TRINITY RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

Mission Statement

To protect, enhance, restore and revitalize the watershed through collaborative efforts that leverage external resources, work toward common goals, educate and engage community stakeholders, address natural resource issues, and support healthy ecosystems for future generations.

Meeting Notes Friday December 7, 2018 TCRCD Conference Room, #3 Horseshoe Lane, Weaverville 10:00 am – 12:25 pm

In attendance: Eric Wiseman (Yurok Tribe); Bobbi Chadwick (TCBOS); Tracy McFadin (TCRCD); Josh Smith (WRTC); David Schmerge (USFS); Bob Morris (SAFE); Amelia Fleitz (USFS); Mike Dixon (TRRP); Andrew Schwitzgebel (WRTC); Skyler Poe (WRTC); Andy Hill (CDFW); Cindy Buxton (5Cs and WRTC); Bella Hedtke (TC Planning); Sandra Perez (5C); Marie Petersen (Down River Consulting); Donna Rupp (TCRCD).

1. Introductions.

2. Collaboration on watershed-wide monitoring efforts-Josh

Watershed Stewards Program members introduced. They are available to help on projects until August. Coordination of monitoring efforts is important, there isn't much money available for this type of work, want to make sure there isn't overlap. Project types could include streamflow, temperature, macroinvertebrates, fish, etc. Dave said the USFS could use assistance. Amelia said they will have 2 seasonal technicians, will be doing SWAMP stream condition surveys. Bill Brock is the fisheries contact right now. Mike said TRRP has mainstem TR Limekiln USGS gauge data. Marie said turbidity and storm water monitoring is not funded, would be helpful especially with cannabis impacts. IERC has been doing some water quality work. Cindy said community watershed monitoring might be helpful, might inform what areas can have more licenses.

3. Update on watershed restoration gap analysis: GIS analysis draft maps and request for input (WaterSmart Project) – Donna

Gap Analysis Project (Landscape Level Restoration Gap and Trend Analysis for Tributaries of the Trinity River, CA.,) attempting to capture in one place the Trinity River tributary projects over the past 20 years, looking at a landscape level and using GIS data to define watershed characteristics. They have been putting information on maps with trends and identifying where there are gaps. One online data source is California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Areas of Conservation Emphasis (ACE) database that shows connectivity and species richness. Another source is the Climate Change Vulnerability report by Christine Mai for Shasta Trinity NF. Work in the watershed has been driven largely by anadromous fisheries.

Terrestrial Watershed Characteristics Map displayed overhead. Connectivity and rare species counts for the SFTR region. Displays CDFW ACE database connectivity, rare species (richness and diversity estimate; USFS survey data for northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet critical habitat. Private property data not available. Have to consider if data sets are based on surveys or modeling.

Aquatic Watershed Characteristics Map displayed overhead. NW Forest Plan condition trends, observed stream temps from USFS data, TMDL reference streams.

Handout (attached): Identifying Key Issues. Completed projects: 14 types of projects defined and georeferenced; also by project funder and year. Stakeholder priorities included in key issues. Is Council in agreement of Top Priorities? Yes. Is the statement still accurate? Yes. Other priorities have been discussed at Council meetings. Donna would like feedback from Council.

Project Types by Subwatershed-SFTR Map displayed overhead.

Cannabis impacts: Google Earth not accurate for cannabis, so used permits for cultivation / acreage of parcel. Outside of CSDs will have more impact (water purchased). May also pull from creeks, but not as common. Discussion on including parcel size and decided to remove it because it is not related to the size of the cannabis cultivation site. Starting in 2019, commercial cannabis cultivators will not be allowed to draw from surface water sources between April and October. People are drilling wells instead of putting in storage infrastructure. Suggestion to put CSD boundary on map over HUCs to clarify. (Maps were updated based on this feedback).

Question: Are groundwater basins being reassessed by DWR? Josh said it seems to be a low priority for them. Marie said the new regulations won't be put into place until 2020.

Implementation Projects by Watersheds maps displayed overhead. Can display some BAER projects, cultural/plant projects, fire impacts, mining impacts, spring density/resiliency rating (USFS), weather patterns. How does the Council want to see these pieces put together? Donna would like feedback. Josh would need to have more information about climate change resiliency ratings. (Based on this feedback the climate change resiliency maps have been updated.)

