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May 9, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee members

FROM: Patty O'Toole, Ben Kujala, Laura Robinson, and Tony Grover

SUBJECT: Estimated timeline for upcoming Fish and Wildlife Program and Power Plan development and adoption

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Patty O'Toole, Ben Kujala, Tony Grover

Summary: Barring unforeseen developments, and at the will of the Council, a reasonable estimate of the timeline for the next Fish and Wildlife Program begins November of 2018 and concludes in August of 2020. Consequently, a reasonable timeline for the next Power Plan begins in the second quarter of 2019 and concludes the second quarter of 2022. An example of a fish and wildlife Program Implementation Summary, for the wildlife mitigation strategy, will be discussed.

Relevance: Timely amendments to the fish and wildlife program and then adoption of a power plan are two core requirements of the Northwest Power Act.

Background: The existing fish and wildlife program amendment was adopted by the Council in October of 2014. The seventh power plan was completed in May of 2016.

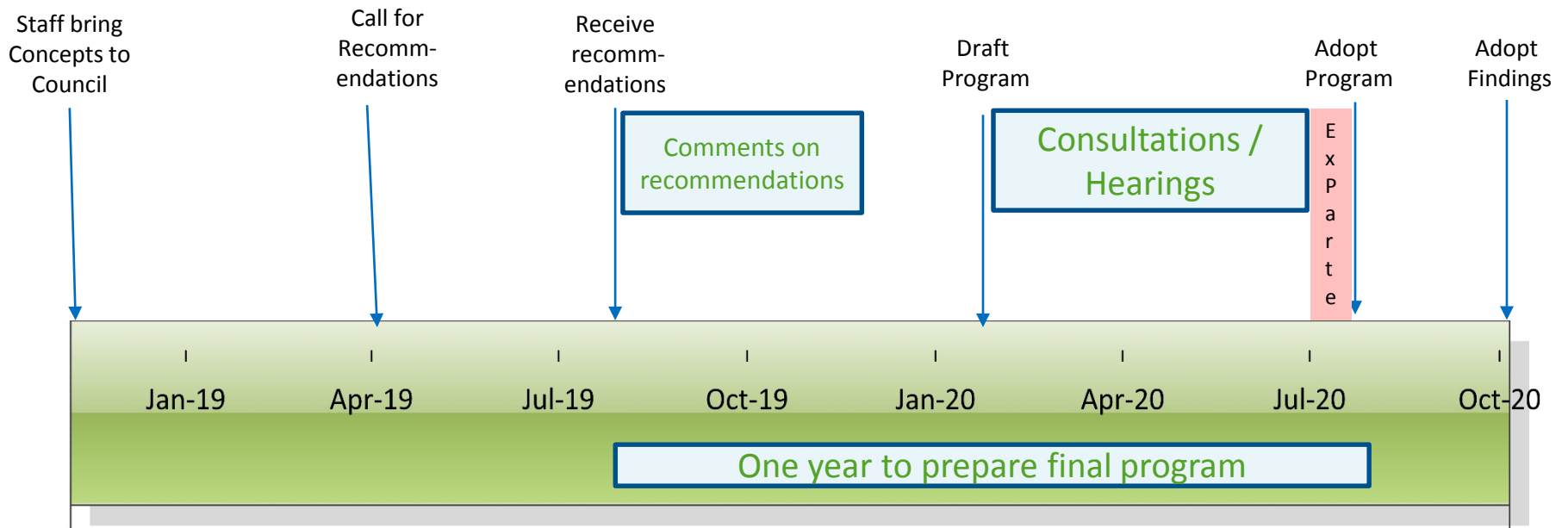
More Info: See attached graphics showing estimated timelines for the next fish and wildlife program amendment and the 8th power plan publication. Staff will discuss the process steps to get to a new Program and Plan, share an

example fish and wildlife program implementation summary for wildlife, and will respond to questions from the Committee.

