



### **Board of Directors**

Gary Seput  
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<http://www.fotr.org>

## **FRIENDS OF TRINITY RIVER NEWSLETTER**

March 31 , 2006

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### **OUR ANNUAL - ONCE A YEAR ONLY - RENEWAL REQUEST**

**If you have contributed in the last few months, please disregard this request. Otherwise, please take the time now to send us your check. All contributions are fully tax deductible. A return envelope is enclosed with this Newsletter.**

Unlike many non-profit organizations that bombard us with creative requests for contributions, **Friends of Trinity River** makes a request for financial support but once a year. That time is upon us. We have made significant strides in working toward restoration of **Trinity River**. We could not have been as effective as we have been without your financial help. Your support is invaluable for successful restoration of **Trinity River**, and that objective clearly is achievable.

We're not engaged in trying to reach an objective requiring decades of effort. With your assistance, we can help restore **Trinity River** within the next few years. **Trinity** is the one river in the state, if not the **United States**, that has a genuine opportunity for major restoration of its fishery and wildlife resources.

We're not a large organization, and we rely completely upon your continued support to continue our work through this single annual request. We have no paid staff, and our overhead is at a minimum, but we do have significant costs. We ask for your financial help for this year now.

## MAP OF RIVER CHANNEL PROJECTS

The map, developed by the **Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP)**, presented on page 3 of this **Newsletter** locates the existing **Hocker Flat** at **Junction City** channel manipulation project and all proposed projects. The **Canyon Creek** projects below **Hocker Flat** are to be completed this year.

The chart starts at **Trinity Dam**, about 35 miles west of **Redding** and includes the 40 miles of **Trinity River** downstream and west to its **North Fork** tributary. All physical/mechanical work associated with **Program** restoration activities will occur in this 40 mile section of the river. Below the **North Fork**, water joining the mainstem from tributaries below **Trinity Dam** provide sufficient water, together with **Trinity Record of Decision** prescribed returns of water to the river, for the **Trinity River** to function as the alluvial river it was prior to construction of the dam.

The purposes of these projects is to provide additional juvenile fish rearing habitat, to rehabilitate riparian growth and to restore alluvial river characteristics in the **Trinity River**. The **Canyon Creek** Channel Rehabilitation Project is located on a section of the river beginning approximately one mile below **Junction City** and continuing downstream about five miles – ending about a mile upstream of the confluence of the **North Fork**. The project includes four separate rehabilitation areas: **Conner Creek**, **Valdor Gulch**, **Elkhorn**, and **Pear Tree** as shown on the diagram.

Complete information on the **TRRP**, including meeting dates, project descriptions, and much other information is available at: <http://www.trrp.net> This website includes material and information about the **Restoration Program** that is quite complete and well presented. It's very much worth visiting.

## TRINITY RIVER FLOWS

Returns of water to Trinity River this year will be those prescribed for a “Wet” water-type year, although it is possible that this year ultimately will be determined to be an “Extremely Wet” year. While the final, complete flow schedule for the year has not yet been decided, flows will go to 7,750 cubic feet per second (cfs) on May 17 for a day. On May 18, water released from the dam will go up to 8,500 (cfs) for a period of six days. These dates are subject to change, but this is a best guess estimate now. If this water-type year turns out to be Extremely Wet, these flows will change.

Maximum flows last year were 7,000 cfs. These high flows are intended to transport sediment downstream, to clean riverbed gravels, to create geomorphic changes in the river channel, and to create additional juvenile rearing habitat.

It is possible that the start of increased flows this year will be delayed a few days to accommodate the opening of trout season. Flows will start to be increased from 300 cfs either just before or just after the trout opener.



## CHANNEL MANIPULATION PROJECTS

A contract for the Canyon Creek group of channel projects is planned to be awarded for construction to begin this summer.

A channel manipulation project at Indian Creek, essentially downstream of structures, is planned to commence this fall. Most of this work will be on the north side of the river – removing riparian vegetation, creating a broader floodplain, and creating additional fish habitat. Construction is to start this fall.

## NEEDED FLOODPLAIN MODIFICATIONS

In order to accommodate flows of up to 11,000 cubic feet per second, prescribed by the **Trinity Record of Decision (ROD)** for an “Extremely Wet” water-type year, houses, other structures, wells, pump houses, and roads must be relocated or removed. These high flows are critically important if the restoration program is to succeed – restore wild anadromous fish populations to 60 percent of pre-dam populations.

The **Tullis** property (the little yellow house) at the downstream end of structures above **Indian Creek** has been purchased by the **TRRP** and removed. The property was subject to flooding with moderate water releases from the dam.