Steelhead snorkel survey counts maps by reach for New River, North Fork Trinity River, South Fork Trinity River and Canyon Creek displayed overhead. Maps show snorkel survey numbers by grouped years and reaches based on data provided by Eric Wiseman and aggregated by Donna. Discussion: Runoff amount each year affects how far upstream the fish can get. Josh isn't real comfortable with combining steelhead and half pounder counts as it is sometimes difficult to distinguish half pounders from resident rainbow trout when conducting the surveys. Eric gave Donna approval to combine them. At this point, this GIS database is complete, but other people are welcome to take the data and set up new geodatabases to look at the data in different ways.

Comment regarding fish decline in one historically productive reach in the South Fork Trinity River and that illegal grows may be impacting counts by removing water and poaching fish.

Project deliverables: Trend and Gap Analysis in Watersheds and Watershed restoration project priorities and recommendations.

Discussions: David noted that for a key watershed to be singled out, the Forest Supervisor has to make and approve that decision. It is based on the watershed condition framework, where they pick the best condition watershed, get the work done and have success sooner. David will also look at the TMDL reference stream in the South Fork Watershed.

Considerations: Is resiliency related to future conditions? Does connectivity lead to more resiliency? Mike: Coho IP is an important indicator for available fish habitat; the GIS maps need to show barriers on stream reaches. Donna – the Passage Assessment Database (PAD) will also be included in database, but we ran out of time here to look at it.

Donna: Beaver and Coho evolved together; there may be opportunity to plant beaver in high IP areas.

4. Upcoming watershed grant opportunities – Mike / Tracy

Mike: BOR-TRRP Watershed Implementation FOA has still not been released. Undergoing additional review in Washington.

Tracy: Proposition 68 opportunities will be opening up, from different agencies, including CDFW and Wildlife Conservation Board. Also DOC Watershed Coordination opportunity opening soon. NFWF will have an opportunity for projects on STNF opening in January.

5. Program work/updates/news

Yurok Tribe- Eric: South Fork Trinity project implemented with Watershed Center (TRRP funding). Helicopter placed 300 trees along a 5-mile stretch. Will be doing outreach later, and will get the word out to boaters, especially kayakers. Project successful, they are very happy with the results so far. It is a flashy system, and entire trees were placed, not anchored, things will move. Had meeting in Hyampom with key landowners, most were supportive.

They have another project in Clear Creek, in design/build phase, may implement this season. More TRRP mainstem work possible. Also Klamath dam removal subcontract work possible (Jan. 2021 anticipated dam removal). In future, want to do a Rush Creek habitat connectivity project with the USFS Trinity River Management Unit (Weaverville); another future project could be Heliwood Phase II further up the drainage, Forest Glen area; looking at using Stage Zero Restoration method to trap and store water (successful in Oregon and Washington) in Indian Creek.

USFS -David:

Four large Westside NEPA projects (Burnt Ranch Fire Resiliency Community Project EIS, Trinity County Collaborative Group Roads and Plantations Pilot Project EA, Dubakella Plantations Insect and Disease Project CE, Trinity Alps Prescribed Fire EA). First three have legacy road stream crossings. The target decision date for the Pilot project is April. Dubakella is a lower priority. Burnt Ranch draft target date is April. Trinity Alps target is Feb for a draft.

Mid-size projects include Carr Fire Road Maintenance CE and timber salvage (roadside salvage of hazard trees), March target decision date. Smaller CE projects include Headwaters Restoration- Shell Mountain in the upper SFTR watershed. Draft report due soon, decision in early 2019. Restoration of legacy sediment sites, 17 stream crossings. Funding for implementation is not in place yet.

Watershed Research Training Center-Josh:

Implementing the SFTR Heliwood Project (with Yurok Tribe) was interesting and exciting, they will be tracking the project over time. They are also working with ranchers in Hayfork and having discussions about fish passage diversions. Indian Valley Stage Zero site planning in process, need LIDAR data. USFS Region 6 specialist team visited sites, providing design help. Historically area was a wet meadow, incised now. Based on past discussions with Carla (USFS wildlife), Beaver transplant might be possible in the future as it could be a good location for them, but CDFW doesn't permit beaver relocation now in CA. Also working on project at Salt Creek confluence with Hayfork Creek (WRTC owns the parcel) and have a groundwater recharge project in design stage.

