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July 5, 2023

DECISION MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Erik Merrill, Independent Science Manager

SUBJECT: ISRP Member Appointment and Term Renewal Decision

PROPOSED ACTION: Council staff asks that the Council appoint Yolanda Morbey to the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) and approve second terms for Dana Infante and Kenneth Rose.

SIGNIFICANCE: The ISRP provides recommendations to the Council on the scientific soundness and benefits to fish and wildlife of projects funded by the Bonneville Power Administration. These ISRP appointment decisions should maintain the groups' expertise and ability to effectively review the science pertaining to fish and wildlife projects and topics likely to arise in the next few years such as fish and wildlife habitat restoration, fish production, and accompanying monitoring and evaluation.

BUDGETARY/ECONOMIC IMPACTS

The ISRP operates on an annual budget, independent of the Council's budget, funded by the Bonneville Power Administration through the Fish and Wildlife Program. No additional funds are requested.

BACKGROUND

The Appointment Process

The ISRP has 11 members who are eligible to serve two terms of normally three years per term. Term limits and new appointments are staggered to ensure continuity of membership and regular infusion of fresh perspectives.

The recommended ISRP candidates were selected from a list of scientists evaluated and approved by the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine for their scientific qualifications (NASEM [2019](#) and [2014](#) memos). From the list of recommended candidates, the Council appoints ISRP members.

All qualified ISRP members are appointed without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, gender identify (including gender expression), sexual orientation, marital status, age, disability, genetic information, or military or veteran status.

Membership Recommendations

The ISRP is a multi-disciplinary group with members providing a broad array of scientific expertise (see the table below). In developing recommendations for appointment and renewal, we consider the expertise lost, the expertise of continuing members, and the expertise needed for anticipated future assignments. In addition, we seek to balance the group with scientists who spent their careers in the Pacific Northwest and offer institutional and local knowledge, with those whose work has been primarily outside the Columbia River Basin and can provide a fresh perspective.

Additionally, all three of the recommended scientists serve on the Independent Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB). Their joint ISAB and ISRP membership increases the information sharing and learning between the Fish and Wildlife Program's science groups and thus ensures more effective and efficient reviews.

Each of the recommended scientists was screened for conflicts of interest and potential bias, and it was determined that their other work and financial relationships would not interfere with their ability to impartially conduct reviews and would not jeopardize the ISRP's independence.

ISRP Appointment Recommendation

- [Yolanda Morbey](#), Ph.D., is an Associate Professor, Department of Biology, Western University, Ontario, Canada. She teaches in the areas of ecology, evolution, and biostatistics. Her experience and expertise have focused on avian and salmon migratory behavior and biology in the Pacific Northwest and the Great Lakes ecoregions. This combination of topical and geographic experience has been effective on the ISAB, and she should offer broad insights to ISRP

reviews concerning salmon ecology as well as wildlife and predation research and management.

ISRP Renewal Recommendation

The two ISRP members recommended for term renewals:

- [Dana Infante](#), Ph.D., is Professor and Associate Director of AgBioResearch, Michigan State University. She has extensive expertise in river ecology and management, landscape ecology, and environmental assessment.
- [Kenneth Rose](#), Ph.D., is the France-Merrick Professor in Sustainable Ecosystem Restoration at Horn Point Laboratory of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. His work has focused on modeling fish population and food web dynamics in estuaries, lakes, reservoirs, and oceans.

Table of Current ISRP Members

(Shaded shows members recommended for term renewal)

ISRP Member	Affiliation	Expertise	Term
Stan Gregory	Oregon State University, emeritus	Fisheries, ecology, and habitat	Complete 9/30/2023
Kurt Fausch	Colorado State University, emeritus	Fisheries - population and stream ecology	2024, 2 nd
Thomas Quinn	University of Washington, emeritus	Fisheries - salmonid ecology and behavior	2025, 2 nd
Richard Carmichael	Consultant, formerly with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife	Fisheries, research, and recovery science	2025, 2 nd
Kurt Fresh	Consultant, retired National Marine Fisheries Service	Fisheries, ocean and salmonid ecology	2025, 2 nd
Josh Korman	Ecometric Research, Consultant, Vancouver, Canada	Biometrics and modeling	2025, 2 nd
Patrick Connolly	Consultant, formerly with United States Geological Survey, Washington	Fisheries, ecology, and habitat	2026, 2 nd
Dana Infante	Michigan State University	Hydrology and ecosystem modeling	2023, 1 st
Kenny Rose	University of Maryland	Biometrics and modeling	2023, 1 st
Thomas Turner	University of New Mexico	Fisheries - genetics	2024, 1 st
Ellen Wohl	Colorado State University	Hydrology, river restoration	2026, 1 st