



Board of Directors

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<http://www.fotr.org>

FRIENDS OF TRINITY RIVER NEWSLETTER

June 27, 2007

TRINITY RESTORATION LEGISLATION

Representative Mike Thompson has introduced legislation (**HR 2733**) providing for a new funding authorization for the **Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP)**. Current authority for funding of the **Program** is contained in the 1992 **Miller/Bradley Central Valley Improvement Project Act (CVPIA)**. The new funding authorization would continue to require annual appropriations by the **Congress**. This is because of the **Congressional** requirement that any new funding be offset by funding decreases or new revenue. A sample letter of support is on our website.

Full funding that was envisioned in the 2000 **Record of Decision (ROD)** that established the current **TRRP** has not been provided. The **ROD** anticipated about \$15 million annually for a number of years and declining after major construction was completed. Major construction included modifications in the floodplain, relocation of structures, construction of new, higher bridges, relocation of roads – all to accommodate higher flows – and channel manipulation projects intended to remove riparian berms and to create more juvenile rearing habitat. The river was channelized as a result of many years extremely low water flows - as much as a 90 percent reduction - following completion of **Trinity Dam**.

Senator Barbara Boxer and **Representative George Miller** acted to provide supplemental funding for the **TRRP** the past two years and again this year. Appropriations bills were passed the last two years, but last year the legislation was allowed to lapse without action by **Congress**. Last year's funding was included in bills allowed to lapse. **Senator Boxer** and **Representative Miller** have included supplemental funds again in this year's bills that we requested.

TRINITY RESTORATION PROGRAM STATUS

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's (USF&WS) Arcata Office has announced its decision to withdraw funding support for the **Restoration Program** of about \$1.1 million annually – USF&WS dedicates \$2.5 million total to the **Program**, but the difference has been withheld in **Washington D.C.** and the **Arcata Office**. Although that decision may not be final, it apparently has decided that it wants a program separate and apart from the **TRRP** because it is unwilling to abide by general consensus on priorities for **TRRP** expenditures following meeting after meeting after meeting of all **Program** participants.

Mike Long of the **Arcata USF&WS** stated at the recent **Trinity Management Council (TMC)** meeting that he wants more “on the ground” work. He stated that less science is needed in the **Program**. Provisions of the **ROD** indicate, and most people believe that the **Program**, in fact, is to be based upon science and adaptive management. **Mr. Long** also stated that the **USF&WS** needed to be accountable for its own funds. The **Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)** and the **State of California** are contributing substantial funds to the **Program**.

Curtis Anderson, representative of the **California Resources Agency** and an employee of the **California Department of Water Resources (DWR)**, will be leaving the **TMC** as a result of a promotion. He has contributed enormously to the **Program** and his absence leaves a major void. **Curtis** has chaired two significant, effective sub-committees of the **TRRP** and otherwise has provided significant leadership within the **Program**. We appreciate his devotion and wish him the very best in his new responsibilities, but very much regret that his involvement in the **Program** will conclude.

TRINITY RIVER FISH RETURNS

Wade Sinnen and **Larry Hansen** of the **(DFG)** recently presented several graphs and other information about fish returns (escapement) of various anadromous fish species to the Trinity River – some dating back to 1977. This was part of a presentation to the **Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group (TAMWG)** – stakeholders group advising the **TMC**). These are presented on our website: <http://www.fotr.org> rather than reproducing them in this Newsletter at significant cost.

Significant increases in returns of coho salmon and steelhead appear to be the result of increased returns of water to the **Trinity River** in recent years in accordance with the **ROD**. These increased returns pre-date channel manipulation projects.

CHANNEL MANIPULATION/GRAVEL PROJECTS

A channel manipulation project in the **Indian Creek** area will get underway in mid July. Project purpose is to provide increased juvenile rearing habitat in the mainstem **Trinity River** and to reduce flow impacts to homes and other physical improvements located adjacent to the river. It will be the fourth channel rehabilitation project to be built since initiation of the current **Restoration Program**.

The project will include lowering the floodplain to accommodate 11,000 cubic feet per second (**cfs**) flows, excavation of the **Indian Creek** delta, and development of a side channel to provide additional juvenile rearing habitat. The side channel will be just upstream of the mouth of **Weaver Creek**.

In the planning and design stages and following environmental compliance completion, four sites are to be constructed in the **Lewiston/Dark Gulch** areas.

