

## Additional Survey Comments



*As of 4.30.23 there were 92 responses.*

One wet winter following multiple years of drought does not justify classification as a wet year in which huge amounts of water should be released from Trinity Lake before it has even recovered. Our communities, our local businesses, and our property values are being seriously, negatively impacted by mismanagement of the water in Trinity Lake.

I've lived here for over 50 yrs. when you could walk on the salmon in the river. None of the restoration projects has improved the salmon run. They need to look into predators in the river and the ocean and what other habitat they are destroying as a result of high flows. They need to provide more settling holes for salmon. Follow history. Cemetery Hoje, Bucktail Hole, Sawmill Hole. There's a reason they had these names.

Please read the entire Biological Opinion papers submitted regarding the inconsistent management practices on the river corridor. TRRP has a copy of it in their Weaverville office.

I hope to see continued restoration efforts. Our environmental ecological health should rank higher than economy. If we have no fish, then the fishing economy would suffer indefinitely, so why not at least try to plan for the future.

I don't agree with letting water outflow of Trinity Lake while it's well below 40% capacity. The rivers were already high and valley saturated. Let the lake fill up so there's water to share when it's needed. Why is it so difficult to change outflow when circumstances (like a WET WET winter!) change what was projected from past years?! Seeing the lake rise was awesome but then to see it go down several feet in 1 week recently was so discouraging and maddening!

I have lived in the Coffee Creek area for 50+ years and owned a business on the lake for 29 years. I have seen the economic damage that the BoR has caused to my business and all the others in this county. I feel that this year's releases border on being criminal in that we were in a 5-year drought with our lake levels extremely low and the BoR did not give the health of the lake or the economy of the county one iota of consideration. I feel it is high time to change that approach.

In the past prior to the dam the fish somehow made it up stream to do their spawning on their own. Having water to fight fires is imperative. If we are not going to keep water in the lake then why have the dam?

## Additional Survey Comments



The release levels are extreme and excessive. I do not believe that the restoration program is healthy for the river. I believe it is infact destroying our community and the river itself. The program should be shut down as it has destroyed the natural river line and is not benefiting the fish at all.

I believe that TRRP should not be releasing max flow of water from the lake. It's absolutely ridiculous that every other lake in CA is full right now, including lakes that have not existed in decades. Shasta Lake was a river last year and it is now completely full. Trinity Lake was never given the opportunity to fill and now it won't come remotely close after our snow melt. This should have been a great year for our community and instead we are all fighting and experiencing a mass exodus.

Save our lake. This impacts every business, every user, the life blood of Trinity County. Never release this much water unless lake near full. This distroys fishing businesses and recreational uses particularly in area around Trinity Center. Can not even use boat ramp this costs tax payers. 30 years in Trinity zCounty tells me this release is wrong. Stop now.

Please address with the community the concerns of power from this summer. When there is not a significant amount of water this summer to generate power through the turbines. Where is the power going to come from? How can we guarantee that we will be able to get power from other sources?

Last year there were worries that Trinity Lake would reach dead pool. It appears there is absolutely no concern for saving water in the reservoir for which it was constructed.

Managing the water in the lake needs to be managed in a way that the lake level is considered in all scheduled / unscheduled releases. All releases from the Lake needs to go through the power generation plant. If it is released around the power generation, then the lost revenue needs to be repaid to the power plant by the people making the release decision. Trinity lake level should be an embarrassment to the people managing. It is so different then all the other reservoirs in Northern Ca.

There needs to be a non bias report or impact study. TRRP shouldn't be able to regulate themselves, and they shouldn't be able to check themselves either, they should be done by an independent party.

The river ecosystem is a public asset. The biased and uneducated interests of a minority of individual property and business owners should not outweigh the the health of the river.

The TRRPs approach to restoration is egregiously short sighted. By draining Trinity lake this spring season they have severely limited their options in following years should we again experience severe drought. By not building up a volume of water to sustain operations in the future, the short sighted decision making

## Additional Survey Comments



will negatively impact the watershed. TRRP is already taking more water than nature intended in the dry years to soften the blow to fisheries. Poor management.

Trinity lake is the final in the string of CA. lakes, the others are full. LET TRINITY LAKE BECOME FULL also . FOR OUR FUTURE.. DROUGHT YEARS!!\*

The fish and other wildlife are not used to these super high flows. Doing this for the salmon alone is not good. This needs to take into account all the wildlife in Trinity County. I also believe that the lake should be designated as recreational like Whiskeytown is and kept fuller than it has been. The community needs the revenues from tourism and we need to stock up on water in the lake for super dry years!!!

