

A photograph of a river restoration site. In the foreground, there is a rocky, gravelly bank with some sparse vegetation. The river flows through the center, characterized by white, turbulent rapids. In the background, there are two concrete weirs or low dams across the river, with water cascading over them. The surrounding landscape is lush with green trees and shrubs, and a forested hillside is visible in the distance under a clear blue sky.

Trinity River Restoration Program Draft Strategic Plan

Photo by: Doug Schleusner

Why We Need A Strategic Plan

- ❑ Clear understanding and common acceptance of:
 - Our purpose and mission
 - The vision of what we are trying to achieve
- ❑ Clear description of our operational environment:
 - Strengths and weaknesses
 - Problems and opportunities
- ❑ Process of translating programmatic direction into operational details and priorities
- ❑ Means of integrating annual program of work and budget, including research study design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation
- ❑ A framework for Adaptive Management

The Process

- ❑ Initial TRRP staff work session – to develop draft outline, mission statement, and program goals
- ❑ Presentation of Draft Strategic Plan outline to TAMWG and TMC for initial review and comment
- ❑ Continued development and refinement of objectives for each goal, related hypotheses, and priorities
- ❑ Periodic updates to TAMWG and TMC for additional review and comment
- ❑ Use of basic concepts in development of FY 2004 program of work and budget
- ❑ Target date for completion in late 2003, with time horizon of 3-5 years (2003 to 2008)

Planning Context

- ❑ Statutory (Legislative) Authority
- ❑ Administrative Direction (ROD)
 - Flow Study
 - EIS/EIR
 - Implementation Plan
- ❑ Judicial Rulings
- ❑ Strategic Plan
- ❑ Annual Work Plans
- ❑ Site-Specific Environmental Studies

Statutory Authority

- *“...the Secretary...shall adopt appropriate measures to insure the preservation and propagation of fish and wildlife...”* (PL 84-386, Trinity River Division, Central Valley Project, August 12, 1955)
- *“...the Secretary...shall formulate and implement a fish and wildlife management program for the Trinity River Basin designed to restore the fish and wildlife populations in such basin to the levels approximating those which existed immediately before the start of the construction (of the dams)...and to maintain such levels.”* PL 102-575, Central Valley Project Improvement Act, May 15, 1996

Administrative Direction

- Record of Decision
 - Variable Annual Flow Regime
 - Mechanical Channel Rehabilitation
 - Sediment Management
 - Watershed Restoration
 - Infrastructure Improvement
 - Adaptive Environmental Assessment and Management Program (AEAM)

Administrative Direction

□ Flow Evaluation Report

- Required by Secretary of the Interior in 1981 to determine how to restore Trinity River fisheries
- Teams of experts reviewed available scientific literature and conducted additional studies
- Concluded that “healthy river” approach was needed
- Developed specific recommendations (Chapter 8)
 - Including modified flow regime, reconfigured channel, and sediment management
 - Outlined an Adaptive Environmental Assessment and Management approach

Administrative Direction

□ Final EIS/EIR

- Purpose: To restore and maintain the natural production of anadromous fish on the Trinity River mainstem downstream of Lewiston Dam
- Premised on “healthy river” concept
- Describes range of alternatives and environmental consequences

Administrative Direction

- Implementation Plan for the Preferred Alternative of the EIS/EIR
 - Prescriptive to the extent possible
 - Site-specific in some cases
 - Initial set of priorities
 - AEAM structure
 - Roles and responsibilities
 - Funding estimates

