

**KINGS RIVER FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

**Annual Implementation Plan**

*Program Year 2017 - 2018*

**Submitted to:**

*Executive Policy Committee*

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## **Introduction**

Following are the program elements that are planned for program year 2017 – 2018. These elements align with the Long Term Implementation Plan (Executive Policy Committee 2017) and support the creation of the annual budget summarized in Section IV.

Results of implementing the 2017-18 plan will be documented in the Annual Technical Report; this report will also include additional supporting documents, such as the annual population surveys and a final accounting of program expenditures.

## **I. Ongoing Program - Support Elements**

### **SE1 Fishery Habitat Master Plan Implementation**

The TSC has completed preliminary gathering of Green LiDAR data and accompanying Digital Elevation Maps to best identify locations within the tailwater fishery for environmental enhancement projects benefitting the overall lotic community. The expected net benefit would be increased habitat quality and availability for wild and hatchery produced resident rainbow trout and other aquatic resources.

- The TSC plans to publicly post a recently approved Request for Proposal (RFP) in the first quarter of program year. The awarded consultant will need to provide the following deliverables:
  - Electronic files containing results of the GIS mapping color coded to reflect layers with water velocity, water depth, and habitat suitability by size class for trout as well as applicable native species as a function of river flows prescribed by the program
  - Tabular summaries, by river mile downstream of Pine Flat Dam, comparing suitable habitat area and weighted usable area as a function of river flow under baseline conditions and in response to habitat improvement alternatives
  - Documentation on the hydraulic simulation model framework, inputs, calibration, validation, and model operations, in addition to an electronic copy of the model
  - Documentation on the five habitat improvement projects included in the analysis including the type of habitat improvement, materials, areal

extent, change in weighted usable area and change in suitability from baseline conditions for each trout lifestage based on water depth and velocity. Habitat improvement project locations will be described as separate layers on the GIS map

- Contractor needs to prepare a technical documentation report that will provide sufficient documentation to support and independently use the maps and simulation model
- Contractor will provide program staff a short monthly progress report describing accomplishments, problems, schedule delays, and information requests

Models gleaned from this project are projected to act as a guide for future Habitat Master Plans.

### **SE2 Public Education**

The program plans to step-up efforts to update the <http://krfmp.org> website on a regular basis in order to provide timely public information. This will also include updating the web based development tool from an antiquated HTML format, to a newer user friendly web based development and administrative tool.

### **SE3 Monitoring (Baseline, Project, and Special Study)**

Provide the public information on water temperature, through sharing of the monthly Pine Flat Reservoir temperature profiles and the daily hydrologic and climatic summary report throughout the temperature management period when in effect. Additional monitoring efforts will be considered as applicable in the upcoming year, which may include electrofishing surveys, snorkel surveys, creel surveys, calibrated angler or other methodologies to track species. Two (2) new electro shockers (approximately \$10k/ shocker) will be purchased to replace four (4) older units that are unreliable. The older units will be traded in to offset the purchase cost.

### **SE4 Incubator Facility**

Three cycles / batches of diploid trout eggs will be purchased for incubation, (approximately \$4,000/cycle) the cost associated with this, is typically reimbursed by the Kings River Conservancy. The cycles will involve the following number of eggs – Round 1 – 100k, Round 2 – 120k, and Round 3 – 100k. The TSC will investigate, purchase and have installed a dedicated back-up generator with an automatic transfer switch for the facility, cost is estimated to be \$8,000

**SE5 Reservoir Projects (Pine Flat Reservoir)**

USACE Management (Pine Flat) and the CDFW Reservoir Biologist seek to work with the KRFMP on new habitat strategies in the upcoming program year.

**II. Ongoing Program Support Elements – Maintenance**

**M1 Incubator Facility**

Routine operations and maintenance activities will continue for the facility. Additional upgrades to water conveyance piping and egg jar utilization / operation may be made.

**M2 Thorburn Spawning Channel**

Routine operation and maintenance activities will continue.

**M3 Permits**

The required Streambed Alteration Agreement (1602) will be submitted by CDFW resulting in fees waived. Other potential program permits will require financial support. An estimate to procure these is called out as a budgetary figure.

**III. Program Support - Plans**

**P1 Rainbow Trout Supplemental Stocking Plan**

Stocking has always been an important element of the Kings River Fisheries Management Program; as such a new comprehensive supplemental stocking plan will be developed this program year. The new program will utilize program funds for the purchase of additional CDFW hatchery produced rainbow trout including reproductive diploids that are to be raised and dedicated to the Lower Kings River. In addition, the plan will address and define “recovery stocking” in response to the recent extended drought and possible future environmental conditions that adversely impact the aquatic community, potential expansion of access to suitable planting locations, seasonal timing of planting allocations, and consideration of the number and sizes (e.g., fingerling, sub-catchable, catchable, and trophy sized trout) of

trout to be planted to supplement trout planting currently being done by CDFW.

#### **IV. Projected Budgeted for Program Year 2017-2018**

The Fisheries Management Program funding for the elements listed below will be allocated and utilized as listed within the text of this document upon the approval of the Executive Committee.

<b>Element #</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Projected Budget</b>
SE1	Fishery Habitat Master Plan	\$130,000
SE2	Public Education	\$8,000
SE3	Monitoring	\$25,000
SE4	Incubator Facility	\$24,000
SE5	Reservoir Projects (Pine Flat)	\$20,000
M1	Incubator Facility	\$1,000
M2	Thorburn Spawning Channel	\$2,500
M3	Permits	\$5,000
P1	Rainbow Trout Supplemental Stocking Plan	\$30,000
<b>Total Projected Budget 2017-2018:</b>		<b>\$245,500</b>