



Board of Directors

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<http://www.fotr.org>

FRIENDS OF TRINITY RIVER NEWSLETTER

March, 2008

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 (FOTR)** 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 if you have not already contributed.

ADDITIONAL \$3 MILLION FOR PROGRAM FOR 2008

In response to our request, **Congressman George Miller** obtained an additional \$3 million for the **Trinity River Restoration Program** this year. **Congressman Miller** has been an outstanding and principal contributor through his active and effective actions through the **decades** to help assure restoration of the **Trinity River**, its ecosystem and fisheries.

We have expressed our appreciation to him and to his staff for his continual and well documented support for the **Trinity River**. You might recall that in 2006 he also obtained an additional \$500 thousand for us for the **Program**.

Although the **Trinity Management Council (TMC)** - top policy/decision making **Program** entity - has been unable to agree upon a budget for this fiscal year, it appears that an extremely worthwhile result of the additional funding is that watershed and tributary rehabilitation finally will receive some reasonable funding: an additional \$500 thousand beyond the typical \$100 thousand annually.

Watershed and tributary rehabilitation is a critical component of a restored fishery - Steelhead and Coho salmon are tributary dependent - it is where they live and should be thriving. Watershed and tributary restoration will preclude fine sediment from entering the **Trinity** mainstem. As many of you know, **Trinity Alps** contains huge amounts of decomposed granite - extremely fine sediment that pours into the river during heavy weather events. These fine sediments smother fish spawning habitat and otherwise undercut restoration of the river. The additional funds also will enable more rapid construction of the various channel manipulation projects planned for the mainstem.

STEELHEAD - WILD FISH OR HATCHERY FISH

The **Restoration Program's** Steelhead objective is for the river to produce about 60 percent of pre-dam wild populations of anadromous fish. While the numbers vary, this apparently would mean success with approximately 40,000 wild adult Steelhead returning to **Trinity River** this year. The current established number of returning adult Steelhead to be produced by the **Trinity Hatchery** is 10,000. While **Hatchery** production of juvenile Steelhead has remained constant at 800,000 smolts, hatchery fish survival for adults has dramatically increased as river flows have increased.

This is of great concern to us because a mountain of scientific information and evaluation concludes that hatchery fish negatively affect wild fish. Additionally, there is evidence in **Trinity River** that hatchery fish are devouring hundreds of thousands of juvenile wild Steelhead. We are encouraging the **Program** to engage aggressively with the **California Department of Fish and Game (DFG)**, which operates the **Hatchery**, to limit its production of adult hatchery fish to the established level of 10,000. **FOTR** supports and advocates the **Program** objective of emphasizing natural production of wild Steelhead. The **Hatchery** must bring its production into compliance with its established goals so as not to impact adversely wild Steelhead.

POTENTIAL INCREASE IN BAG LIMIT OF HATCHERY FISH

Because of the gross over-production of **Trinity Hatchery** Steelhead, the **California Fish and Game Commission** is considering an increase in the daily bag limit of **Hatchery** Steelhead from one fish to between two and five fish with a ten fish possession limit. This obviously would deal exclusively with a clear symptom of the problem, rather than taking appropriate action to deal with and to solve the problem.

We are opposed to this inadequate response to **Hatchery** over-production. The **Program** simply will not succeed in fulfilling its objective for wild Steelhead in the **Trinity River**, as required by law, if **Hatchery** production is not brought under control – to the established level at which it is supposed to be producing Steelhead.

TRINITY ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

The **Program's** stakeholder group, (**TAMWG**), is a **Federal Advisory Committee Act** entity that must be re-chartered every two years. New or existing members are appointed or re-appointed. Currently, nominations for membership (and alternates) on **TAMWG** are being accepted at the **Arcata Office** of the **F&WS**. Persons can be nominated either by organizations or by themselves. Deadline for nominations is **March 21**. If you would like a copy of the **F&WS** News Release, application procedure and other required information for nomination, it is posted on our website: www.fotr.org

TAMWG's role is to advise the **TMC** on stakeholder views related to policy and **Program** actions just as the **Science Advisory Board** and **Independent Review Panels** are to advise **TMC** on science issues.

TAMWG currently consists of members representing sport fishing, power interests, irrigators, environmental interests, resident and non-resident landowners, rafting interests, miners, fishing guides, forest practices, the Trinity County Resource Conservation and the Natural Resource Conservation Districts, and community development and services districts.

TAMWG fulfills a vital role within the **Program**. Its membership consists of “stakeholders.” **Stakeholders** are persons or representatives of interests paying for, benefitting from, interested in or otherwise involved in trying to help achieve success in restoration of the river. The group is able to discuss and to recommend actions and policy to the **TMC** that are considered thoroughly by and emanate from a very broad base of interests.

Members of **TAMWG** serve on virtually all committees (workgroups) of the **Program** and put in countless, countless hours in trying to help the **Program** succeed. Our board members, **Tom Weseloh** and **Byron Leydecker**, will continue to represent **you** on **TAMWG** at Program subcommittees and meetings. **For you and for us, it's water and wild fish.** That's our underlying and unrelenting pursuit and advocacy within the **Program**.

