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February 6, 2003

### **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Fish and Wildlife Committee

**FROM:** Lynn Palensky

**SUBJECT:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service letter to Council on subbasin planning issues

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has been working on a draft letter to the Council that will describe and help clarify the relationship between subbasin planning and the responsibilities of the USFWS. This letter will be written in a format similar to of the letter received by the Council from Bob Lohn, NOAA Fisheries in May 2002. Mark Bagdovitz, Subbasin Planning Coordinator, Region 1 Fisheries Program Office; will provide an overview of the draft letter and the questions that they have identified to be addressed within it. No action is requested for this item.

Attachment:

1. List of questions from USFWS to be addressed in the letter.

**Questions on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's view on subbasin planning**

1. What is the Fish and Wildlife Service's perspective on subbasin planning?
2. What role will the Fish and Wildlife Service have in subbasin planning?
3. Will subbasin planning affect the Fish and Wildlife Service's Tribal trust responsibilities?
4. Will the Fish and Wildlife Service be allocating additional resources to participate in subbasin planning?
5. What role will the National Fish Hatchery System have in subbasin planning?
6. Will subbasin planning affect the Fish and Wildlife Service's other fish and wildlife management responsibilities in the Columbia River Basin?
7. Can subbasin plans advance the objectives of the Endangered Species Act?
8. How will the Fish and Wildlife Service integrate the bull trout recovery plan with subbasin plans?
9. How will the Fish and Wildlife Service integrate the other ESA-listed species into subbasin plans?
10. Will subbasin planning affect the Fish and Wildlife Service's ESA responsibilities, particularly if final subbasin plans are not completed in the Council's time frame?
11. Will the Fish and Wildlife Service require subbasin plans to have specific measures for the protection and recovery of listed species, or any other species of fish or wildlife?
12. Can the Fish and Wildlife Service provide ESA coverage for subbasin planning?
13. What are the Fish and Wildlife Service's expectations regarding implementation of subbasin plans?