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July 9, 2003

To: Council Members

From: Doug Marker, Director
Fish and Wildlife Division

Subject: Status report on four Governors' fish and wildlife recommendations

The attached status report summarizes the recommendations made by the Pacific Northwest Governors at their meeting of June 5, 2003. I have provided a brief statement of the status of each recommendation. This is the first presentation of this report and if you or your Governor's staffs would like expansion or clarification of this summary, please let me know.

At the Council meeting, I will go over these recommendations with you to determine where the Council may need to take additional actions.

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Current work on the specific fish and wildlife recommendations of the four Pacific Northwest Governors of June 5, 2003

Status as of July 9, 2003

Recommendation	Status
1. Biological Opinions should look to subbasin plans to guide habitat, hatchery and harvest actions in Columbia watersheds	NOAA and USFWS regularly review the progress and scope of subbasin plans in the Regional Coordinating Group. The next such meeting is in Boise on July 22. The two agencies have faithfully reiterated their reliance on subbasin plans. Specific expectations and questions for policy discussion are raised first within each state's subbasin coordination group and then as needed in the Regional Coordinating Group. This structure of communication is currently effective and can be monitored through reports to the Governors
2. State guidelines for population and ESU-scale recovery plans should be endorsed by NOAA and USFWS. State points of contact for this to be named by NOAA and USFWS by 9/1/03	Guidelines for ESU scale recovery plans need to be proposed by states and confirmed by NOAA. NOAA is designating staff to work with State organizations and recently named an assistant regional coordinator for recovery planning who works directly with each state, the Council and represents NOAA at the Regional Coordinating Group.
3. Technical Recovery Team (TRT) process and products must be coordinated with subbasin planning and regional processes	NOAA has provided interim rebuilding targets for the Interior Columbia ESUs for use by subbasin planners for this round of subbasin plans. In the Willamette/Lower Columbia targets are available and recovery goals are being developed with in coordination with the states. The NOAA regional administrator offers that eventual TRT products for the Interior Columbia will be offered to subbasin planners for incorporation if desired but not required as a standard for any NOAA review.

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<p>4. NOAA and USFWS should resolve with the Council and appropriate State organizations what legal assurances will be provided for approved subbasin plans and necessary procedural or review requirements by 12/21/03</p>	<p>NOAA staff are drafting approaches to possible incentives and regulatory assurances. In regional coordination group discussions NOAA has requested more specificity on what type of assurances might be sought by the States or by subbasin planners. The working concept is a possible "menu" of assurances with associated review requirements that would be selected by subbasin planners or the States. USFWS has not offered an approach.</p>
<p>5. By fall, the Council should convene state, federal and tribal managers to integrate a monitoring system. The Council with the same partners should complete a draft systemwide research plan by 12/31/03. Establish an equitable plan for funding.</p>	<p>A federally drafted integrated monitoring plan is under final review by the NOAA Northwest Science Center. The Council staff is coordinating planned review by states and tribes through appropriate state organizations and through the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority for acceptance or proposed revision. Confirm that the draft plan has budgets and priorities. Council staff have convened regional independent scientific and economic reviewers for guidance on a regional research plan and are organizing measures of the Council's mainstem program amendments for inclusion.</p>

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6. Governors, Council and regional partners will seek congressional support for appropriations to meet federal commitments	The Administration has improved the coordination of budget presentations for Columbia River salmon recovery towards the desired "cross-cut" budgets but more geographical specificity and coordination mechanisms for implementation of subbasin plans is desirable.
7. Implement the Council Program including the Mainstem Plan as soon as is practicable. Develop a new funding agreement to be in place beginning in October, 2003	Council staff are organizing a schedule for review of mainstem amendments through the Regional Forum processes. This was presented at the Implementation Team meeting on July 3. Council staff are collecting comment. Bonneville is developing its response to the Council's mainstem/systemwide project recommendations. Work has not begun on a new funding agreement.
8. Set clear goals, schedule and assignments	Continued collaboration among Governors and regional entities

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July 9, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Dick Watson

SUBJECT: Action related to Four Governors Recommendations relative Bonneville's role in Power

At their June meeting, the region's governors made two recommendations related to Bonneville's role in power that require cooperation and joint action between Bonneville and the Council. They are:

BPA Operations Review – Bonneville was asked to undertake a process, in consultation with the Council, to establish priorities within its operations, and to focus its resources on those areas that are most critical to its mission and bring the greatest benefit to the Pacific Northwest.

Clarifying BPA's Future – The Regional Dialog on Bonneville's future role in power should be reinitiated immediately under the joint auspices of the Council and BPA with the intent of achieving a role for BPA that is sustainable for the long term.

BPA Operations Review – Bonneville's Chief Operating Officer, Ruth Bennett, has been assigned responsibility within Bonneville. In discussion with Ms. Bennett, she noted that this recommendation is consistent with work Bonneville has undertaken to:

1. Continue cost cutting to reduce the impact of the SN CRAC;
2. Begin following through on the implementation of the *Lessons Learned* and *Bonneville at the Crossroads* reports that you received earlier.

Specifically with regard to cost cutting and prioritization of BPA operations, Bonneville is negotiating with outside parties to assist BPA in the prioritization process. It is also looking to benchmarking its internal operating costs in "big ticket" areas such as information technology and supply chain management to identify best practices.

Ms. Bennett indicated a willingness to consult with the Council at the August meeting.

Clarifying Bonneville's Future Role in Power – Staff have met with Paul Norman Vice President of the Power Business Line, and other Bonneville staff regarding restarting the regional dialog. Mr. Norman will be discussing this with the Power Committee on Tuesday. The timeline and process are still under discussion. I will update you at the Council meeting.

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