TRRP-Mike:

EA for Chapman Ranch Project is open for public comment, had public meeting in Junction City where 28 people were in attendance. Mainstem Trinity River Draft NEPA for Dutch Creek Restoration Project (on USFS land) will be out in Dec. Hoping for implementation this next year. Re-initiating consultation with USFWS/NMFS for Programmatic Biological Opinion (from dam to SFTR downstream). Entire Central Valley Project included in TR Division. Buckhorn Dam might be included/operations, flow control to optimize releases. TRRP Watershed Implementation funding opportunity, still no news. If not released soon might be combined with FY 19-20 when offered and be for two years. Opportunity is undergoing multiple reviews. Pre-recruitment for Science Coordination position that will be advertised soon (probably GS 12/13 level).

USFS-Amelia:

Might be working on a chinook juvenile outmigration study with Yurok. She is seasonal and will be off until spring.

Downriver Consulting-Marie:

State temporary licensing will be closing, transitioning to provisional licensing next year. New clients for 2020 cultivation if at all. Roads workshop coming up and the Regional Water Board has funding for roads work. Downriver has hired a professional geologist and a wildlife biologist.

Trinity County Board of Supervisors- Bobbi:

LAFCO approved Tule Creek Annex for TC Waterworks District #1, Hayfork industrial zoning now has water district coverage. Jeremy Brown is the newly elected BOS member. Cannabis Planning Dept. is down staff members, which is slowing things down. She outreached to TC Planning Department Director in Sept. regarding Grading Ordinance but did not receive a response. Something was supposed to be underway by end of year for Grading Ordinance. Consultants the County hired for the commercial cannabis licensing Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for CEQA have missed their deadline (was set for the end of November).

Trinity County Planning – Bella:

Something is coming up on the grading ordinance, but she can't release any details yet.

5Cs-Sandra:

Construction projects include Sharber Creek downriver fish passage and Oregon St. sediment work. Working on planning and design for Sidney Gulch fish passage behind the US Forest Service compound. Contamination has been found at the site. Also, water reliability project on Browns Creek with WRTC is getting good landowner response. Working on design for instream habitat in Sidney Gulch by Lee Fong Park. East Weaver Creek Dam NEPA being reviewed, may be able to implement this coming year. Water Resiliency project addressing ditches (including McKnight).

SAFE-Bob:

Working with Trinity County Collaborative Group. Have had success working with Six Rivers NF, not as much success with Shasta-Trinity NF.

No one present to report for Hoopa Valley Tribe, NRCS and BLM.

6. Determine 2019 Meeting Dates- Donna

Similar schedule as 2018 will be followed, Feb., April, September and December, dates will be announced.



Figure 4x. Number of projects completed by year.

Project Types

Based on input from the Trinity River Watershed Council members the project types to include in the analysis were reviewed and discussed. It was decided that the following project types will not be tracked in this analysis: coordination, stewardship, fuels reduction*, and education and outreach. While all of these project types have great impacts on restoration and the health of the watershed, they do not fit well within the confines of a mostly GIS-based analysis and the scope of this project.

The final Gap Analysis project types agreed to by the Trinity River Watershed Council are as follows:

- 1. Cultural Heritage
- 2. Design and Planning
- 3. Fish Passage
- 4. Floodplain
- 5. Gauging

- 6. Instream Habitat
- 7. Monitoring
- 8. Non-roads sediment
- 9. Revegetation
- 10. Riparian

- 11. Roads
- 12. Water Conservation
- 13. Weeds
- 14. Wetlands

A note about project type 5 – Gauging: This project type was funded by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Fisheries Restoration Grant Program (FRGP), but no gauging projects in this watershed have been funded since 2000.

The final project types were derived from multiple agencies' projects. The following Table 4x shows the legacy project types by funder, and the Gap Analysis Project Type.

