



Board of Directors

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<http://www.fotr.org>

FRIENDS OF TRINITY RIVER NEWSLETTER

June, 2009

TRINITY RESTORATION PROGRAM

An additional \$4.5 million was provided the **Restoration Program** through the **Federal Stimulus Funding Program** enacted by the **Congress** and signed by **President Obama**. All of these funds will be used to implement channel manipulation projects. The 47 originally planned projects, three of which were side channels, were to have been completed by 2012. A couple of years ago that date was extended to 2016 but completion of all projects now is planned for 2014.

The **Rehabilitation Implementation Group (RIG)** within the **Program**, headed by **Jennifer Faler**, essentially has all necessary environmental requirements completed, with the public comment period to end July 28, thanks to the work of **Brandt Gutermuth** and the lead agencies involved.

We're told that projects will be smaller in scale than recently constructed projects – this work as originally envisioned for the **Program**. The concept was for removal of riparian growth that had encroached upon the river channel as a result of extremely low flows in the several years following completion of **Trinity Dam**. Thereafter, the “river was to do its own thing,” as it will in any event.

Higher flows in the past few years, in accordance with the **December 2000 Trinity River Record of Decision (ROD)**, have resulted in many changes within the river's banks: the creation of natural gravel/rock islands in the river channel, the removal of wide swaths of plant and tree growth in low lying areas, the beginnings of the exposure of gravel and rock on the river's banks, movement of fine sediment downstream from spawning and juvenile rearing areas and creating a cleaner gravel river bottom much as it was pre-dam.

COLD WATER IN RIVER FOR FISH SURVIVAL

It appears that adequate water is stored behind **Trinity Dam** this year to assure that the temperature of water released into the river will not be so high as to threaten fish survival. Earlier this month, the **Trinity Management Council (TMC)** sent a letter to the **Bureau of Reclamation's (BOR) Central Valley Project Operations (CVO)** requesting initiation of a formal process to integrate the **Trinity River** fishery's cold water requirements into its **CVO** water operations decision making.

The **State Water Resources Control Board**, the entity that issued permits to the **BOR** allowing it to divert **Trinity River** water, has also issued its **Order 90-5** directing that water is not to be diverted from **Trinity River** to satisfy temperature requirements in the **Sacramento River**. Thus far, no changes have been made in **CVO** to assure compliance with this **Order**. We will continue to press this issue. Killing **Trinity River** fish to help another river system is not an acceptable practice.

HATCHERY OVERPRODUCTION/WILD FISH DESTRUCTION

California's Department of Fish and Game (DFG) has developed a process to begin to address the problem of overproduction of hatchery fish to the detriment of wild fish. It remains an open question as to what entity – **DFG** or **BOR** – would be in charge of the process. The hatchery is owned by **BOR** and operated by **DFG**.

To cite just one species of fish as an example of the problem, the **Program's** objective is a return of 40,000 wild **Steelhead** to the river to spawn annually and 10,000 hatchery fish. Currently, less than 7,600 wild fish are returning and more than 46,000 hatchery fish are returning. Since returns of water to the river have increased following the **ROD**, fish return numbers (escapement) have increased for both wild and hatchery fish. The number of hatchery fish has increased far more rapidly, however. Since 1995, the number of hatchery fish has increased from 37 percent of total Steelhead escapement to 86 percent.

Some possible actions have been suggested to correct this problem- a problem that a mountain of scientific studies concludes is highly detrimental to a sustainable fishery. Among them are the number of hatchery fish released, timing of their release, size of fish released, use of weirs to restrict stray hatchery fish, and in-stream flow management. There may be additional actions that can be taken.

Any changes that might be initiated ultimately will be incremented very modestly. No one is interested in taking action that would reduce the fishery substantially in the short run.

Essentially, at this point, any further action awaits some decisions from the **BOR**. We've been pursuing action for a resolution to this problem for more than two years. The **DFG** has responded. It now is up to the **BOR** to act to allow a beginning to a resolution of this problem.

RENEWAL AND NEW MEMBERS, AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION

If you have renewed your membership, or joined **FOTR** since our last Newsletter and **if 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.

We express our thanks and our appreciation to **Tom Dey** for his volunteer work on behalf of **FOTR**. We also express our appreciation again to **Jeff Bright**, of **Jeff Bright Design** <http://www.jeffbright.com> for his development and maintenance of our website.

We express our thanks and appreciation to the following persons/organizations that have become members or renewed their memberships in **FOTR** since our last Newsletter:

Caroline Palden Alioto, Clifford Anderson, Pete Anderson, Anonymous, Stephen Arelt, Phillis and Charles Bates, Janice and Roy Beamon, Tom Beatty, Peggy and Bill Berry, Leonard Bjeldanes, Rebecca Sharpe and Peter Bruck, Daniel Buckley III, Pat, Herb and Chris Burton, Calvin S. K. Chin, Rokhand and James Collins, Kathryn L. Corbett, Grace L. Davis, Tim Devine, Elise and Gary Dickenson, Norman Dickenson, Judith and Robert Dixon, The Honorable Stan Dixon, Paula Downing, William Dudley, Durand Guide Service, George Durand, Andrea Webb and Jud Ellinwood, Eugene Eppen, Stuart Feldman, John Gallo, Suzette Ghilotti,

And, Mary and Nicholas Graves, Margaret and Robert Grosse, Paul Grunland, Donald E. Hanson, Jr., Russell Hill, Arthur Hurley, Nancy and Danny Ihara, Gregory Jensen, Joe's Guide Service, Leland H, Jordan, Esq., Joseph Bower, Diane and Jim Keegan, Jr., Kier Associates, Helen and William Kier, Chuck Lane, Jeri and Michael Lash, M.D., Judy and Paul Lester, Jennifer and Mike Marinchak, Mary Elizabeth and Joseph McCarthy, Cyanne and W. G. McElhinney, Carlene and Peter Mennen, Barbara and Gerald Meral, PhD., John Mertes, Amey Miller, Rex Murphy, Denver Nelson, M. D., David Nesmith, Outdoor Adventures, Dennis Pagonos, Dian Grueneich and Steve Passek, Pauli Systems, Inc., Bob Pauli,

And, Fred Pederson, Peninsula Fly Fishers, Inc., Stephanie and Tom Perrett, Marian Perry, Robert Raab, Clive Rayne, Kate Hulbert and Lyn Relph, E. Cedar Reuben, Jim Ritter, Jan and Charles Rose, Kenneth Ross, Gil Saliba, Kellie, Mason and Chad Sayre, Eric Franz Schimps, Linda and Coach George Siefert, Shirley and Gary Seput, Shasta Trinity Fly Fishers, Inc., Lindsey and Charles Shere, Wendi and James Shively, M. D., John H. Simons, Frank Tedesco, Harold Thomas, Harry Thorne, Trinity Angling Experiences, Trinity Fly Shop, Joe Tupin, John Ward, Debra Lyn and John Watkins, Janis and Warren Watkins, Pat and Bill Weeden, M.D., Jamye and Thomas Weseloh, and John Winzler, Jr., D. D. S.

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I would like to help further by ___ **Volunteering** ___ **Writing letters**
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My check is enclosed _____ **\$50** _____ **\$75** _____ **\$100** _____ **Other** _____