I think it's good to hear people's opinions but this survey does not take into account how educated people are about these topics. Someone would answer some questions differently if they understood the reasoning and science behind what the TRRP does. If they have no clue, then they will likely be against many of the things they do- especially if they are putting the economy and/or personal gain/loss as a higher priority than fish/river health. More public education and long term foresight needed

Bring back the world-class trophy brown trout fishery that existed until 2016. Brown trout were removed from the Trinity based on the erroneous assertion that their prodigious appetite for salmon juveniles negatively impacted salmon restoration efforts. Junction City weir counts shows a 90% loss of brown trout. The river was not just a good brown trout fishery. It was world class and can be restored.

This is a complicated issue. Many of the most vocal don't appear to acknowledge that and appear to have a limited understanding. Long term fishery and environmental health are not to be compromised, even if fishing guides lose some trips. The truth is they have been lucky to have artificial winter base flows for so long. Many in our community are confusing the WVF releases with causation of low lake levels. The reality is, 1.4M AF in 2020 & 2021 went to the CVP - first 2 of 3 critical dry year

Letting out so much water is destroying the tourism in Trinity County. The lake is so low. I'm hoping the laws of on the amount of water they release. Plus I see the flooded river. This is not natural.

No Lake, no water to release, no money's for restoration, no need for your programs!!

Question number one should have been made into two entirely different questions.

The trrp/bor goals are vague in writing but are to "restore and maintain the fishery resources of the trinity river" the trrp task 6 final report 2018 clearly indicates a failure on every level with no

## Additional Survey Comments



audits/accountability. this must be changed immediately. they must be held accountable and our lake levels must be considered moving forward. There are other responsibilities besides the fish to include our power generation thru tpud.

The restoration program has been nothing but a waste of money. Fish populations continue to decline. Time to end this charade and put the money to better use elsewhere.

Nature first, Then agriculture, Tourism, and pleasure are less important. I don't see why the lake can not be kept at least 50% whatever the plan is.

The lake level impacts the community drastically. Full lake equals tourism and use of marinas. I have a river front property in coffee creek on the Trinity river and big releases impact my property. Full creeks and lakes are what our community needs.

I understand the purpose of the Trinity River Restoestion project however I do not understand the justification to continue with scheduled water releases when the river is full. Why not hold the water back and release later in the summer when flows lower. The most recent release is a waste of water that just went down the river with no benefit. Also if Trinity Lake is drained there will be no water for the Central Valley. What will farmers and agriculture do the ? Poor wa

TRRP has done these 10,000 CFS releases before and it minorly affects people's private properties. I don't mind them releasing that much WHEN we actually have water in the lake. However we don't. I also have not seen any positive impacts to anything TRRP has done in the last 20 years.. way too much gravel injections filling in some of my favorite holes.

We should not be releasing these mass amounts of water without considering the health of Trinity lake and the ongoing drought levels in the lake.

We are not insensitive to the health of the River and the fish, but we are very sensitive to the health of the lake, the lake fish and habitat. We are even more concerned about the health and prosperity of the people that are affected by the lack of tourism and revenue generated for our community during the tourist season. There needs to be a balance.

The people and local economy need to be considered. There's not much left otherwise. Our county's economy seems to be a sinking ship, I see more and more families leaving and also hurting financially. We need ways to boost our economy and at this point, tourism seems to be all we got.

## Additional Survey Comments



3 critically dry years should play a major factor in the water release decision. Just because we are barely in a “wet” year doesn’t mean we should be releasing water in that manner as the lake is so critically low as it is. We should use it as it is meant to be.. a reserve! When the rivers are raging we should not be releasing extreme amounts of water. What will happen when there is no water left due to mismanagement?

Tieing river releases to lake level will insentivise more diversion to reduce water available for release to the river and increase potential storage. If instead diversions were tied to lake level, river releases would not have the impact they are this year. People do not understand that the releases to the river are reflective of annual precipitation while diversions are inverse of annual precipitation and need to be regulated so excessive diversion like what happend in 2021 do not occur.

In years past they dumped the lake out in anticipation of another large storm and it didn’t happen which left us with an empty lake. We all realize the river needs fresh cold water but not all of it in a few days. All the other lakes are full but ours.

River flows are too high. Lake level is too low.