^{*}Hundreds of fuels reduction projects have been implemented in the watershed since 2000. The Trinity County Fire Safe Council is the organizational group for fuels reduction and fire safety projects, including forest health, shaded fuel breaks, ladder fuel reduction, chipping programs, etc. The Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is the guiding document for this organization.

Funder Project Types Categorized into Gap Analysis Project Types

Projects in the watershed were funded by several different organizations, each with their own method of categorizing the projects. This is a consolidated list providing the correlation between the original project type and the type used in this analysis.

Funder	Abbreviation	Description	Gap Analysis Project Type		
FRGP	FL	Fish Ladder (No longer an option)	Fish Passage		
	FP	Fish Passage at Stream Crossings	Fish Passage		
	нв	Instream Barrier Modification for Fish Passage	Fish Passage		
	н	Instream Habitat Restoration	Instream Habitat		
	HR	Riparian Restoration	Riparian		
	HS	Instream Bank Stabilization	Instream Habitat		
	ни	W atershed Restoration (Upslope) FRGP includes roads and reveg	Split Into 2: Roads and Revea		
	MD	Monitoring Status and Trends	Monitoring		
	MO	Monitoring Watershed Restoration	Monitoring		
	PD	Project Design	Design and Planning		
	PL	Watershed Evaluation, Assessment and Planning	Design and Planning		
	SC	Fish Screening Diversions	Fish Passage		
	WC	Water Conservation Measures	Water Conservation		
	WD	Water Measuring Devices (Instream and Water Diversions)	Gauging		
TRRP	2017 Funding Categories	Fine Sediment Reduction and Prevention: May include implementation (listed below), design and planning monitoringto establish baselines, and monitoring to assess effectiveness.			
		1. Trapping removing sediments in tribs, floodplains,			
		riparian areas, and associated wetlands	Non-roads sediment		
		2. Road decom & treatment	Roads		
		3. Upland erosion and sediment control	Non-roads sediment		
		4. Increase stream roughness (LWS)	Instream Habitat		
		5. Improved sediment storage on floodplains	Floodplain		
		6. Stream bank treatment Instream Habitat			
TRRP	2017 Funding Categories	Fish Habitat Connectivity Improvement: Improve or enhance habitat connectivity through implementation in trib channels, floodplains, riparian areas and associated wetlands. Mostly focused on implementation, but may include design and planning.			
		1. Enhancement of fish passage	Fish Passage		
		2. Improve floodplain connectivity	Floodplain		
		3. Access to thermal refugia	Instream Habitat		
		4. Instream pool frequency/depth	Instream Habitat		
		5. Improve instream flow to connect fish habitats in tribs	Instream Habitat		
USFS RAC		Non-Fuels, Non Roads_Fuels/Basketry	Cultural Heritage		
		Non-Fuels, Non Roads_Restoration_Natural Bridge	Cultural Heritage		
		Non-Fuels, Non Roads_Restoration_NativePlant	Reveg		
		Non-Fuels, Non Roads_Restoration_Noxious Weeds	Weeds		
		Roads - WSR Implementation	Roads		
		Roads - WSR NEPA	Design and Planning		
		Other/Wetlands	Wetlands		

Table 4x. Legacy project types by funders.

Non-Geospatial Projects

Some projects completed in the watershed could not be assigned to a specific subwatershed as they benefited broad areas. They are listed in Table x, and simply assigned to either the Mainstem or South Fork and are not represented on the GIS maps.

Sub Watershed	Project Description	Original Project Type	Gap Analysis Project Type	Year
Mainstem	Botanical Survey	Reveg	Design and Planning	2003
Mainstem	Native Seed Bank	Reveg	Reveg	2006
South Fork	South Fork Planning	Planning	Design and Planning	2010
South Fork	Spring Chinook in the SFTR: Management Recommendations and the Status of Their Implementation	Planning	Design and Planning	2012
Mainstem	Mod #1 Nursery	Reveg	Reveg	2013
Browns, Canyon, Weaver, Indian, Reading Creeks	Ag Practices: Evaluation of water use and impacts on streamflow and water quality.	Planning; Monitoring & Assessment	Monitoring	2013
Mainstem	Native Plant Nursery	Reveg	Reveg	2014
South Fork	South Fork Trinity River Watershed Assessment	PL	Design and Planning	2014
Mainstem	Nursery	Reveg- nursery	Reveg	2015
Mainstem	Native Plant Nursery	Veg	Reveg	2016

Table 4x. Non-geospatial projects.

