

HOW DO THE BAY-DELTA PLAN & VOLUNTARY AGREEMENTS IMPACT THE TRINITY RIVER?

Trinity River Talking Points:

The Trinity River is the largest tributary to the Klamath River and a major recreation destination supporting fishing, boating, and local economies.

The river is dammed by two federal dams: Trinity Dam and Lewiston Dam which store and divert water out of the basin to the Central Valley, primarily for agricultural use.

Trinity River salmon are central to the Hoopa Valley Reservation and Yurok Reservation, and to the Nor Rel Muk Wintu, Chimariko, Hoopa, Yurok, and Karuk Tribes.

Bigger Picture:

- The Bay-Delta Plan and Voluntary Agreements represent another raid on Trinity River water.
- The primary beneficiaries are subsidized corporate agriculture, not rivers, fish, or communities.
- The Plan undermines decades of Tribal-led restoration and threatens long-term salmon recovery.
- The Bay-Delta Plan Phase 2, including the Voluntary Agreements (VAs) and Unimpaired Flows Alternative, will harm the Trinity River and Lower Klamath River.
- Both alternatives increase exports of cold Trinity Lake water to the Sacramento River without enforceable protections for the Trinity River.
- The Plan claims to avoid “redirected impacts” but:
 - Does not define measurable impacts
 - Sets no reservoir storage targets
 - Provides no water temperature protections
 - Ignores North Coast Basin Plan objectives
- Responsibility for identifying impacts is left to the Bureau of Reclamation, the same agency exporting the water, a clear conflict of interest. The BOR is under the Trump administration and has been acting outside of the law for the last year.
- The Plan fails to require mandatory mitigation if harm to the Trinity River occurs.

Salmon & River Restoration Impacts:

- Cold Trinity River water is essential to protecting water quality and preventing salmon die-offs in the Trinity and Lower Klamath River.
- After the 2002 Klamath fish kill (65,000+ adult salmon lost), over 335,000 acre-feet of Trinity Lake water has been used since 2003 to protect salmon during emergency conditions.
- The Voluntary Agreements increase pressure on Trinity Lake, resulting in:
 - Hot water during fall salmon spawning
 - Insufficient water during drought years
 - No reserve water to protect the Lower Klamath during migration and spawning crises

Flawed Modeling & Science

- Plan modeling assumes far greater natural inflow to Trinity Lake than has ever occurred.
- Modeled “Baseline” flows are approximately twice actual post-2000 Trinity River flows.
- This unrealistic baseline:
 - Masks real impacts of increased exports
 - Understates reservoir depletion
 - Is likely operationally infeasible for the CVP Trinity Division to the Sacramento River

What Must Happen:

- The Bay-Delta Plan Phase 2 must be withdrawn and rewritten.
- Any new plan must include specific, enforceable protections:
 - Trinity River flow requirements
 - Water temperature standards
 - Trinity Lake cold-water carryover storage protections

Federal Law Requirement

- Public Law 104-154 requires Trinity River restoration to support:
 - Healthy anadromous fish populations
 - Tribal, commercial, and sport fisheries
 - Full participation in restoration benefits
- Restoration is about fish, rivers, and people, not increased exports.