



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, California 95825-1846

In reply refer to:
BOR/CNO

APR 26 2006



Memorandum

To: Doug Schleusner, Executive Director
Trinity River Restoration Program

From: Manager, California/Nevada Operations
Sacramento, California

From: Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation
Sacramento, California

Subject: Department of the Interior Response to Trinity Management Council
Recommendation for 2006 Trinity River Flow Schedule

This is in response to your April 18, 2006, letter, in which you formally transmitted the 2006 fishery restoration flow schedule recommended by the Trinity Management Council (TMC). As the Secretary of the Interior's designated representatives for the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP), we are informing you of our concurrence with the TMC's recommendation to use the modified version of Option 3, with the full allocation of 815,000 acre feet (AF) established in the Record of Decision (ROD) for an extremely wet water year, as this year's flow schedule. We further agree that incremental increases above 8,500 cfs to achieve geomorphic purposes may be considered; however, these and all flows near the requested peak range will be subject to extensive field monitoring and coordination. Staff at the Central Valley Operations Office will retain final authority when assessing the safety margins required for all flows and may modify the requested flows, as needed, to maintain public safety and/or minimize or prevent damage.

We have reviewed the final motion approved by the TMC on Friday, April 14, 2006, and the supporting information provided by your office. The rationale described for the proposed schedule is consistent with the objectives of the Trinity River Flow Evaluation Study and the ROD. In particular, we agree that extremely wet water years are relatively infrequent and geomorphic objectives should be maximized to the extent possible by using the full volume allocation. This is especially true for this year since tributary production of fine sediment in the upper river has been unusually large. We are also pleased that the requested modification in the schedule by sport fishing interests could be accommodated without impacting other management objectives. Please recognize, however, that with this extremely wet water year, actual flood releases might, at times, be higher than desired by fishers.

Please extend our appreciation to the TMC members, their technical staff, members of the Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group and your staff for their valuable contributions.

cc: Michael Long, TMC Chair
Brian Person, NCAO
Ron Milligan, CVO
Arnold Whitridge, TAMWG Chair