Further analysis of the project type data shows Table x with project totals and types by subwatershed and Table <mark>4x.</mark> providing a breakdown by project type, funder, and year funded.

Project totals and type by subwatersheds

1	D I.					
-	Roads	4	Fish Passage	2	Roads	6
1	East Fork South Fork Trinity F	6	Monitoring	1	Smoky Creek	7
5	Roads	6	Riparian	1	Design and Planning	1
1	East Fork Stuart Fork	2	Roads	6	Roads	6
1	Design and Planning	1	Little Trinity River	1	Stoney Creek	2
3	Roads	1	Design and Planning	1	Reveg	2
1	East Weaver Creek	6	Lower Browns Creek	6	Sulphur Glade Crk-Waldorf F	8
1	Roads	2	Design and Planning	1	Design and Planning	1
4	Design and Planning	1	Roads	5	Roads	6
3	Instream Habitat	1	Lower Canyon Creek	20	Weeds	1
1	Non-roads sediment	1	Fish Passage	1	Supply Creek	2
4	Roads	1	Non-roads sediment	1	Fish Passage	1
4	Grass Valley Creek	23	Reveg	1	Instream Habitat	1
3	Design and Planning	1	-	1	Tule Creek-Hayfork Creek	10
1	Fish Passage	2	Roads	7	Fish Passage	1
1	Instream Habitat	3	Weeds	9	Ũ	1
1	Monitoring	1	Lower Hayfork Creek	1	· ·	1
10	Non-roads sediment	5		1		3
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Table x. Alphabetical listing of subwatersheds, with total number of restoration projects, followed by project types.

Project Type, Funder, and Year Funded

	Instream Habitat, Cont.	Riparian	Roads, Cont.
JSFS RAC	CDFG 2000	BLM	USFS RAC
004 005	2000 2006	2009 Bureau of Reclamation	2000 2002-2010
Design and Planning	2007 CDFG/FRGP	2000 Bureau of Reclamation-TRRP	2012 2015
2014			
2014	2003	2004	USFS RAC/Bureau of Reclamation-TRRP
Bureau of Reclamation-TRRP	2010	2005	2008
2010	CDFG/PSMF	2006	USFS/Bureau of Reclamation-TRRP
2011	2001	2011	2008
2012	FRGP	CalTrans	USFS/CDFG/OHV Commission
2015	2016	2000	2004
CDFG	Monitoring	2002	USFS/USFS RAC
2000	BLM	2007	2010
CDFG/FRGP	2001	CDFG/TRRP	Water Conservation
2001	2009	2009	CDFG/PSMF
RGP	Bureau of Reclamation-TRRP	NRCS	2004
2007	2015	2005	NRCS
2015	FRGP	2008	2005-2008
I.C. Regional Water Quality			
Control Board	2000	Trinity County	Weeds
008	2001	2004	BLM
NorthWind-TRRP	2003	2007	2009
2010	NorthWind-TRRP	USFS RAC	2010
2011	2013	2009	Bureau of Reclamation-TRRP
2013	2014	2012	2010
SWQRCB	2015	Roads	Cal Dept Food and Ag
2004	USFS RAC	BLM	2001
JS Fish & Wildlife Service	2010	2004	2010
2001	Non-roads sediment	2004	NFF
JSFS	BLM	Bureau of Reclamation-TRRP	2009 North State Recourses
2009	2000	2000	North State Resources
2015	2001	2002	2016
JSFS RAC	2002	2004	NRCS
2004	Bureau of Reclamation-TRRP	2008-2015	2002
2011	2004	Bureau of Reclamation-TRRP/BLM	2005
Fish Passage	2005	2008	Trinity County
BLM	2007	CDFG	2004
2004	2008	2001	Trinity County Ag
2011	2013	2006	2002
Bureau of Reclamation-TRRP	CDFG/FRGP	CDFG/ USFS RAC	2016
2011	2001	2003	USFS
2015	NRCS	EPA	2008
CDFG	2003	2000	2009
2000	Trinity County	FRGP	2011
Coastal Conservancy /NOAA			
Open Rivers	2007	2001	USFS RAC
2006	US Fish & Wildlife Service	2002	2007
RGP	2000	2003	2010
2000	USFS	2005	2011
2002	2007	2007	2015
2003	Reveg	NRCS	2016
2004			Wetland
	BLM	2003-2009	
2007	2001	2011	BLM
2015	2002	2012	2003
Trinity County	2003	OHV Commission	DOT Federal Highway Administration
2005	2004	2011	2011
rinity County; CDFG (PSMFC)	Bureau of Reclamation-TRRP	2012	2014
2005	2003	2014	Trinity County
JSFS	CalTrans	2016	2003
2004	2001	OHV Commission/ USFS RAC	Trinity County/Calif Parks & Rec
2010	2006	2014	2004
JSFS	2009	OHV Commission/SRWQCB/CDFG	Trinity Lumber Co
2006	2014-2017	2000	2004
2008	CDFG	Private	US Fish & Wildlife Service
2014	2003	2010	2004
JSFS RAC	DOT Federal Highway Administration	2015	USFWS
.005	2012	SWQRCB	2014
.007	2013	2014	2017
010	NRCS	SWQRCB/OHV Commission	
012	2003	2011	
JSFWS	2004	Trinity County	
.009	2006	2013	
		Trinity County Dept of	
nstream Habitat	2008	Transportation	
Bureau of Reclamation-TRRP	Trinity County	2001	
	2002	USFS	
	2002		
2006	LISES BAC	7()()1_7()()2	
2006 2008	USFS RAC	2001-2003	
2006 2008 2012	USFS RAC 2009	2005	
2006 2008 2012 2015			
2006 2008 2012		2005	

