



Trinity River Restoration Program

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SEP 27 2007

US Fish & Wildlife Service September 24, 2007
Arcata, CA

Mike Long, Chair
Trinity Management Council
c/o TRRP office, Weaverville
By Hand

Dear Mr. Long,

Three recommendations from the September 11 meeting of the Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group:

The TAMWG recommends that implementation activities (channel rehabilitation, watershed projects, gravel augmentation...) be given priority for new or redirected funding in 2008.

The TAMWG recommends that the TMC include the TAMWG chair or his designee as a non-voting TMC member in all TMC functions.

The TAMWG recommends that the TMC work to expedite the process for appointment and re-appointment of TAMWG members and alternates.

Thanks for your September 19 letter responding to the TAMWG's June 19 recommendations. In the interest of effective TAMWG-TMC dialog, which we continue to think is important for the long-term success of the Trinity restoration program, the TAMWG hopes that the TMC will in fact discuss the recommendations that it has not yet discussed, and that TMC responses will usually arrive prior to quarterly TAMWG meetings.

Sincerely,

Arnold Whitridge, TAMWG Chair



Trinity River Restoration Program

P.O. Box 1300, 1313 South Main Street, Weaverville, California 96093
Telephone: 530-623-1800, Fax: 530-623-5944

September 19, 2007

To: Arnold Whitridge, Chair, Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group
From: Mike Long, Chair, Trinity Management Council *Mike Long*
Subject: Response to Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group (TAMWG) Letter

Thank you for letter (dated June 19, 2007) in which you provided several recommendations to the Trinity Management Council (TMC). On behalf of the TMC, this memo provides feedback to the TAMWG on those recommendations. I apologize for the lengthy delay in getting this response to you.

Recommendation 1: Recognize that the current state of TMC affairs obstructs restoration progress and puts the long-term success of TRRP in jeopardy.

Response: The TMC recognizes there are certain issues that are currently reducing the efficiency of implementing the Trinity River Restoration Program (Program). However, these issues are not restricted to the TMC, but rather involve several entities within the Adaptive Environmental Assessment and Management (AEAM) organization. Perhaps the two most pressing issues we need to address are 1) the clarification of the roles and responsibilities of the various entities involved with Program implementation; and 2) devising and implementing a more efficient, priority-driven budget process. The TMC is in the process of retaining a facilitator to help with the roles and responsibilities issue, and consideration of a revised budget process is also beginning.

Recommendation 2: Adopt a simple-majority requirement for TMC decision-making.

Response: The TMC could modify the TMC Bylaws regarding voting rules. As you may be aware, Trinity County recently sent a letter to the Secretary of the Interior requesting such a change. I believe that the upcoming roles and responsibilities discussion may help inform whether such a change would be helpful or advisable. At a minimum, this topic would need to be discussed at length among the TMC members so the pros and cons of such an approach could be thoroughly understood and discussed. To date, this discussion has not taken place, nor have any of the members requested that it be placed on a TMC meeting agenda for discussion.

Recommendation 3: Request direction from the Department of the Interior about the appropriate roles and responsibilities of member entities and the TRRP central office.

Response: In a meeting with the Secretary of the Interior's designated representatives (Kirk Rogers and Steve Thompson) in early June, Brian Person and I were directed to work with the TMC to attempt to come to agreement on the roles and responsibilities of the various entities that are part of the AEAM Organization.



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Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group

David Whitham, Chair
Co-Adaptive Management Project

Patrick Frost, Vice-Chair
El Dorado County Resource Conservation District

Serge Bell
Delta-Nevada Project / USFS / Apple Valley

L.B. Dugger
Delta-Nevada Community Council District

James Foster
Northern California Prairie Anadromy

Joan Hester
Local Landowners

Paul Haynes
Delta-Nevada

David Hester
Delta-Nevada Community Council District

James Lundy
Delta-Nevada Community Council District

George Lundy
Delta-Nevada Community Council District

Scott Robertson
Environmental Defense

Dr. Elizabeth Soderstrom
National Heritage Institute

James Soderstrom
National Heritage Institute

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James Soderstrom
National Heritage Institute

June 19, 2007

Mike Long, Chair
Trinity Management Council
c/o Trinity River Restoration Program
P.O. Box 1300
Weaverville, CA 96093

Dear Mr Long,

The Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group is pleased with TRRP staff's professional and transparent work towards effective implementation of the December, 2000 Record of Decision. However, the TAMWG is very concerned about shortcomings in the leadership provided by the Trinity Management Council, and believes that significant changes must be undertaken immediately to minimize harm to the Trinity River restoration effort. Specific causes for TAMWG concern include:


- TMC inability to reach timely decisions on important matters (TMAG budget, IAP Part 1, roles and responsibilities of program participants...) through successive unproductive meetings, with resulting uncertainty, delays, and an unacceptable burden of extra work for TRRP staff and program partners;
- Resistance of some TMC entities to the strong central TRRP office prescribed by the ROD;
- TMC failure to define and request adequate TRRP funding;
- Ineffective communications among TMC entities, and between TMC entities and TRRP staff;
- TMC neglect of Science Advisory Board and TAMWG recommendations; and
- Withdrawal of FWS TRRP funding from TMC budgetary oversight.

To remedy this unacceptable situation, the TAMWG strongly recommends that the TMC:

1. Recognize that the current state of TMC affairs obstructs restoration progress and puts the long-term success of TRRP in jeopardy;
2. Adopt a simple-majority requirement for TMC decision-making;
3. Request direction from the Department of the Interior about the appropriate roles and responsibilities of member entities and the TRRP central office;
4. Adopt measures to limit conflicts of TMC member entity financial interest in specific TMC decisions, including recusals as necessary and a universal RFP/competitive bidding process;
5. Include additional entities on the TMC that do not have conflicts of financial interest; and
6. Consider and respond explicitly to recommendations from the SAB, independent review panels, and the TAMWG.

As a step towards the improved communications that we see as necessary for a successful TRRP, the TAMWG requests a written response to this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Arnold Whitridge". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Arnold" and last name "Whitridge" clearly distinguishable.

Arnold Whitridge, TAMWG chair

cc: Kirk Rodgers
Steve Thompson