RE: last question about Trinity County District. Our family has a second home in District 1. We do not rent it out and never have, it is exclusively for personal use. The level of the lake is absolutely concerning. How it can go from full to the new ramp built on the North End of the Trinity Lake in 2019 to 20% full in three and a half years---shows nothing but mismanagement and lack of long-term perspectives. All other Northern CA lakes well above 80% of capacity.

Our family has been a home owner in Trinity center since the 1970’s. I have never seen the lake in such shocking condition.

I have followed the TRRP for many years, experienced the impacts both good and bad, and I am very proud of the TRRP, their transparency, and the science and example they are developing for other river restoration projects. The river came and comes first, the lake is highly secondary to the river in my opinion, and there was never any guarantee of a full lake.

I believe that there is a disconnect between what is being circulated on various social media platforms and the actual science behind the efforts of the TRRP. River restoration is an evolving field, and it should be expected that not all of the efforts undertaken by the TRRP won't necessarily be successful, this does not mean that the program is a failure though.

## Additional Survey Comments



The outgoing flow should take into account how high the streams are. Impossible to predict, would need adjustment in real time.

Our community is severely impacted by the low lake levels! Our summer industry from the lake tourism is so much what we depend on! Shame on the government for allowing this

When Trinity is so low from drought and the river has been high from high rainfall why would you release so much water now?

I share the concern about lake levels, but I'm much more concerned about water being exported to the Central Valley than river releases. Reclamation diverted to the Central Valley MORE than the total inflow to Trinity Reservoir in 2020 and 2021, whereas river releases are usually 50% or less of total inflow. Rivers need water to survive.

The question about diversion volume being determined by lake levels starts at 40% full, but currently the diversions are only limited when the lake is less than 25% full.

If you're looking for a boogey man, I suggest looking at the 52-53% of OUR WATER that is sent to the Central Valley by Reclamation. Many TRRP staff are Reclamation employees, but they have zero authority over the exports through the Carr Tunnel. TRRP is trying to restore salmon with half of historic flow volumes and 25% of the upper watershed permanently blocked by the dams. The program is not perfect, but flow actions are based on the best available science.

I am concerned that a survey distributed in this way/time will not effectively represent the overall sentiments of our population as one particular group is at a very high level of passion about the situation. I am further concerned that it legitimizes expectation that one can live on a river and yet be assured the stability of a canal. I live on a creek and keep infrastructure out of its way. If I left things on its bank, I would not complain when they were swept away.

Going after the restoration program is futile and will just create more animosity and frustration within the community. I do understand that people need to be heard but, in my opinion, working with us would be more effective than throwing pitchforks at us. I also think that lake levels are important, but restoration flows should not be the allocation that is taken from. River and fish health are tied to this county far more deeply than power generation and central valley almond growers.

Trinity lake level should be a factor used to modify release calculation for both Trinity river and the Central Valley project. Releases should not be allowed to exceed projected inflows less normal losses such

## Additional Survey Comments



as evaporation in periods of drought, and when a wet or very wet year occurs after periods of drought, releases should be modified, such as keeping releases at a dry or very dry year basis to allow the lake to recover.

Loss of property value and total disregard for the people & loss of business in Trinity County.

As a home owner in Trinity Center, I am BEYOND ANGRY about the mismanagement of our resource. I have had creditable report that even TRRP employees admitting they are in it for the job, and not doing any good.

The survey seems to view river restoration as a opinion-driven process and ignores the science of how to restore a river. Without "damage" from high flows, the river cannot become resilient to impacts and productive for fish. The survey prioritizes targeting river flows to maintain higher reservoir levels and mentions diversions as a side note. Either maintain or increase river flow schedules for a healthy river or fill and main the reservoir, but you cant easily do both.

I do not understand why they would release water to put parking lots 3 feet underwater and properties underwater on the river why not regulate the flows to just run at full capacity to the rivers capability

I think TRRP is doing a fairly good job and most people are upset because they don't understand what TRRP is doing. TRRP could do a better job of communicating what they are doing and why in simple, less scientific terms so people can understand. But no one can argue that fish outcomes have been dismal. So something isn't working. Until they improve outcomes, hatchery production should increase drastically.

I believe there has been mismanagement of water and there needs to be variable release schedules and changes made to how much can be released depending on actual wet or dry years for our area that should take into consideration to amount of rainfall amd current lake levels and current storage levels. There should be a limit if water outflow down the trinity River that is actually abided by.

I have lived here for 30 years. Fishing was always fantastic. Recreation also the same. In the past 20 years I have watched the river decline due to restoration attempts to play God. Stop the nonsense and save the money give it to the people.

