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June 6, 2017

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Fish and Wildlife Committee members

**FROM:** Lynn Palensky

**SUBJECT:** Future Project Reviews

### BACKGROUND:

**Presenters:** Lynn Palensky and Mark Fritsch

**Summary:** Briefly describe status of past reviews and early recommendations for moving forward with next sets of reviews. On the last page is a quick reference table showing the current status of funding recommendations from previous reviews.

No action is necessary but staff would appreciate further guidance from the Committee.

### **Background:**

Project review has taken many forms in the past, all responsive to policy considerations at the time of the reviews. At the Regional Coordination Forum's May 2017 meeting, the group shared impressions and conclusions from the past eight years of program implementation including the Accords and financial crises. Specifically, the group discussed strengths and issues concerning long-term funding commitments, programmatic approach to project implementation, portfolio management, and flexibility and financial disparities between Accord parties and non-accord parties. These topics will be considered in developing the Council's next project review process. Given what we've learned from past reviews, thoughts from regional partners, and outside influences to our program,

we've outlined a basic set of goals, objectives and assumptions as we move into the next set of reviews:

**Assumptions:**

- Highly likely that there will be no new program money
- ISRP continues to review every project
- Research projects will have clearly defined end dates
- Budget Oversight Group will continue for project emergencies
- Continue to have a cost savings mechanism in place to identify and track funds from close-outs, unspent funds, etc

**Goals:**

- Build from existing body of proposed, reviewed and recommended work
- Build upon subbasin plans
- Build in budget flexibility for new work (innovative, emerging priorities, and under-funded areas of the program)
- Build in flexibility for strategic changes in scope (geographic or work elements) based on
  - adaptive management
  - best available science
- Provide certainty for multi-year projects
- Build on past reviews
  - programmatic issues
  - best available science from follow up science policy forums
- Support long-term commitments and investments (those with a long-term O&M component)
  - Hatcheries (and associated habitat)
  - screens and in-stream diversion structures
  - Wildlife lands and purchased fish habitat

**Objectives**

- Continue comprehensive approach in different program areas (e.g. Estuary, lamprey, sturgeon, wildlife)
- “Front-load” the reviews with science policy forum which will include recommendations for future direction/priorities.
- Build in budget flexibility for new work (innovative, emerging priorities, and under-funded areas of the program)
- Develop schedule for sequenced review for all program areas

**Next Steps:**

Complete the Wildlife Project Review and develop the process and schedule for conducting upcoming reviews or RM&E projects in the late 2017/early 2018.

<b>Category and Programmatic Issue</b>	<b>Year Reviewed (Council Recommendation)</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Wildlife (30)</b>	July 2009	Currently in review; funding recommendations to be made in 2017
<b>RME &amp; AP Research</b>	June/July 2011	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research projects in general (&lt;30)</li> </ul>		Three-year funding recs through FY 2014.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Artificial production</li> </ul>		All AP projects have funding recs through FY2016. Columbia River Hatchery Effects Evaluation Team (CRHEET) was never fully-developed or funded since the review.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sturgeon</li> </ul>		Funding recommendations until 2013, Management Framework was completed and subcommittee to Council in December 2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lamprey</li> </ul>		Funding recommendations until 2013. No follow up regional synthesis report submitted to date. Sponsors have been working with the Pacific Lamprey Technical Workgroup and the Conservation Team to assist in developing a regional synthesis report to address ISRP issues.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Habitat effectiveness M&amp;E</li> </ul>		Currently in discussion to define actual Program needs - regarding the Program's approach and tools used to assess habitat action effectiveness in the tributaries and to guide habitat actions implementation.
<b>Resident Fish, Data Management and Program Coordination</b>	July 2012	Funding recs through 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Coordination</li> </ul>		Funding recs through 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resident Fish</li> </ul>		Funding recs through 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data management</li> </ul>		Funding recs vary from 2013-2017. Several projects were involved in the follow-up PERC review process which resulted in some being closed out.
<b>Geographic (Habitat) (~83)</b>	November 2013	Funding recs through 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate and Improve Umbrella Projects</li> </ul>		Currently conducting the follow-up three year performance/effectiveness review