Additional gravel also will be introduced into the river this year to replace gravels blocked from moving downstream from above **Trinity Dam**. About 10,000 tons will be introduced this year. Gravels will be reclaimed from the **Indian Creek** project to provide some of the needed supply. Introduced gravel will be of a size that's consistent with what a natural flowing, un-dammed, alluvial river system would provide for spawning fish.

RENEWAL AND NEW MEMBERS, AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION

We express our very genuine appreciation to **Laura Kessler** and **Abbey Stockwell** for their work and support on behalf of **FOTR**, and to **Jeff Bright, Jeff Bright Design** www.jeffbrightdesign.com for his continued help and work in maintaining **our** website.

Beyond these individuals, **Tom Weseloh**, a member of **FOTR's** board and **Northcoast Manager of California Trout, Inc.**, is one of the more effective, objective, non-financial beneficiaries, and constructive outside participants in the **TRRP**. His contributions are enormous, and he deserves great credit for his unyielding efforts on behalf of **Trinity River** restoration. He is a true **Program** treasure.

If you have renewed your membership, or joined FOTR since our April 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 in the past, contributions sent to us have not been received. People notified us and we resolved the issue of stray mail.

The following contributions have been made to FOTR in Memory of Joseph Walsh, M.D.:

Norman Christensen, M.D., Ted Trichilo, Janice and Terrence Kerrigan, M.D., and Danny Walsh.

The following persons/organizations also have made contributions since our April Newsletter:

James M. Allen, Anonymous, Janice and Roy Beamon, Tom Beatty, Peggy and Bill Berry, Jr., Darrell, Boyle, Martin Bramante, Per Brandon, Peter Bruck and Rebecca Sharpe, Daniel Buckley, III, Carl Campbell, Chico Area Flyfishers, Calvin S. K. Chin, Lucy Clarke In Memory of Jim Clarke, Joel Cohen, Al Cooper, Kathryn L. Corbett, Roy Daniels, Grace Davis, Norman Dickenson, Charles Dilworth, The Honorable Stan Dixon, James Dowling, M.D., George Durand, Durand's Guide Service, Eugene Eppen,

And, Stuart Feldman, Jim Ferguson, Suzanne and Rob Ferroggiaro, Bill Gardner, Alena and David Goeddel, Dave Green, Paul Grunland, Susan and Stephen Haskell, Totten Heffelfinger, Russell Hill, Michael Humphries, M.D., Susan and Arthur Hurley, David Imper, Birger and Joyce Johnson, Richard Kauffman, James Keegan, Jr., Raymond Koch, M.D., Charles Lane, Jeri and Michael Lash, M.D., Bill Lenheim, Mark Leydecker, Suzanne Simpson-Litzky and Lewis Litzky,

And, Richard May, John McDermott, William McDevitt, Jr., Cyanne and W. G. McElhinney, James H. McKenna, Barbara and Gerald Meral, PhD., Joe Mercier, Amey Miller, Robert Montgomery, Rex Murphy, Northcoast Environmental Center, Frank Pipgras, Stephen Porter, Edward and Theodore Purcell, Jeff Ramsdell and Kathleen Earley, Clyde Rayne, Jim Ritter, River Dancers, Sheila and Michael Rokeach, Jan and Charlie Rose, Ken Ross, Peter Roth,

And, Erich Franz Schimps, Carl Schwarzenberg, Linda and Coach George Seifert, Shasta Trinity Fly Fishers, Inc., Wendi and James Shively, Chris Shutes, Mary and John Simons individually and In Memory of Alan Goodman, M.D., George Starn, John Stevens, Abbey Stockwell, John R. Stokes, Kay Sullivan, Harold Thomas, Robert Tierney, Tributary Whitewater Tours, Norman Triska, Criss, David, Conrad and Margaret Troast, Joe Tupin, Fred Wadsworth, John Ward, Debra Lyn and John Watkins, Pat and Bill Weeden, M.D., Thomas Weseloh, Edwin Wright, and Jerome Yesavage, M.D.

Our very genuine thanks and appreciation to everyone who has contributed and has provided continuing support for our efforts to assist in assuring a sound, effective Trinity River restoration program.

Friends of Trinity River
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

Name(s) _____

Address _____

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Please send information on ___ **Fishing** ___ **Rafting** ___ **Other (Specify)** _____

I would like to help further by ___ **Volunteering** ___ **Writing letters**
___ **Other (Specify)** _____

My check is enclosed _____ **\$50** _____ **\$75** _____ **\$100** _____ **Other** _____