I feel that the release of the water is definitely a waste for the lake the community the fisheries and any body or anything els that has anything to do with it..and if the lake keeps loosing water like it is in the fall fish steelhead salmon what ever if the lake gets to damn low WELL the water will be warmer also and the fish will not survive I Feel just my thoughts?.

## Additional Survey Comments



I support peak flows to scour the river on an annual basis., I believe the peak flow releases should be timed with natural flow events. This is necessary for sediment and large wood transport to be timed with the natural movement patterns, also less economic impact because the water is already muddy and upfishable during runoff events. the loss of fishing opportunity as result of the winter flows this past season is unacceptable, the fishermen need more time on the water.

I spent the first 22 years of my life growing up in beautiful Rural New Zealand. I now live in Orange County however I purchased my getaway in the Coffee Creek area as it reminds me of back home. I've witnessed what untouched nature can provide and I've seen humans destroy it. I believe nature will take care of itself without human interference. Tampering with the natural riverbeds and flows will eventually kill off what little aquatic life we have left to enjoy. Let nature take its own course.

On full lake years, all campgrounds are fully booked online and are full of walk-ins. We care for 17 campgrounds and launch facilities on Trinity & Lewiston lakes and North Trinity. The largest majority of our guests are from the Bay Area and they stay for 2 weeks and rent multiple sites to accommodate their large families. They bring a lot of money to spend. When the lake is low like 2022, they cancel. Lost revenue. Our staff and hours are cut. No additional projects are in the budget.

I think that the restoration projects have done more harm than good.

Take into consideration the lake level prior to determining the release amounts and then you somehow need some sort of exemption to get to get the lake back up to at least 85% of the full pool. The Record of Decision needs to be amended to allow flexibility to not hurt the County's economic benefits of an appropriate lake level.

I understand why they say they are doing these releases but I don't see any increase in the fish population year over year. I also don't see accountability on the TRRP part. The economic damage is huge for a small struggling town.

TRRP needs to take public input more seriously. Right now, I see them taking no public input nor do they take the local economy into their consideration into their program.

Don't feel releasing this much water when Trinity Lake is below 50% is fair to anyone in this county, regardless of the ROD. The ROD needs to be reestablished.

I would like to know the science behind the high releases...what exactly does it do ?



## Additional Survey Comments



You need not look any further than all of the other lake levels in California to know just how poor Trinity Lake has been managed. I would begin any discussion there. If responsibly managed there is no reason that everyone's goals can be met. 7 years and 300 million dollars later not one goal has been met!

Why cant forest service be as concerned about Trinity Lake as the are Shasta Lake.

I have physically observed high water being released during high precipitation and high river levels causing increased damaging flooding conditions on the Trinity River.

I live at Trinity River Resort and R.V. Park. I moved to the Lewiston area here in the Spring of 2018. I am a native to the area with deep family ties that go back to the 1800's. Since moving here I have watched a decline of Salmon and River quality that has impacted the R.V. Park to the point that the Park has been sold twice 2017 to Rush LLC and 2021 to a Mr. Revelli. We have been told that the Park may be in negotiations at this time. We've gone from packed to a small (3) handful this year.

There needs to be a balance. TRRP is one dimensional in their outdated plan. If the lake is allowed to fill each year, depending on precipitation, the water can be used to support river health, agriculture, fisheries, the economy, and recreation. It's all important for the County and community. The plan being used now doesn't account for the changes seen. Old data! For example, Trinity Alps are not Sierra Nevada's yet that's how precious. levels are determined. Changes are needed to address all!

I lived in Trinity Center & live now downriver, where my grandparents settled in the 1930s. The lake was built as water storage for the Central Valley, with hydroelectric power to sweeten the deal. The promise of recreational lake use was always deceptive. Sadly, climate change now makes a perpetual red-planet landscape there inevitable, where once was a fertile valley. I now see our county's marketable tourism assets as our historic districts, our river and our wilderness; let's focus on those.

Nothing will change in the restoration program until the TMC is restructured to reduce all financial conflict of interest and the bylaws updated to eliminate the super majority vote requirements. There also needs to be a public advisory council what has real input. The EIS needs to be updated to reflect the current river environment and climate change. The EIS is old and stale. I lived in Trinity for 18 years and served on TAMWG.

Fill up our lake Trinity 100% FULL

## Additional Survey Comments



I don't think the right priorities have been established for the level of water for Trinity Lake in regards to the communities surrounding the lakes. For as economically challenged Trinity County is there should be protections in place to allow the county to monetize its natural resource. Let richer farmers and communities pay the market price for water. Balance this with the needs of tribes down river.