Attachments:

- 2020 Fish and Wildlife Program Timeline (estimated)
- Timeline for 7th Plan Mid Term and 8th Plan Publication
- Program Implementation Summary: Wildlife Mitigation Strategy

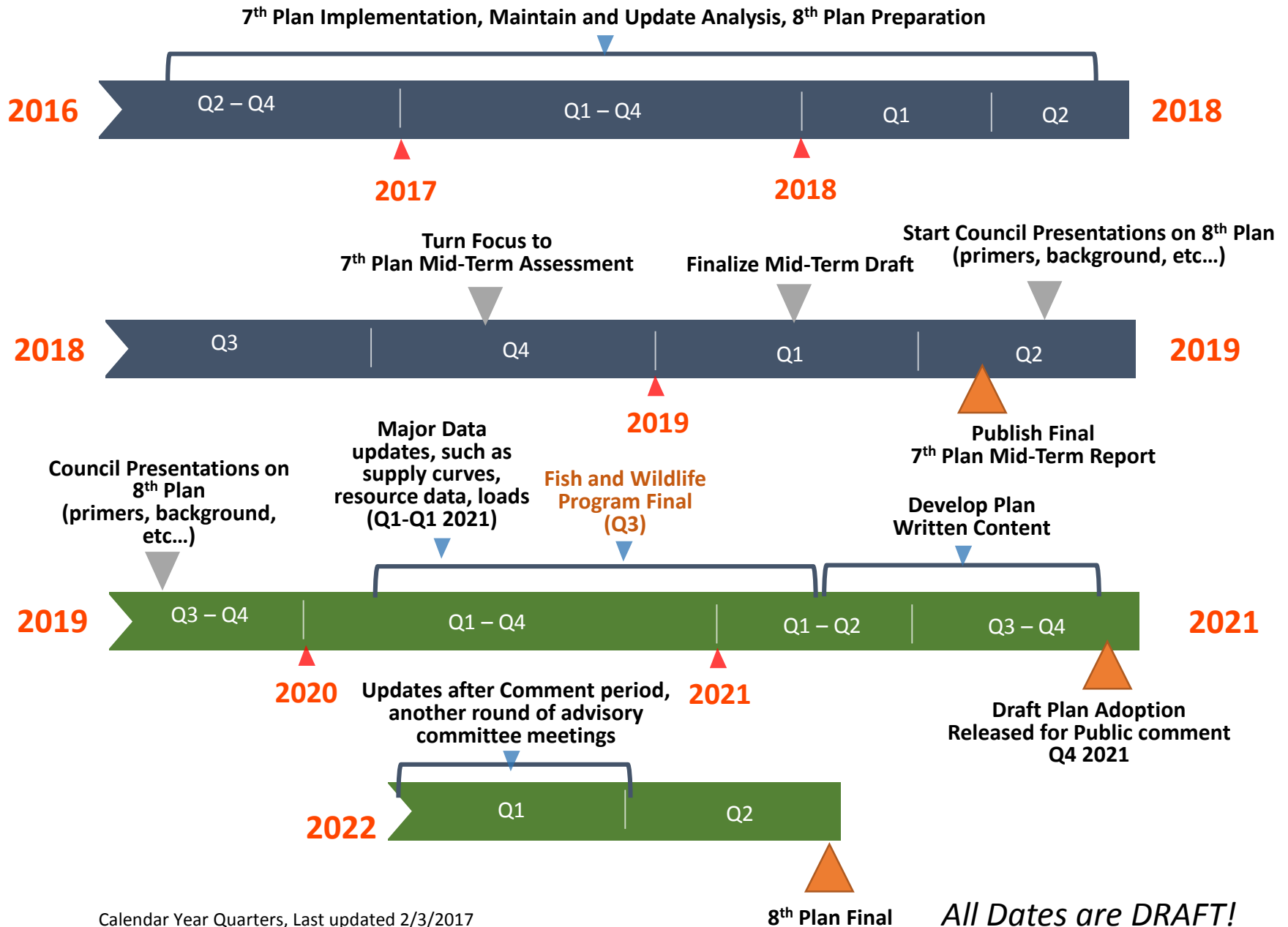
2020 Fish and Wildlife Program Timeline (estimated)



11/6/2018

10/6/2020

Timeline for 7th Plan Mid Term and 8th Plan Publication



Program Implementation Summary: Wildlife Mitigation Strategy

Issue statement: Implementation of wildlife mitigation continues but progress towards full mitigation remains unclear. Policy differences exist between Program direction for wildlife mitigation and BPA implementation in both the wildlife mitigation obligation and in addressing species-response to wildlife mitigation.

