



## Trinity River Restoration Program

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

June 16, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Person:

The Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group (TAMWG) met on June 9 and 10, 2014. This letter serves to provide you with a summary of that meeting with our resulting policy and management recommendations, as required by TAMWG's bylaws.

We received public comments from Wade Sinnen of CDFW and Lewiston landowner Dave Wellock.

Mark Lancaster of the Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program (5 C's) gave a PowerPoint presentation on Watersheds, Climate, and Water Conservation. He showed several innovative projects to improve local fish populations and to reduce fish mortality in tributaries as a result of the drought and diversions.

Pat Frost from Trinity RCD gave a presentation on their history and strategic plan that includes implementation of the Trinity ROD and the South Fork and Mainstem Trinity TMDL's.

I gave a brief presentation on the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan and its implications for the Trinity River.

Don Reck gave an update on the Trinity River hatchery lawsuit settlement.

Mike Merigliano from the Science Advisory Board gave a presentation on the final Phase 1 report.

James Lee gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Riparian Vegetation Approaches and ESA Species."

Designated Federal Officer Joe Polos presented several items for the TAMWG. He gave an update on the Decision Support System (DSS) and modeling efforts, as well as gave an update on the various TRRP work groups. He handed out the updated Action Tracker that is posted on the TAMWG's website, and TAMWG operating procedures were discussed. Lastly, the TAMWG Charter and current appointments expire January 14, 2015, so the Depart of the

Interior is accepting membership nominations through the end of July.

Executive Director Robin Schrock gave her report and presented the FY 14/15 budget to the TAMWG:

**The TAMWG recommends the support of the budget, as presented.**

Implementation Branch Chief DJ Bandrowski gave an update on channel implementation projects in 2014 and beyond. He presented a redesign of the Upper Douglas City forced meander and informed us that a public meeting on the redesign will be held July 1.

The TAMWG appreciated your attendance during our frank discussions about the joint TMC/TAMWG meeting and next steps. We appreciate your attendance at the TAMWG meeting and for providing an update on the drought and the TMC's response to our recommendations. Your attendance provides us with the opportunity to ask questions and provide you with our perspectives.

**The TAMWG recommends that I clarify our December 10, 2013 and March 24, 2014 recommendations to the TMC regarding watershed restoration and tributary restoration.**

12/10/13: *"The TAMWG recommends that the TMC ask the Science Advisory Board to determine whether or not there is a causal linkage between watershed restoration throughout the entire basin below the dams and the construction and operation of the Trinity River Division."*

3/24/14: *"The TAMWG asks that the TMC request the Science Advisory Board (SAB) to determine if tributary restoration throughout the basin could help meet the TRRP goals for all species."*

Watershed restoration activities consist of projects to reduce fine sediment inputs to the Trinity River and its tributaries as described in the Trinity River Record of Decision and the Trinity River Mainstem Fishery Restoration final Environmental Impact Statement. *"The watershed protection program of the Preferred Alternative includes road maintenance, road rehabilitation and road decommissioning on private and public lands within the Trinity River basin below Lewiston Dam, including the South Fork Trinity River basin."* (Trinity ROD, page 14)

Tributary restoration activities are not specifically included in the Trinity ROD, but include projects such as fish barrier removal (replacing inadequate culverts on blue line streams), screening and piping/lining irrigation ditches to reduce entrainment and increase instream flows, alternative water diversion systems such as the "trickle charge water tank" system, water forbearance agreements, instream habitat restoration projects similar to the Buckhorn Dam/Grass Valley Creek Toe Drain and Channel Rehabilitation Project and the Lower Sidney Gulch Urban Stream Restoration Project in Weaverville. Other projects would be similar to those found in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Salmonid Habitat Restoration Manual.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fish/resources/habitatmanual.asp>

Some projects such as culvert replacement for fish passage also provide sediment reduction benefits and have been funded by the TRRP in tributaries upstream of the North Fork, but TRRP funding for tributary restoration projects is very limited geographically and in scope.

The Watershed Work Group asked for clarification of the ability of TRRP to fund watershed priorities and the scope of projects in an October 23, 2013 memorandum to the TAMWG and other work groups. They appear to be asking the same questions that the TAMWG is asking.

In summary, the TAMWG is recommending that the TMC ask the Science Advisory Board two:

1. What is in the causal linkage between watershed restoration activities downstream of the North Fork (including the South Fork Trinity) and the construction and operation of the Trinity River Division of the CVP?
2. Does the SAB think that performing a variety of tributary restoration activities throughout the Trinity River basin (including areas upstream of the North Fork) that are not specifically included as part of the Trinity ROD and Final EIS would help meet the TRRP's fishery escapement goals below?

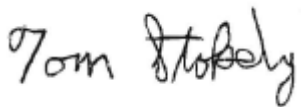
Species	Natural	Hatchery
Fall Chinook	62,000	9,000
Spring Chinook	9,000	3,000
Coho	1,400	2,100
Steelhead	40,000	10,000

It is hoped that the SAB's response to the two questions will help guide the Interior Solicitor's Office in crafting a written opinion on whether or not the TRRP can fund watershed and tributary restoration activities beyond the first 40 miles of the Trinity River.

The TAMWG's next meeting will be September 9 and possibly the 10<sup>th</sup>, if a second day is necessary.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Tom Stokely, Vice-Chairman  
Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group