

### **Consultation Status of Trinity Mainstem Flows (a.k.a. "Trinity ROD flows").**

- Seasonal operations in the Trinity River (which are included in the Trinity ROD) are described in the Proposed Action section and modeled in the BA, but listed as "Not Consulted On" because they are covered by an existing Biological Opinion (i.e., the 2000 Trinity ROD flows BiOp).
- NMFS believes the 2000 Trinity ROD flows BiOp warrants reinitiation.
  - The 2000 Trinity BiOp does not provide take exemption for coho;
  - The 2000 Trinity BiOp does not include Pacific eulachon, green sturgeon sDPS, or Southern Resident killer whales.
- Including the Trinity ROD flows as part of the proposed action in the ROC on LTO would provide Reclamation with appropriate take exemption for these listed species.
- Minimal BA revision from Reclamation is required (minor editing that would provide consistent, unambiguous language).
- We are seeking agreement from the Regional Directors that the Trinity ROD flows are included in the ROC on LTO.

### **Relevant information:**

- Reclamation is concerned with reopening the Trinity ROD, and therefore has resisted including Trinity ROD flows in the ROC on LTO.
- However:
  - Consulting on Trinity flows *would not necessarily* reopen the Trinity ROD;
  - Reopening the Trinity ROD would occur *if there is a jeopardy or adverse modification* determination on listed species in the Trinity;
  - *Even if there were an RPA on the Trinity*, Reclamation is currently preparing a public draft EIS on LTO and could integrate potential Trinity flow alternatives into the same.
- FWS and Reclamation technical staff are assisting with modeling efforts to support the effects analyses. Except for the Stream Salmonid Simulator (SSS) modeling for Chinook related to EFH and SRKW effects, we expect all models (WUA, habitat capacity, and water temperature) to be available in ~ mid-March.