Discussion: Previously, the Program quantified the identified losses to wildlife and their habitats from construction of the hydrosystem and the resulting inundation of the river. These are referred to as construction and inundation losses, or C&I losses. The Program provides mitigation for these losses through habitat units; though, with the push for settlement agreements, acres are now the preferred unit for mitigation measurement. Operational and secondary losses have not yet been quantified, but the Program calls on BPA to address these losses along with the quantified C&I losses.

In the Program, the Council continues to endorse 2:1 mitigation for any unaddressed losses since 2000, though BPA has not agreed to this. In comments to the Council regarding the Wildlife Advisory Committee (WAC) report in 2015, BPA stated that it believed 25 of 29 FCRPS dams were fully mitigated for C&I losses based on the 2011 Wildlife Crediting Forum Report and a 1:1 mitigation model. Under Program guidance, BPA continues to pursue mitigation agreements and stewardship funding for the remaining four dams while applying 1:1 mitigation.

The Council uses the expertise of the wildlife managers and others in assessing the crediting of wildlife projects and proposing potential ways of assessing and addressing the wildlife operational impacts of the FCRPS. However, there are gaps in how BPA mitigates for C&I losses compared to how the Program measures for C&I losses. Also, there is a lack of monitoring to measure for habitat and species benefits under the 2014 Program.

Progress report on the 2014 Program measures within the Wildlife Mitigation Strategy:

Number of measures total: 12

Number of measures that have made progress: 6

Update on active measures:

- **Measure (paraphrased):** *Bonneville shall work with agencies and tribes to develop, implement, and coordinate habitat restoration and acquisition activities*
Update: Bonneville has developed a guide for the acquisition process, and continues to secure management plans for existing and new acquisitions.
- **Measure:** *The agencies and tribes are encouraged to monitor and evaluate habitat and species response and develop a standardized approach to wildlife monitoring*
Update: Such an approach has not been completed, but the tribes of UCUA pooled their project-specific monitoring funds to develop a regional monitoring approach to assess species M&E for wildlife. This effort is currently under review.

DRAFT 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program Implementation Assessment

- **Measure:** *The Council will continue to endorse habitat units as the preferred unit of measurement for wildlife mitigation and the HEP methodology for estimating habitat units lost and acquired*
Update: Many managers have been taught how to conduct the Habitat Evaluation Procedure (HEP), so in November 2015 the Council recommended that the HEP project be closed out. All documents, photos, and reports compiled by the HEP Team have been transferred to StreamNet. Additionally, with the use of acres as the mitigation measurement in settlement agreements, the use of habitat units is phasing out.
- **Measure:** *Long-term agreements between BPA and the agencies and tribes shall take place whenever possible*
Update: BPA continues to purchase properties to fulfill the terms of the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program, which was signed by ODFW and BPA in October 2010; and the Southern Idaho Mitigation Agreement, which was signed by the State of Idaho and BPA in September 2014.
- **Measure:** *The Council directs the WAC to examine the existing options and alternative for mitigation for wildlife operational losses*
Update: In October 2015, the Council received a detailed, non-consensus report from the WAC outlining the complexity of both providing definitions for operational and secondary losses and the level and nature of technical analysis needed to adequately characterize wildlife impacts from the operation of the FCRPS. Additionally, operational loss assessments between BPA and the agencies and tribes remain incomplete and cannot be resolved until wildlife crediting is determined.
- **Measure:** *There is a need for new methods to assess operational losses*
Update: The Kootenai Tribe has completed work with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks to develop an operational loss assessment. Neither the Council nor wildlife managers have determined the broader applicability of this tool.

Additionally, a review of existing wildlife projects was initiated by the Council in early 2017 and will conclude in fall of 2017.

Update on measures lacking action or agreement:

- **Measure:** *BPA shall work with the agencies and tribes to complete operational assessments where agreements already exist on the methodology*
Update: BPA has developed principles and issues for the Council to consider in the assessment of, and mitigation for, operational losses. Those include operational adjustments, previous mitigation done by the Corps and the Bureau, and the positive effects of FCRPS construction on wildlife. However, the managers do not agree with these principles.
- **Measure:** *BPA and the agencies and tribes will complete wildlife loss mitigation agreements for at least the remaining construction and inundation losses by 2016*
Update: BPA has completed some but not all agreements.
- **Measure:** *BPA and the agencies and tribes will reach agreement on how both wildlife and fish mitigation projects should be credited toward identified losses*
Update: Agreement has not been reached on how fish mitigation projects would or would not count towards addressing wildlife losses.