

United States Department of the Interior



Bureau of Land Management Redding Field Office

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IN REPLY REFER TO: 1730

Michael Long, Chairman
Trinity Management Council
Trinity River Restoration Program
PO Box 1300
Weaverville, CA 96093

Dear Mr. Long,

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has a pivotal role in the successful restoration of the Trinity River. The amount of public land administered by BLM within the entire Trinity River watershed is modest in comparison to the Forest Service or, perhaps, others. However, the public lands under our jurisdiction are located within areas that are key to the restoration effort, e.g. along the mainstem between North Fork and Lewiston Dam and within fragile watersheds such as Grass Valley Creek.

It is our opinion that BLM should be added to the Trinity Management Council (TMC). Consistent with Section 300 of the "Bylaws of the Trinity Management Council":

As future circumstances warrant, additional entities may be added to the TMC by unanimous vote of the TMC as described in Section 603. Such additions to the membership of the TMC shall only be to governmental agencies or entities (federal, Tribal, state, or local) which have either as a primary mission or key responsibility the restoration and or subsequent management of the fishery, wildlife, and other natural resources of the Trinity River and the Trinity River Basin.

BLM certainly has a primary mission and key responsibility for the restoration and subsequent management of this important ecosystem within the Trinity River Basin and, especially, within the footprint of the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP). Indeed, it would not be possible to implement the TRRP without the involvement and, most importantly, authorizations of BLM.

We look forward to consideration and unanimous support from the TMC to include BLM as a member. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Steven W. Anderson
Field Office Manager



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Dear Mr. Long,

I would like to bring to the attention of all the members of the Trinity Management Council (TMC) two related issues concerning the involvement of the Bureau of Land Management's Redding Field Office (BLM) in the successful restoration and long term management of key portions of the Trinity River. The first issue is the decision by the Executive Director of the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) in 2003 ending a long term agreement with BLM to fund a position dedicated to the restoration efforts. The second issue is the ability and willingness of BLM to acquire certain holdings that can facilitate proposed restoration activities. It is our opinion that if the TMC could fund a position on our staff and provide monies for land acquisition, the TRRP will reap tremendous benefits.

BLM had been involved in the restoration efforts on the Trinity River since the early 1980's. By 1990, BLM was an active participant in the Trinity River Task Force. Beginning in 1992 the Bureau of Reclamation funded a position on the BLM staff as a "project manager" for the restoration of lands acquired within the Grass Valley Creek watershed. That manager, Steven Borchard, was effective in that role and assumed an active role in the Trinity River Task Force and technical coordinating committee. He served as a champion for the restoration effort by coordinating and facilitating any restoration actions or authorization requirements proposed on public lands. BLM provided full infrastructure support for Steve's position. His successor, Brandt Gutermuth, served in this same capacity until his departure in 2002. In recognition of the importance of his position to the restoration effort, the Natural Resources Conservation Service provided free office space and utilities in their Weaverville office during Brandt's tenure. BLM provided remaining infrastructure support for Brandt.

The result of our loss of a position leaves us at a point that BLM cannot effectively participate in the restoration program. BLM will not be able to review environmental analyses (often very large documents) delivered to us for review. In addition, I am unable to sign decision records for actions taking place on BLM administered lands without these reviews. In essence, BLM will not be able to authorize further restoration activities proposed on public lands under our administrative jurisdiction including the current Draft Lewiston - Dark Gulch Rehabilitation Projects EA/EIR. I think you will agree that this scenario has dire consequences for the success of the TRRP since many proposed restoration actions along the Trinity River are located partially or wholly on BLM-administered public lands. Moreover, BLM manages key watersheds within the upper corridor including Deadwood Creek, Grass Valley Creek and Indian Creek.

Paradoxically, BLM has perhaps the best potential to make the TRRP successful. We have the ability to acquire willingly offered non-federal interests along much of the Trinity River between Lewiston and the North Fork Trinity River confluence. This ability is based on existing land use decisions in our 1993 Redding Resource Management Plan and BLM's relationship with cooperators who have the means and interests to facilitate land acquisitions along the main corridor of the Trinity River. Indeed, a cooperator currently holds title to a key parcel in the Gold Bar area. His intent is to exchange that parcel to BLM. One of my staff, Francis Berg, and Michael Berry of the California Department of Fish and Game have given separate presentations to the Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group that have shown the phenomenal success of the Clear Creek restoration program. Although several factors have resulted in that success, **nothing** would have been possible without the ability and actions of BLM to acquire and subsequently manage \$8 million of strategically important private lands. We see this same potential for the restoration of the Trinity River.

The TRRP will succeed if BLM has the means to support the restoration goals. Those means include a funded staff person who champions the needs of the TRRP, monies to provide for the processing of lands transactions; and, specific land acquisition funds if appropriate. I or Francis will be glad to discuss with you and other TMC members the possibilities of BLM's active involvement in the restoration of the Trinity River. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Steven W. Anderson
Field Office Manager

CC: TMC members, TAMWG members

TMC Members

TAMWG Members

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