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November 19, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Jim Ruff -- Manager, Mainstem Passage and River Operations

SUBJECT: Briefing on Quagga-Zebra Mussel Action Plan for Western U.S. Waters

At the December 9, 2009, Council meeting in Portland Eileen Ryce, who is Chair of Western Regional Panel and the State of Montana's Aquatic Nuisance Species Coordinator, will provide a briefing on the Quagga-Zebra Mussel Action Plan for Western U.S. Waters. She will be accompanied by Stephen Phillips of the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Background

The goal of the Quagga-Zebra Mussel Action Plan (Q-ZAP) is to summarize current strategies to address the invasion of zebra and quagga mussels in the West, and to identify and prioritize the specific actions that are needed to comprehensively prevent the further spread of these mussels, respond to new infestations, and manage existing infestations. Q-ZAP is intended to serve as a common 'road map' of priorities for any water or recreational management entity and their partners for the next five years. The cover, table of contents and Executive Summary of the Q-ZAP are attached for your review and information.¹

Actions identified in the plan to address this growing problem fall are separated into 7 major categories: Coordination, Prevention, Early-Detection Monitoring, Rapid Response, Containment and Control, Outreach and Education, and Research. The longer it takes to put effective measures in place to prevent the spread or to contain these mussels, the greater the chance of irreparable ecological damage and long-term mitigation costs. The estimated annual cost of implementing the highest priority actions in Q-ZAP is \$76 million. If funded and implemented, the collective actions proposed in the plan represent the best strategy toward minimizing future impacts of quagga and zebra mussels in waters across the Western United States, including the Columbia River Basin.

Attachment

¹ A copy of the full Q-ZAP report will be made available if any Council member would like to review the entire document.