TRINITY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

The **Trinity Management Council** again has been unable to adopt a budget for the **Program**. As a result, final decisions on the budget are determined by negotiations between **Brian Person** of the **Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)** and **Mike Long** of the **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (F&WS)**.

This comes about as a result of a super majority voting requirement for any action by the **TMC** and other factors. Super majority voting means seven of eight **TMC** member votes are required to take any action.

Some of the other factors are differences of opinion about the size and scope of projects, a history of activities undertaken by some entities with representatives on the **TMC**, an as yet unfulfilled need for all proposals (**Requests for Proposals - RFPs**) to be precisely specific in detailing projects to be put out to bid. It is anticipated that all **RFPs** will meet this requirement for fiscal year 2010 projects. Some other issues affect the inability of **TMC** to make decisions, but this sets forth some of them.

The **Trinity County Board of Supervisors** wrote to the **Interior Secretary** some months ago asking that he enforce simple majority voting on the **TMC**. He responded by sending the request back down to the Regional level, and then it went on down to the local level.

A consulting organization has been interviewing all persons associated with the **Program** in an effort to assess individual views on the roles and responsibilities of the **TMC** and its relationships with the various other entities within the **Program**. It is to provide some of its conclusions orally in March and in writing in April.

TAMWG forwarded a **unanimously** adopted list of several suggested positive changes within **TMC** to it in June. Among other recommendations, was action by simple majority vote and the addition of members from agencies/entities that were not financially conflicted. In December, the **TMC** finally acted and voted down all of **TAMWG's** suggestions. It is difficult to understand how these issues within the **Program** can be solved administratively.

CHANNEL MANIPULATION PROJECTS

Starting this month, construction of the **Lewiston-Dark Gulch** series of channel manipulation projects will get underway. Projects extend from the **Trinity Hatchery** to downriver of **Hoadley Gulch**. A map and other relevant features of the projects are available on our website at www.fotr.org. It's worth checking out this project if you intend to be active in the area this summer. Construction is to be completed by December. A major purpose of the projects is to create additional juvenile rearing habitat, the hypothesized limiting factor to reestablishing wild fish populations. Also, riparian berms will be removed, action that is intended enhance the natural geomorphology of the river channel. Gravel introductions into the river also are planned.

WATER TYPE YEAR

Based upon this year's current snow depths in the **Trinity Alps** and the overall amount of precipitation in the Basin, it appears that this will be a "Normal" water type year. Flow schedule for the river in a "normal" water year provides for a maximum release of 6,000 cubic feet per second. The final decision on water-type year normally will be made by late this month. The exact flow schedule currently is being discussed by **Program** participants, including **FOTR** representatives, and a final decision will be made when the water-type year decision is made by the **BOR**.

RENEWAL AND NEW MEMBERS, AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION

If you have renewed your membership, or joined **FOTR** since our December 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. The following persons/organizations have contributed since our December Newsletter:

Lucy Clarke in Memory of Jim Clarke, and Gary Arabian, Janice and Roy Beamon, Martin Bramante, Rebecca Sharpe and Peter Bruck, Daniel Buckley III, Pat, Herb and Chris Burton, Calvin S. K. Chin, Joel Cohen, Deanna and Greg Collis, Grace Davis, Norman Dickenson, Ronald Dickenson, Larry Drew, M.D., William Dudley, Robert Dufort, George Durand, Durand's Guide Service, Jeanne and Ronald English, Willard E. Fee, Jr., Jim Ferguson, David C. Ford, Gess Donor Fund, Peter Giampaoli, Grizzly Peak Flyfishers, Lynn Halpern, Harry A. Hanson, Jr., Janice and Maurice Holloway, Henry D. Holt, Jr., Nancy and Danny Iharra, Richard Johnson, Clint Kelley, Jr., Pat and Marshall Kilduff, Michael Knight, Chuck Lane, Laurie and Victor Laney, Jerome Lengyel, Lewis Litzky and Suzanne Simpson-Litzky,

Also, **Jan and Matt Mathews, Barbara and Gerald Meral, PhD., John Mertes, Michael Morrison, Rex Murphy, Joe Neil, Elizabeth and Thomas Olson, Dennis Pagones, Palo Alto Flyfishers, Nancie Mills-Pipgras and Frank Pipgras, Edward Purcell, M.D., Theodore Purcell, M.D., Robert Rathborne, Tim Regan, Jr., Resource Renewal Institute, Ronald Rose and Deborah Norton, Peter Roth, Kellie, Mason and Chad Sayre, Shirley and Gary Seput, Lindsey and Charles Shere, Igor Skaredoff, David Stone, Kay August Sullivan, Frank Tedesco, Thendara Foundation, Gary Thompson, Harold Thorne, Tributary Whitewater Tours, John Triska, Mark Triska, Joe Tupin, Bob Vyenielo, Janis and Warren Watkins, Debra Lyn and John Watkins, Jerry Waybright, Jeanne and William Weseloh, John Winzler, D.D.S., and Doug Witmore.**

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____

Phones _____

Email _____

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** _____