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MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Mark Walker, Director of Public Affairs
Doug Marker, Director of Fish and Wildlife

SUBJECT: Federal agency budgets pertaining to fish and wildlife restoration

The Bush Administration Fiscal Year 2004 budget, which was released in early February includes approximately \$572 million for Columbia River Basin fish and wildlife activities (see attached federal agency crosscut budget). We will provide an agency-by-agency overview of the budget, with a particular focus on the Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Bonneville Power Administration. Historically, the Council has provided annual recommendations to the Northwest congressional delegation for Columbia River Basin fish and wildlife appropriations, and we propose that we do so again this year.

We also will conduct a more specific budget discussion pertaining to subbasin planning implementation. We believe there is a need to make the availability of federal agency funding more transparent and accessible to subbasin planning participants that will enable them to more easily pursue and secure federal dollars in order to achieve implementation of subbasin plans.