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December 5, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee Members

FROM: Kris Homel

SUBJECT: Update on the Fish Passage Center data management project

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Brandon Chockley (Data Analyst/ Fishery Biologist) and Joe Nowinski (Database Administrator/ Application Software Specialist), Fish Passage Center

Summary: The Fish and Wildlife Committee will hear a presentation on the resources available to the region through the Fish Passage Center (FPC) project. The presentation will include information on how FPC resources relate to the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program and how they are accessed and shared, along with a discussion of future data management needs and emerging tools or innovations.

Relevance: Regional data and information-management projects are critical to supporting the Program's data management, analysis, access, and communication functions. As part of the Mainstem and Program Support Project Review in 2019, the Council formulated a programmatic issue to address the importance of these projects. The programmatic issue emphasized the need to identify which resources house information derived from Program funded projects and how those resources can be accessed by the public. Over the course of this year, the staff have invited all seven of the data management projects included in the Mainstem and Program Support Review to share similar presentations. The Committee

has heard from six projects so far- the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Library, the Inter-Tribal Monitoring Data Project, Data Access in Real Time, StreamNet, Intermountain Province Subbasin Data Management Project, and the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership. In December, the committee will hear from the last project (FPC), which is administered under Project # 1994-033-00.

Background: A large amount of data is collected throughout the basin by many different projects and having access to that information is critical. This is the role filled by data management projects- they support the Program's data management, analysis, access, and communication functions. Each project is a little different and each fits different needs for their organizations.

The seven data management projects were reviewed in the 2019 Mainstem and Program Support Project Review. In this review, the ISRP highlighted, and the Council agreed with, the importance of supporting regional and sub-regional data management, storage, and dissemination of information necessary for Program implementation and assessment (please see [Programmatic Issue #2](#), pages 8 and 9). In particular, intentional planning for, and dedication of funding is necessary for (1) sharing information that informs decisions and (2) keeping pace with new technologies and knowledge through workshops and other learning experiences. This requires balancing investments in data collection with investments for data processing (data management, analysis, data steward expertise/support) and communication of information.

In an effort to address the Council recommendation and to advance the Council's efforts in the assessment of program performance, there is a need to better understand the information and data sharing resources in the basin, which provide the Council and region with critical Program data and information. In the decision document from the 2019 review, the Council recommended that a subcommittee of the Regional Coordination Forum be convened. The tasks of this subcommittee would be to (1) communicate the role of the regional and sub-regional databases/ repositories in providing public access to information derived from Program funded projects, (2) identify the primary regional databases/ repositories that house information supporting the Program, and (3) address efficient flow of information between regional and subregional databases/repositories, and projects collecting and analyzing data.

Toward this end, the Council organized a series of presentations on data and information management projects during 2023 for Fish and Wildlife Committee meetings. The Council developed a set of questions to better understand the specific work each data management project is doing, how they relate to each other, and how they relate to the Council's Program. Some of these questions were asked of every project during their presentation, and others were specific to individual projects. The

presentation on FPC will provide answers to questions 1-3, and 5-7, below.

The required questions are:

1. Describe the data and resources that you provide to the region.
2. How do these data and resources relate to the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program?
3. How are these resources accessed and/ or shared among organizations?

The additional questions are:

4. What kind of collaborations or relationships exist between your data/repositories/organization, and other data management projects/organizations in the basin (not just within the Program)?
5. As the basin and program continue changing and other information needs arise or change, what opportunities do you have to adapt to these different needs?
6. What do we need to be aware of in the future to continue providing data management for the full suite of work implemented under the program?
7. Are there emerging tools or technologies we should be aware of? New data management needs? Innovations to share?

Through these presentations, we hope to highlight the resources that are available from these projects as they relate to the Program both to better understand the accomplishments of the Program, and to inform the region. Following the series of presentations, the Council will develop a summary of the answers each project provided to their specific questions.

More Info: https://www.fpc.org/fpc_homepage.php