



Board of Directors

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<http://www.fotr.org>

FRIENDS OF TRINITY RIVER NEWSLETTER

July 24, 2006

SECOND LARGEST WATER RETURN TO TRINITY RIVER SINCE COMPLETION OF DAM

Other than in 1974, more water was returned to **Trinity River** this year than in any other year since completion of **Trinity Dam**. The large volume of water and high flows produced dramatic changes to the river and its channel. Islands have been created, encroaching riparian growth has been torn away and flushed downriver, and large amounts of sediment from heavy watershed runoff in early winter that smothered gravels in the upper river have been swept away.

This water year was classified as “extremely wet” by the **Bureau of Reclamation**. That meant a return of 815,000 acre feet of water to the river for the year. In addition, increased water releases started in March to safeguard the dam as **Trinity Lake** started filling to its maximum capacity. It’s estimated, although the amount is not verified fully, that an additional 410,000 acre feet of water beyond the planned releases were returned to the river this year. The adopted flow schedule anticipated increased returns of water to the river starting in late April.

Maximum flows this year reached 10,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) for four days. The **Record of Decision** provides for flows of 11,000 cfs in an extremely wet water-type year. Because of needed modifications in the floodplain – moving houses, outbuildings, wells, pump houses, roads, etc. - maximum flows could not be released. The need for maximum flows is imperative in extremely wet water-type years if restoration of the river’s fisheries and wildlife is to be achieved. These years occur infrequently.

Under the adopted flow schedule, water will be returned to the river in a typical summer volume - 450 cfs – on July 22.

2006 CHANNEL MANIPULATION PROJECTS

While the **Restoration Program** complete plan of work and budget has not yet been adopted, it is planned to construct the **Canyon Creek** group of channel projects this year. This consists of four habitat rehabilitation areas: **Connor Creek, Valdor Gulch, Elkhorn** and **Pear Tree**. These projects are in a six mile stretch of the river from **Canyon Creek** to about a half mile upstream from the **North Fork** of the **Trinity**. These projects are immediately downstream from the **Hocker Flat** project completed last year.

The budget is not finalized because it is not yet known just how much money will be available to the **Program** next fiscal year commencing October 1. At this point, available funds have been reduced substantially from current year allocations. It may be that inter or intra-agency transfers toward fiscal year end, and possible additional **Congressional** appropriations will increase funds for **Program** implementation. We are very interested in obtaining funds to complete floodplain modifications and have requested funds for this purpose from some members of the **Congress**.

The objective of these projects is to create additional fish habitat and to help restore the river's natural alluvial processes. This is intended to be accomplished by removing encroaching riparian growth and the berms that this growth has created (channelization of the river) from 43 years of diversion of most of the river's water.

Construction of the **Indian Creek** area channel projects, financed in part by state funds, likely will not be initiated until next year.

TRINITY TROUT SEASON TO OPEN IN EARLY APRIL

Friends of Trinity River, California Trout and the **Trinity River Restoration Program** had heard many complaints about lost fishing and dependent economic opportunities resulting from increased flows in April. While we fully support increased flows for restoration we also were determined to maintain fishing opportunities and economic benefits to local communities. Our goal was to provide fishing opportunities that would not conflict with high flows and therefore retain support from the local community and visiting anglers for the **Restoration Program**.

Tom Weseloh, Northcoast Manager of California Trout, and **Friends of Trinity River** board member, submitted a regulation change proposal to the **California Fish & Game Commission** to change the opening date of trout season. After meeting with the **Department of Fish and Game** and the **National Marine Fisheries Service**, we agreed upon an earlier trout opener date of April 1.

We appreciate the cooperative efforts of **DFG, NMFS**, and the **Commission** as well as the **TRRP** and local community members that supported our recommendation. The new regulations were adopted by the **Fish and Game Commission** and will become effective for the 2007 season.

RENEWAL AND NEW MEMBERS, AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION

If you have renewed your membership, or joined FOTR since our December Newsletter and your name(s) has been omitted below, please let us know – we want to recognize your support. Also, in a couple of cases, contributions sent to us have not been received. People notified us and we resolved the issue of stray mail.

New members, or those renewing since our March Newsletter are:

Rebecca and Charles Aalfs, Clifford Anderson, Janice and Roy Beaman, Tom Beatty, Boler & Associates, Marc Boler, Todd Boler, Joseph Bower, Chris Burton, Patricia and Herb Burton, Peter Callander, Carl Campbell, Chico Area Flyfishers, Lucy Clarke, Kathryn Corbett, Richard J. Cottrell, Inc., Richard J. Cottrell, Grace L. Davis, Charles Dilworth, William Dudley, Jeanne and Ron English, Ernst Land Design, Inc., Willard Fee, Jr., M.D., Stuart Feldman, James Ferguson, John Gallo, Goat Hill Printing Company, Glenn Goldan, Sue and David Green, and Paul Grunland,

and, Harry A. Hanson, Jr., Susan Harrison in Honor of Dr. Joseph Walsh, Joan Hartmann, PhD., Steve Haskell, Kenneth Haupt, Nadine and Mitt Hitchcock, Edward Hooper, Michael Humphreys, M.D., Arthur Hurley, Nancy and Danny Ihara, Leland H. Jordan, Chuck Lane, Jeri and Michael Lash, M.D., Byron Leydecker, Anmarie and Brian Linsley, Robert Madgic, Mibs and Joe McCarthy, John McDermott, William McDevitt, Cyanne and W.G. McElhinney, Tim McKay, Barbara and Gerald Meral, PhD., Royal Miller, Jr., Robert A. Montgomery, and William Morrish,

and, Suzan and Joe Neil, Stephen Passek and Dian Grueneich, Bob Pauli, Frank Pipgras, Harry Poett, James Powell, PhD., C. J. Ralph, Robert Rathborne, Alexandra and Javan Reid, Lyn Paul Relph, C. S. Ritchie, M.D., River Dancers, Marc Rowley, Phil Ryan, Caroline and Kevin Scarpelli, Linda and Coach George Seifert, Jean Seput, Lindsey and Charles Shere, Wendi and James Shively, M.D., Christopher Shutes, Lucretia and John Sias, Mary and John Simons, Elizabeth and Felix Smith, and Thomas Stone,

and, Harold Thomas, Gary Thompson, Jacqueline and Robert Tierney, Eugene Toschi, Robert Totah, Trinity Fly Shop, Criss, David, Conrad and Margaret Troast, Joe Tupin, Henry Von Der Mehden, John Ward, Debra and John Watkins, Warren L. Watkins, G. B. Jerry Waybright, Pat and William Weeden, M.D., Jayme and Thomas Weseloh, Jeanne and William Weseloh, Albert White, Arnold Whitridge, and John Winzler.

Friends of Trinity River
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