While it support the concept of the river restoration. I do not feel the TRRP is equipped to properly handle economic impact due ne to this county. Further the TRRP is employed by funds and grants. That is how they stay employed. I think their is strong influence by organizations who want control of river flows for their economic gain and control of the river has been taken from the hands of CDFW and given to these outside organizations to control the river for their economic benefit .

The current WVF program offers no criteria to judge success. The flow program is designed to mainly impact juvenile salmon but historical data (see <https://www.trrp.net/library/document/?id=2571> and <https://www.trrp.net/library/document/?id=2492>) indicates no correlation between juvenile salmon outmigration and adult salmon return. In fact, the highest abundance of out-migrating juveniles (2012) resulted in some of the lowest adult returns.

For approximately 30 years the river restoration program has done nothing to help the health of the river or fish population.

The Trinity River is a wild and scenic river, and it is awesome to see it actually being allowed to act as such. Anecdotes place the river's edge at the fence around our house during historic pre dam flooding, and the river is nowhere near that. The number one problem I've seen in regard to public outrage is massive amounts of misinformation and ignorance. I did dislike seeing people's moveable property in the water, so I do think more effort needs to happen to help ensure items are moved.

The TMC needs reform and should be made into a Federal Advisory Committee with public members helping make decisions. The TAMWG experiment was a failure and continued failure to include the public in decision making jeopardizes the TRRP.

I am a proponent of river health over lake levels, & believe there should be a minimum level maintained in the lake for river ecosystem health. I also think the TRRP is a long failed experiment that has been fudged and mismanaged from the start, and should be shut down. We need to allow dredging like we used to & bring back THAT economy & the benefits it had on the habitat TRRP has been trying to mimic with gravel dumps.

## Additional Survey Comments



A higher cold water pool is needed on Trinity Lake, 600k is not enough to meet minimum river temp requirements in the fall. The WFV is hurting the local economy and property on the river. We need to see a better flow regime across the entire year, pushing all this water down in winter spring does nothing for the adults in the fall. It does make the water warmer and not meeting 2000 ROD water temps. We need to take care of our adults and their eggs in the fall. Without them there are no juveniles

Cosequitive drought years should be considered in calculating releases. Lake levels are an important consideration.

I lived on the river for 45 years and the devastation I've seen is disheartening. Filling deep holding pools, side channels that are cut in and then abandoned and the logs put in the river from non native areas.

I believe the restoration project is an abject failure and should be eliminated. The greatest fish returns actually occurred before the restoration project when year-round releases were minimal. The project cannot account for ANY fish returns. The conflict of interest with TMC members voting themselves projects on the river is outrageous and swept under the rug. The research behind the EIS underlying the ROD is 30 years old and should be completely redone. The entire project is a mess.

Please note that TRRP mislead our community in saying this would have little to no impact on our economy in their FEIS. They also said that days lost in recreation would be gained later as the river will come down earlier in summer than before. This is misleading as well. There are not enough fish in the river at that time of year to justify charging anglers to come here. If I charged people to fish that time of year, I would not be in business long. Please stop these experiments this time of yr

Please stop draining the lake.

I am not a resident, but have been fishing on the River and camp/boat on the Lake for 4 decades. This issue goes beyond residents although they are obviously the first priority. The economy depends on Families like mine coming up and spending Money. I am a retired Professional Firefighter and have been on many of your fires since the 90ies. I definitely have an attachment to the Community.

The cost of adding more amenities to attract different clientele we are still working on. If future years remain similar, we're looking at a reduction of workable hours from Dec 15 to April 30 of 50%. With massive swings from summer to winter, we may have to become a seasonal operation and forego operating dining facilities. We still have also yet to qualitfy the loss of travel throug hthe corridor from the reservoir being so low it's not functionable to most visitors this summer.

## Additional Survey Comments



TRRP is doing a lousy job of restoration on the Trinity River. They have had over 20 years to help the fish and I haven't seen ANY increase in the numbers of fish in the Trinity River during this time. I believe they are doing more harm than good. They have not been transparent with the public and they continue to mislead the public with their nontruths. It's way past time for someone else to restore the river. Someone who can actually help the fish and not destroy the economy in Trinity County.

The restoration project has been a trash experiment since its inception, but the river is far more important than the lake. The lake is a false economy (like cannabis) and we should not be relying on lake recreation for economic growth or a future.