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April 2, 2024

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee Members

FROM: Patty O'Toole, Fish and Wildlife Division Director

SUBJECT: Report on progress of communication/information sharing with Bonneville

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Patty O'Toole-Fish and Wildlife Division Direct, Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Summer Goodwin-Fish & Wildlife Policy Analyst, Bonneville Power Administration

Summary: Council and Bonneville staff will provide an update to members on developments since the last discussion in February 2024, on improving how Bonneville reports and shares Program implementation information with the Council.

Relevance: Reporting and tracking of Bonneville project funding is important for the Council to better understand program and project implementation and program performance.

Workplan: This item addresses the Program Implementation section of the Division Workplan.

Background: At the November and December Fish and Wildlife Committee meetings the staff and Committee discussed the need for improving how Bonneville reports, tracks, and shares Program implementation information with the Council. The staff noted the need for more systematic reporting of

information about what projects and work is being implemented and especially information about and explanations for changes at the project level over time. This could be addressed as a revision to the current Budget Oversight Group process.

At the February meeting, the Chair asked for a report in April on the progress of staff work with Bonneville to develop improvements for information sharing. In recent months, Bonneville has been considering a few alternatives. Staff will discuss these at the April meeting, along with an update of overall progress. The staff recommends that any solution address the following: criteria for what project changes are shared with the Council and when, systematic reporting that is durable over time, and written protocols that will be shared with and approved by the Council.

More information:

- December Fish and Wildlife Committee Meeting [memo](#)
- November Fish and Wildlife Committee Meeting [memo](#)