.84	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 500,000.00
TOTAL IMPLEMENTATION BUDGET		\$ 6,661,513.58	\$ 6,101,824.80	\$ 5,361,174.01	\$ 5,293,711.66

Amounts are 2-year funding, FY19 and FY20

Yellow Highlight are Changes from last TMC meeting

*Note - actual FY21 grant is \$675k due to prior year fund recovery