All other structures that need to be removed or relocated have been identified. Property owners will be offered payment to cover the cost of removal or relocation.

The **ROD** severely underestimated costs for these floodplain modifications. Additionally, total restoration costs have been funded only at two-thirds of estimated costs in the **ROD** (1999 dollars). Last year an additional \$500,000 was appropriated by the **Congress** for floodplain modification costs. We are hopeful that the **Congress** again will provide funding to complete this work.

## GRAVEL INTRODUCTION

In order to replenish needed gravels in the river now blocked by **Trinity Dam**, it's necessary to physically add gravel to the river. In July, gravels will be introduced into the river near the **Lewiston Hatchery** to offset naturally occurring gravel deposits emanating upstream of **Trinity Dam**.

These gravels will be of differing sizes to create crucial additional habitat. About 6,000 cubic yards of gravel will be placed along 1,800 feet of the river adjacent to the hatchery. This planned activity has benefited from input by knowledgeable outside scientists as well as **TRRP** scientists to accomplish intended results in the most effective manner. That's a far cry from earlier years when the criteria for gravel introduction was ease of access.

## **RENEWAL AND NEW MEMBERS, AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

We especially thank and express our appreciation to **Joe Neil** for his volunteer service as an Alternate on the **Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group (TAMWG)**, and for his active participation in the work of many of its committees. His contribution to our efforts to affect positively the actions of the **Restoration Program** is significant. His thought, knowledge and devotion to our work are invaluable.

We again express our thanks to **Jeff Bright**, of **Jeff Bright Design** in **San Francisco** [www.jeffbrightdesign.com](http://www.jeffbrightdesign.com) - graphic and website design services - who updates our website for us when we're able to provide information to him to do so.

**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 September Newsletter are:

**Joseph Aaron, James M. Allen, Ron Angell, Gary Arabian, Stephen Arelt, Dusty Baker, Robert N. Bellucci, Atsuko and Keith Bennett, William Berry, Jr., Marlyce and Leonard Bjeldanes, Darrell Boyle, Jeff Bright, Rebecca Sharpe and Peter Bruck, Daniel J. Buckley III, Norman Christensen, M.D., Greg Collis, Timothy K. Devine, Norman Dickensen, Ron Dickensen, Stan Dixon, Paula Downing, Robert Dufort, Durand Guide Service, George Durand, Doug Durham, and Charles Dvorak, also**

**Kathleen Earley and Jeff Ramsdell, Jud Ellinwood and Anda Webb, William J. Evans, Jr., Willard Fee, Jr., M.D., Bill Gardner, Dr. Donald Heyneman, The Hitchcocks, Maurice Holloway, Henry D. Holt, Jr., David Imper, Hiram L. Jang, Jeff Bright Design, Greg Jensen, Richard Johnson, Richard Kauffman, James B. Keegan, Jr., Clint Kelley, Jr., Raymond Koch, M.D., John Kolarik, Cal Laney, William Lenheim, John Leydecker, and Anmarie and Brian Linsley, also**

**James T. Mauch, William McDevitt, Tim McKay, Amey Miller, John F. Miller, Royal Miller, Jr., Robert Neff, Julie and Thomas Nicholson II, Dennis Pagones, Palo Alto Flyfishers, Fred J. Pedersen, Rufus J. Pederson, Jr., Peninsula Fly Fishers, Marian L. Perry, Stephen Porter, James Powell, Ted and Ed Purcell, Tom Purcell, Rand Machine Works, Chris Rand, Tim Regan, R. Cedar Reuben, Jim Ritter, Jan and Charles Rose, Spreck Rosekrans, Erich Franz Schimps, Shasta Trinity Fly Fishers, and Thomas J. Shepherd, also**

**Mary and John Simons, Suzanne Simpson and Lewis Litzky, Igor Skaredoff, John R. Stokes, Suzanne and Robert Ferrogiaro, Jr., Frank Tedesco, Thendara Foundation, Harold Thorne, Tributary Whitewater Tours, Mark Triska, Patrick Truman, Joe Tupin, Bill Uyeki, Janis and Warren Watkins, Albert J. White, Claudia Whitnah, Darlene and Charles Whitney, M.D., Roberta Williams, Sally Williams, Larry Wilson, Kevin Wolf and Linda Cloud, and Jerome Yesavage, M.D.**

**Friends of Trinity River**  
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**Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phones** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send information on** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fishing** \_\_\_\_\_ **Rafting**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Other**

**I would like to help further by** \_\_\_ **Volunteering** \_\_\_ **Writing letters** \_\_\_ **Other**

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

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