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August 8, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee members

FROM: Staff

SUBJECT: Update on Cost Savings Workgroup and Emerging Priorities Implementation

BACKGROUND:

Presenters: Fish and Wildlife Division staff

Summary: Staff will update the Committee on the recent cost savings workgroup activity and implementation of measures associated with the Fish and Wildlife Program's emerging priorities.

Relevance: The cost savings workgroup implements the language on page 116 of the 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program: *'Bonneville should fund any new fish and wildlife obligations from identifying savings within the current program...'*

Addresses implementation of the Council's 2014 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program emerging priorities.

Cost Savings Workgroup:

Council member Anders chairs the Cost Savings Workgroup (CSW), which is composed of Bryan Mercier, Peter Cogswell, and Scott Donahue of BPA and Kerry Berg, Lynn Palensky, Laura Robinson and Tony Grover, all Council staff.

At the August 4th meeting of the CSW the following two issues were discussed in detail:

- Leveraging the work of the Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative Regional Planning Process (see this [Lamprey presentation](#)) to identify potential use of cost savings for Pacific lamprey projects.
- Upcoming rotary screw trap policy review.

Detailed conversation about updating the cost savings methodology will occur at a later workgroup meeting.

Emerging Priorities:

The Council identified seven emerging priority areas in its 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program. These are:

1. Provide for funding *long-term maintenance* of the assets that have been created by prior program investments
2. Implement *adaptive management* (including prioritized research on critical uncertainties) throughout the program by assessing the effectiveness of ongoing projects, developing program objectives when appropriate and taking into account the effects of *climate change*
3. Preserve program effectiveness by supporting: (1) expanded management of *predators*; (2) mapping and determining hotspots for *toxic contaminants*; and (3) aggressively addressing *non-native and invasive species*
4. Investigate *blocked area mitigation* options through reintroduction, passage and habitat improvement, and implement if warranted
5. Implement additional *sturgeon* and *lamprey* measures (passage and research)
6. Update the *subbasin plans* most in need of updates
7. Continue efforts to *improve floodplain habitats*

Staff will update the Fish and Wildlife Committee on the recent activity to implement measures associated with these priorities and provide an opportunity to hear from the Committee members if they have any concerns or questions.

- EP-1: *long term maintenance*. Update on assessments and priority needs of Program hatcheries and screens. M. Fritsch
- EP-2: *Implement adaptive management...and take into account the effects of climate change*. Representatives of the state fish and wildlife agencies will provide an update on adult fish returns (sockeye and steelhead) and heat related fishing closures in the Columbia Basin.
- EP-2: *Develop program objectives*. Staff continues working on initial compilation of existing fish objectives and the PNAMP Regional Habitat Indicator Project workgroup effort for indicators and objectives. N. Leonard
- EP-3: *mapping and determining hotspots for toxic contaminants*. The Toxic contaminants workgroup has gathered data around the Columbia basin for Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) into a single database and presented to the committee at this meeting to discuss toxic contaminant issues related to salmon and other native species, and efforts to compile and map toxics data. L. Bach / T Grover

- EP-5: *Implement additional lamprey measures.* See this [Lamprey presentation](#) which is referred to in the Cost Savings Workgroup entry in this memo. M. Fritsch/T. Grover