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April 26, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Committee Members

FROM: Lynn Palensky, Program Development Manager

SUBJECT: Draft Staff Recommendations on Category Review for Resident Fish, Data Management and Regional Coordination Projects

The ISRP completed its final report on the Resident Fish, Data Management and Regional Coordination projects on April 3, 2012. The ISRP finds that 14 proposals meet scientific review criteria, 37 proposals meet criteria with some qualifications, and 3 proposals did not meet criteria. In addition to these 71 proposals, the ISRP considered 9 “contextual” projects that had been reviewed recently but were included in this review for reference because of their relation to the proposals under review. The ISRP also makes a specific programmatic recommendation that applies to the 17 regional coordination proposals. See:

<http://www.nwcouncil.org/library/report.asp?docid=668>

In addition to individual project reviews, this report contains comments on issues that cut across projects and apply to the Program in general. Topics covered include non-native fish management, trout stocking strategies, monitoring and evaluation, regional coordination, results reporting, and process issues. An attachment to this report contains ISRP feedback on drafts of the Resident Fish Monitoring Strategy (RFMS) and Wildlife Monitoring Implementation Strategy (WMIS). Those strategy documents were used for context in this review.

As required by the Power Act, the Council invited public to comment on the ISRP’s report and the projects under review. The initial comment period ends May 4, 2012. While the initial comment period ends prior to the May Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting, there will be additional opportunity to comment again on the Committee and Council recommendations later in May and in June. See <http://www.nwcouncil.org/library/report.asp?docid=668>

The Council’s central and state staff is developing draft recommendations based on the project proposal information, the ISRP’s reports, Bonneville’s staff review, public comment on the ISRP report, and other relevant information. Keeping in form with the previous review processes, staff is developing recommendations for both individual projects and programmatic issues and how the council might resolve or treat those issues. The programmatic issues will be a part of the larger

Decision Document and the individual project recommendations will be in a separate spreadsheet as an attachment.

The draft staff recommendations will be sent to the members via email ahead of the May meeting in Hood River. At the Hood River meeting we can discuss both programmatic issues and project recommendations and next steps for moving to Committee Recommendations.

Please call Tony Grover or Lynn Palensky in the interim if you have any questions.

Resident Fish, Data Management, and Regional Coordination Category Review

- 71 proposals in three categories
- 14 meet scientific review criteria
- 37 meet criteria with some qualifications
- 3 did not meet criteria
- 17 regional coordination - received programmatic recommendations
- 9 recently reviewed “contextual” projects

Non-Native Species Management

- Walleye
 - Northern Pike
 - Mt Whitefish
 - Lake Trout
 - Rainbow Trout
 - Brown Trout
-
- *Removal Techniques*
 - *Common themes*
 - *Regional discussion*



Programmatic Issues- Resident Fish



- Non-native fish management
- Master planning type documents
 - Coordination of activities
 - Understanding carrying capacity relative to stocking
 - Habitat improvements
 - facilitate spread of NN
 - improvements for native spp.
 - Stocking plans
 - Creel surveys
 - Assessment using existing data-synthesis and retrospective
- New and work elements



Programmatic Comments: Data Mgmt



- Basic requirements
- Database development
- Accessibility and format
- Data Management projects
- Regional committee on program data needs

“PERC”

Regional Coordination

- Focus on a discrete set of work functions
- Revisit the work in Table 1 every year
- Council set “up-to amount” for RC budget?
- Revisit the budget and contracts every 2 years
- BPA to determine most appropriate entities to perform the work and individual b
- Begin contracts on or close to same time

Table 1. Council Priority Work for FY 2013-14

| Function | Deliverables or Outcomes |
|--|--|
| <p>Participate and contribute to Council-sponsored/requested topical forums, reports and workgroups to aid in program development and implementation</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council's Research Plan • Planning, preparation and logistics for geographic reviews (presentations and site visits) as requested by Council. • Participate in predation workshops on invasive species, Non-Native species • CB Sturgeon Workshop • Fish Tagging Forum - recommendations • Participate on PERC to develop recommendations on program data needs, sharing and accessibility • Future work from the Wildlife forum • Attendance at the Council's Fish and Wildlife Committee meetings to track program-related topics of interest • Development of management plans, synthesis and retrospective reports that are responsive to the Council and ISRP |
| <p>Other topical documents forums and workgroups that will aid in program development and implementation and program evaluation and reporting</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lamprey workgroup meetings • Resident fish Committee • Anadromous Fish Committee • Wildlife Committee |
| <p>Attend and participate in key program-related regional forums where policies, programs, and actions affect fish and wildlife are planned and implemented</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and preparation to present and/or implement program-funded conferences, or program-funded programs such as AFEP, YKFP, CRITFC, CREC, Lake Roosevelt Forum, LSRCF) |
| <p>Ongoing processes that improve Program functions and requirements</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued development of MERR, HLI's and Research Plan, effectiveness reporting & monitoring design for the Program • Provide technical and policy comments or recommendations to Council-related documents and/or processes |
| <p>Participate and contribute to ongoing work to improve program reporting, evaluation and assessment including (PERC, coordinated assessment meetings, Committees to develop HLI's)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize data needs for the program (PERC) • Recommendations for data sharing and accessibility (PERC) • Data Management Strategy and Data Steward Coordination • Monitoring Design or Protocol in development of approach(s) for regional habitat status and trend and effectiveness monitoring • Protocol and Method Development |

Public Comments

- 10 comments
 - 5 Flathead Lake –Lake Trout Management
 - 2 regional coordination
 - 3 on project-specific comments

- 3 Tribes, 3 federal agencies, 2 sport fishing, 1 state agency

Next Steps

- Programmatic or projects issues
- Committee Recommendation
- Council Recommendation
- Public Comments