Judicial Rulings

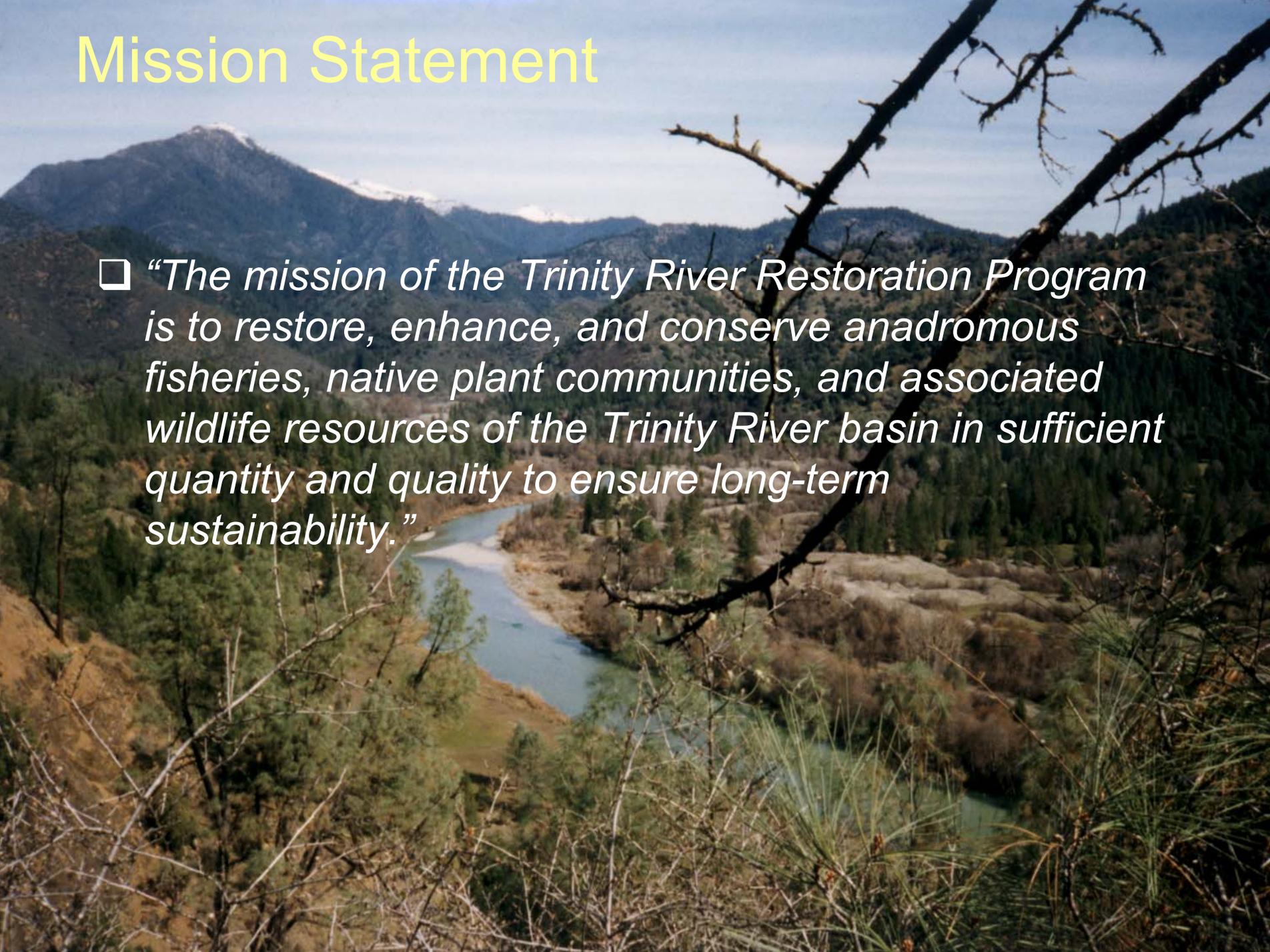
- ❑ *“The injunction (limits additional water releases, but) otherwise allows every other physical aspect of the ROD’s Trinity River restoration to move forward.”* March 22, 2001
- ❑ *“All other Trinity River restoration activities specified by the ROD (i.e., activities other than Trinity River instream flow releases) may proceed.”* April 19, 2002
- ❑ *“All non-flow measures prescribed by the ROD shall proceed...”* December 9, 2002

Draft Strategic Plan Contents

- Executive Summary
- Program Justification and Mission
- Planning Assumptions
- Resource Conditions
- Desired Future Condition
- Adaptive Environmental Assessment and Management
- Implementation of Program Goals
- Budget and Scheduling

Mission Statement

- *“The mission of the Trinity River Restoration Program is to restore, enhance, and conserve anadromous fisheries, native plant communities, and associated wildlife resources of the Trinity River basin in sufficient quantity and quality to ensure long-term sustainability.”*



Program Goals

- ❑ Restore populations of anadromous fish in the Trinity River basin to levels that existed prior to the construction of Trinity and Lewiston dams, and maintain such levels.
- ❑ Restore attributes of a healthy, functional alluvial river system to the Trinity River downstream of Lewiston Dam to enhance native fish and wildlife resources.
- ❑ Provide credible and objective scientific knowledge that furthers our understanding of regulated alluvial river systems for effective adaptive management of the Trinity River.

Next Steps

- ❑ Review handout and provide comments to Executive Director by June 18 (next TAMWG meeting)
- ❑ TRRP staff will incorporate comments and continue to develop details of plan
- ❑ Next review draft tentatively set for late summer or early fall 2003

AEAM promotes responsible progress in the face of uncertainty, and is a sound alternative to either “charging ahead blindly” or being “paralyzed by indecision.”

