

United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Mid-Pacific Region
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, California 95825-1898



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
California-Nevada Operations Office
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2606
Sacramento, California 95825-1846

APR 11 2005

In Reply Refer To:
CNO
2005-0452

Mr. Douglas P. Schleusner, Executive Director
Trinity River Restoration Program
P.O. Box 1300
Weaverville, CA 96093

Dear Mr. Schleusner:

As the Secretary of the Interior's delegated representatives on the Trinity Management Council (TMC), we have the responsibility to ensure that fishery and river restoration activities are implemented in an effective manner. Our primary authority to undertake these actions is found in section 3406(b)(23) of the CVPIA, which authorizes the anadromous fish of Trinity River fishery. As you are aware, anadromous fish of Trinity River Origin must traverse the Lower Klamath in order to access spawning grounds in the Trinity River Basin. In the fall of 2002, many Trinity River fish attempting to make this migration perished in the fish die-off that occurred in the Lower Klamath River. While we anticipate that this will be a "normal" year in the Trinity, most of the Klamath Basin is experiencing another dry year in a series of dry years. Snow pack in the Upper Klamath Basin is estimated at 30% of normal, significantly increasing the possibility that low flows and high temperatures could lead to another die-off similar to the one which occurred in 2002. When combined with one of the lowest projected adult spawning escapements in recent years, impacts to fisheries in both the Trinity and Klamath Basins could be severe. For the Trinity River Restoration Program, this translates into causing delays in meeting the restoration and maintenance goals established in section 3406(b)(23).

Given our previously stated responsibilities and limited management flexibility, we would like to consider options for reducing the potential for a serious die-off of adult salmon in the Lower Klamath River by releasing an appropriate volume of water into the Trinity River at the most effective time in late summer or early fall. This volume of water will be considered part of the water year allocation specified in the December 19, 2000 Record of Decision.

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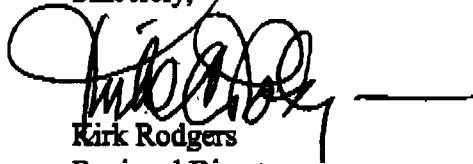
Mr. Douglas P. Schleusner, Executive Director

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We request that your staff, along with technical representatives of the TMC and Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group (TAMWG), participate in the development of a flow schedule recommendation, including options and trade-offs, that best achieves the objective stated above. Please present your analysis and recommendations to the TAMWG and TMC at their respective meetings on April 12 and April 14, 2005.

Thank you for your assistance in this important matter.

Sincerely,



Kirk Rodgers
Regional Director
Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Region



Steve Thompson
Manager
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
California-Nevada Office

cc:
Chair TMC, Mike Ryan
Chair TAMWG, Arnold Whitridge