<mark>Table x</mark>

Project Type	Total
Cultural	2
Water Conservation	7
Wetland	9
Instream Habitat	14
Monitoring	14
Non-roads sediment	15
Riparian	19
Reveg	25
Weeds	25
Design and Planning	26
Fish Passage	29
Roads	152
	337

Priorities from Trinity River Watershed Council:

Over the course of the last several years, members of the Watershed Council have discussed restoration priorities for the watershed. The Council supports following priorities already established in the following documents:

- US EPA Trinity and South Fork Rivers TMDL documents
- SONCC recovery plan
- California Coho Recovery Strategy and Steelhead Restoration and Management Plan
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Recovery plans for coho and steelhead
- USFS Northwest Forest Plan
- Trinity County Road and Culvert Inventories
- Priorities established in existing watershed assessments

While considering everything within those existing documents, the Watershed Council is in agreement that the overall top restoration priority is water quantity/availability in all tributaries and the second priority is the need for more data and monitoring to increase data-driven restoration projects.

Other priorities, in no particular order are:

- Increase Connectivity: Connectivity of goals, projects, and habitats.
- Reduce human impacts on landscape and water availability.
- Support of beaver habitat and relocation for water quantity and fish habitat.
- Increase emphasis on floodplain connectivity/ground water re-charge.
- Build forest resiliency to decrease stand-replacing wildfire.
- Apply fuels management projects based on ecological value, not just community protection.
- Provide pathways for fish to reach cold refugia.
- Reduce or mitigate for climate change impacts.
- Reduce invasive species.
- Reduce pesticide/herbicide use.
- Increase wetland restoration where were they and where should they be now?
- Decrease vulnerability to loss of undisturbed reference locales; to impacts from climate change; and to ongoing impacts from historic mining.

MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

Trinity River Watershed Council

Meeting Date: December 7, 2018

TCRCD Conference Room

Affiliation/ Contact Info. If Not on Current List Name ERIC Wiseman YUROR TRIBE Bobbi Chadwick BOSTC Tracy McFadin TCRCD JOSH SMITH WRTC David Schnerge USFS BOB MORRIS SAFE Amelia Fleitz UBFS Mike Dixon TRRP Andrew Schwitzgehel WRTC Skyler Poe WRTC Anay [1]1 COPM Buxton 5c/WRTC Bella Hedtke & Planning Dep bhedtke Otrinity county. Down River Sandra Pévez Marie Peterson